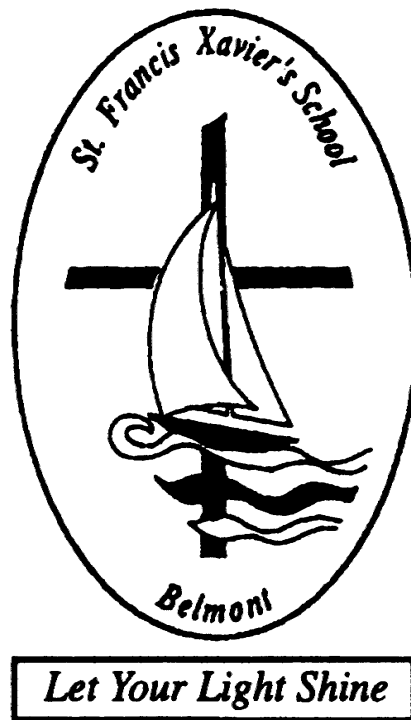

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY



“ I am the light for the world! Follow me, and you won’t be walking in the dark. You will have the light that gives life.”

John 8 : 12

2013

To be reviewed

2016

RATIONALE

As a Catholic school, St Francis Xavier's has Christ as its focus. Christ is the focus of our curriculum, our school and our community. Our faith permeates all aspects of our lives, and formal religious education helps students learn, express and give witness to the love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

Therefore it is important that the children, parents, staff and parish share a common understanding of the implications this has for both the implicit and explicit curricula.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

AIM

To create a school community that gives witness to shared faith beliefs.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. By Interacting with students, staff, parents and visitors with love, compassion, forgiveness, hope and justice.
2. By treating each person with respect, trust, honesty and kindness.
3. By providing opportunities for worship that are individual, communal, seasonal and sacramental.
4. By building the children's knowledge of, and trust in, God's love as they recognise and value their uniqueness and *let their lights shine*.

PARENTS

AIM

To recognise, value and support the parents in their role as the prime educators in faith of their children.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. By informing the parents of classroom teaching programmes and school liturgical celebrations.
2. By actively involving the parents in a variety of liturgical celebrations throughout the course of the school year.
3. By building on, the children's existing knowledge and understanding of the Faith traditions of the Catholic Church.
4. By accepting and providing for the development of the children's individual faith journey.

PARISH

AIM

To ensure the school is an integral part of the community of faith within the parish.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. By assisting in the parish sacramental program through our class teaching programs, input in the school Bulletin, and the regular acknowledgment and encouragement of those children involved in the sacramental programmes.
2. By participating in parish celebrations.
3. By informing and inviting parishioners to school celebrations through the Parish Bulletin.
4. By placing copies of the School Bulletin in the entrance of the church.
5. By participating in Youth Involvement Mass and activities.
6. By attending parish Masses with Anointing of the Sick.
7. By coordinating one Family / Parish Mass per term.

TEACHERS & TEACHING

AIM

1. To be the face of God.
2. To enhance or promote knowledge and understanding of the traditions of the Catholic Community; its story, its experiences and its teachings, through the following four syllabus strands:
Jesus and Scripture, History and Beliefs, Celebration and Prayer, Justice and Morality.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. By modelling Christian values and attitudes for the children as they grow in their own relationship with God.
2. By providing a relevant and sequential Religious Education programme using the Diocesan K-12 Religion Syllabus and Associated Resource Units.
3. By encouraging students to find meaning and relevance in learning about the story, experiences and teachings of the Catholic Tradition.
4. By enabling students to be more articulate and thoughtful about the Catholic Tradition and its place within the religious and cultural diversity of Australian society.
5. By encouraging informed participation of students in the Catholic Church Community.
6. By enabling students to know, understand and integrate Gospel values such as compassion, forgiveness, hope and justice in daily life.
7. By following the guidelines of the School Programming Policy – programming, time allocation and assessment.
8. By providing activities that show Jesus as a friend and role model as displayed in the stories, miracles and events of his life.
9. By sharing in the evangelising mission of the Church.

SPIRITUALITY

AIM

To help the children to develop and grow in knowledge of their own spirituality.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. By sharing our spirituality in both word and action.
2. By providing opportunities for the children to experience and recognise Jesus in our lives – through the Word of God, sacramental life, people in our lives and our actions.
3. By exploring a range of spiritual perspectives exploring the sacredness of life.
4. By identifying encounters of *Grace* in our daily lives.

