



Catholic Identity

Policy Code: CI - CIP
To be Reviewed: 2018
Ratified: February 2015

It is the policy of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School that we will strongly nurture our Catholic Identity.

St Patrick's School has a specific, recognizable, Catholic Identity that reflects the life, work and teaching of Jesus Christ and the evangelizing mission of the Catholic Church.

The daily interactions among all members of our school community reflect belief in and commitment to the Catholic Identity of our school.

Catholic Identity is manifested in the way St Patrick's encounters and engages in the everyday, bringing social justice to life – influencing leadership structures, planning and sharing in resources and facilities, curriculum content and process, and pastoral care.

It is about being in 'right relationship' and responding to the call to 'act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.'

Identity Statement

To provide a school community that draws on the traditions of the Brigidine Order, that celebrates life, reaches out to others and actively cares for our world.

Vision Statements

St Patrick's Primary School strives to:

- Guide and support students on their faith journey through experiences of the Catholic tradition, building a strong sense of belonging, responsibility and wonder within our school, church and global communities.
- Develop an environment that builds on student resilience, self - respect, confidence and empathy – in partnership with families.
- Foster a learning environment that provides a holistic education that nurtures all learners in order for them to realise their full potential.
- Model and foster a safe and supportive environment for students and their families within the school community.
- Provide learning and teaching experiences that promote decision making.
- Conserve God's creation and recognise the traditional owners of the land.

Graduate Outcomes

We endeavour to create graduates who will:

- Have a dynamic faith
- Be committed to social justice
- Be environmentally aware
- Develop and sustain loving relationships
- Be life-long learners
- Realise their potential
- Be creative problem-solvers
- Be resilient, confident and independent
- Be respectful
- Have courage and integrity
- Be self-aware
- Enjoy their experiences

Basic Beliefs

We believe that Catholic Identity is integral to every concept of the Catholic School and not an added component.

We believe that in order to fully commit to our Catholic Identity we should be committed to:

- being grounded in the local Christian community that is centered on the Person of Jesus and guided by the Gospel.
- fostering the holistic development of each student



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- participating in the evangelizing mission of the Church
- being informed in the knowledge of the teaching of the Catholic Church
- assisting students to integrate their faith, their culture and their experiences of life
- practicing a fundamental option for the poor and weak
- offering a service to individuals, society and the wider culture
- transforming society in light of the kingdom which Jesus announced
- pursuing opportunities to promote justice, reconciliation and environmental responsibility locally and globally
- integrating policies, practices, curriculum content and delivery, and relationships
- expressing its identity in welcome, word, welfare and worship.
- *(Source Of Life Core Document. 'The Culture of the Catholic School.)*

AIMS:

We will aim to actively and collaboratively maintain and enhance the catholic Identity of the school by;

- developing informed understandings of the Catholic teaching and Church traditions, and communicate the understanding to others in the community
- holding and clearly articulating a Catholic point of view
- promoting knowledge of the rich traditions of the Catholic Church
- initiating, developing and implementing strategies to promote the Catholic Identity of the school in the broader community
- initiating and supporting programs that teach and reinforce Christian values
- maintaining and enhancing education in faith opportunities for faith development
- promoting, maintaining and enhancing reflection, prayer and