LITURGY & PRAYER

AIM

To assist the children in discovering, developing and celebrating their relationship with God.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. By praying regularly during the day.
2. By experiencing prayer in a variety of forms.
3. By regularly celebrating our *faith*, our *heritage* and our *life* as a school community.
4. By providing opportunities for individual, group and community celebrations.
5. By involving the children in the creation of prayerful liturgies.

SACRAMENTS

AIM

To help the children recognise and value their encounters with Christ through the Sacraments.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. By supporting families and parish in helping prepare the children to receive the sacraments within the community through the *family centred - parish based sacramental programme*.
2. By sharing experiences where the children can value the sacraments as part of life.
3. By studying the rituals and meaning of the Sacraments.
4. By teaching formal R.E. Units concurrently with specific Parish Sacramental Programmes in the relevant classroom.

BUDGET

To set each year an appropriate amount from within the overall school budget to be allocated for use within the area of Religious Education.

EVALUATION

This policy will be evaluated by the Principal and Staff on a regular basis. This policy is due for review in 2016.

PROCEDURAL SUPPORT STATEMENTS

LITURGIES

At the beginning of the school year a Liturgy Roster will be drawn up by the REC and each class teacher will select one celebration they would like to prepare for Morning Liturgy / Prayer Focus.

WHOLE SCHOOL EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

Children from Kindergarten to Year 6 will participate in several whole school Eucharistic Liturgies each year - one per term. Examples of the occasions when these may be celebrated are.....

- Start of the School Year
- Ash Wednesday
- Mary Help of Christians
- Feast of the Sacred Heart
- The Assumption of Mary
- Feast of St Francis Xavier
- End of the School Year

The coordination of these liturgies is the responsibility of the R.E.C.

CLASS EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

Classes in each stage plan and participate in Family School Parish Sunday Masses during the school year - notification of these is term by term to allow flexibility within the busy school calendar.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Year 5 and Year 6 attend the Parish Masses with Anointing of the Sick if held on a school day.

PRAAYER

1. The whole school prays together at the Morning Assembly each day.
The School Leaders lead morning prayer.
2. Opportunities for class prayer include.....
 - . at the beginning and end of the day
 - . before meals
 - . dismissal
 - . special intentions
3. Reflection / Meditation time is encouraged in each class.

FEAST DAYS

1. Special feast days will be recognised during the course of the year.
2. It is the responsibility of the R.E.C. to bring these to the attention of the teaching staff and find appropriate teaching resources.

PROGRAMMING

1. The school follows a sequential Religious Education programme using the Diocesan K-12 Religion Syllabus and Associated Resource Units.
2. An Overview must be completed.
3. Assessment and Evaluation must take place during the learning sequence of each unit of work.
4. The R.E.C. will check individual class programmes during the course of the academic year.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Sacramental preparation is within the PARISH BASED - FAMILY CENTRED Sacramental Programme. This means that the immediate preparation for the reception of the sacraments of CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST and PENANCE takes place within small groups, outside of the regular school day and structure.

Sacramental preparation generally occurs in the following years.....

PENANCE - Year 2

CONFIRMATION & EUCHARIST - Year 3

SACRED SPACES

1. Each class is to have a recognisable "sacred" space and religious symbols.
2. A sacred space will be maintained by the REC in the administration area.
3. A small table will be provided as the basis for this area.

K-6 Religion Syllabus: Scope and Sequence

	EARLY STAGE ONE	STAGE ONE		STAGE TWO		STAGE THREE	
	KINDER	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
1	I AM SPECIAL	IN GOD'S LOVING CARE	THE GIFT OF CREATION	WORKING TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY	LIVING JESUS LAW OF LOVE	THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JESUS	STEWARDS OF CREATION
2	FROM ASHES TO EASTER	GROWING AND CHANGING	JESUS IN THE DESERT	LENT: A TIME FOR REACHING OUT	A. AN INVITATION TO BELIEVE B. PRACTICES AND PROMISES C. A TIME FOR RECONCILIATION	A. AN INVITATION TO BELIEVE B. PRACTICES AND PROMISES C. A TIME FOR RECONCILIATION	A. AN INVITATION TO BELIEVE B. PRACTICES AND PROMISES C. A TIME FOR RECONCILIATION
3	THE BIBLE: A SPECIAL BOOK	THE LAST SUPPER	PRAYING IN THE GARDEN	JOURNEYING WITH JESUS	PASSOVER EXODUS	THE WAY OF THE CROSS	CROSSROADS
4	GOD THE CREATOR	CELEBRATING EASTER	THE EASTER SEASON	THE JOURNEYING TO EMMAUS	NEW LIFE	EASTER: THE CALL TO FOLLOW	THE ROAD AHEAD
5	GIFTS FROM GOD	STORIES OF JESUS	SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION	THE PENTECOST STORY	HEBREW & CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES	JESUS – TRIAL UNIT	JESUS – TRIAL UNIT
6	BAPTISM	BELONGING & CELEBRATING	LIVING AS GOD'S CHILDREN	THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	THE CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA	CHURCH HISTORY – TRIAL UNIT	CATHOLIC BELIEFS – TRIAL UNIT
7	THE CATHOLIC CHURCH	FRIENDS OF JESUS	THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE	THE SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST	SAINTS	SACRAMENTS OF HEALING – TRIAL UNIT	SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE – TRIAL UNIT
8	JESUS – A FRIEND TO ALL	MARY: MOTHER OF JESUS	EUCHARIST: THE STRUCTURE OF THE MASS	MARY – WOMAN OF FAITH	CALLED TO SERVE OTHERS	CATHOLIC VALUES – TRIAL UNIT HEBREW SCRIPTURES – TRIAL UNIT	SOCIAL JUSTICE – TRIAL UNIT CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES – TRIAL UNIT
10	JESUS IS BORN	CELEBRATING JESUS' BIRTHDAY	WAITING IS OVER	THE PROMISE COMES TRUE	A TIME TO GATHER	ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS - TRIAL UNIT	ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS - TRIAL UNIT

Prayer Scope & Sequence - St Francis Xavier's Belmont

Kinder	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign of the Cross. • Simple Morning PRAYER • Simple prayers of praise and thanks. • Simple grace before meals. • Spontaneous prayers. • Our Father. • Songs. • Mass as a prayer of thanks. • Our School Prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign of the Cross. • Simple Morning Offering. • Simple prayers of praise and thanks. • Simple grace before meals. • Spontaneous prayers. • Our Father. • Hail Mary. • Songs & silence. • Mass as a prayer of thanks. • Our School Prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign of the Cross. • Morning Offering. • Informal prayers of praise and thanks. • Grace before meals. • Spontaneous prayers. • Our Father. • Hail Mary. • Glory be to the Father. • Act of Contrition – prayer of sorrow. • Prayers of forgiveness. • Songs & silence. • The Eucharist is the most important prayer of the Church. • Our School Prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign of the Cross. • Morning Offering. • Prayers of praise, thanks, petition and sorrow. • Grace before meals. • Spontaneous prayers. • Our Father. • Hail Mary. • Glory be to the Father. • Act of Contrition – prayer of sorrow. • Apostles Creed. • Prayers of forgiveness. • Eucharistic Prayer for Children. • Songs, movement & silence. • The Eucharist is the most important prayer of the Church. • Our School Prayer.

Prayer Scope & Sequence - St Francis Xavier's Belmont

Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign of the Cross. • Morning Offering. • Prayers of praise, thanks, petition and sorrow. • Grace before meals. • Spontaneous prayers. • Our Father. • Hail Mary. • Glory be to the Father. • Act of Contrition – prayer of sorrow. • Apostles Creed. • Prayers of forgiveness. • Eucharistic Prayer for Children. • Psalms from scripture. • The Way of the Cross. • Mysteries of the Rosary. • Songs, movement & silence. • The Eucharist is the most important prayer of the Church. • Our School Prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign of the Cross. • Morning Offering. • Prayers of praise, thanks, petition and sorrow. • Grace before meals. • Spontaneous prayers. • Our Father. • Hail Mary. • Glory be to the Father. • Act of Contrition – prayer of sorrow. • Apostles Creed. • Prayers of forgiveness. • Eucharistic Prayer for Children. • Psalms from scripture. • The Way of the Cross. • Mysteries of the Rosary. • Prayer for the Dead. • Mass Prayers and responses. • Songs, movement & silence. • The Eucharist is the most important prayer of the Church. • Our School Prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign of the Cross. • Morning Offering. • Prayers of praise, thanks, petition and sorrow. • Grace before meals. • Spontaneous prayers. • Our Father. • Hail Mary. • Glory be to the Father. • Act of Contrition – prayer of sorrow. • Apostles Creed. • Prayers of forgiveness. • Eucharistic Prayer for Children. • Psalms from scripture. • The Way of the Cross. • Mysteries of the Rosary. • Nicene Creed. • Litany of the Saints. • Prayer for the Dead. • Mass Prayers and responses. • Songs, movement & silence. • The Eucharist is the most important prayer of the Church. • Our School Prayer.

Adapted from Step Out In Faith. Primary. 1992.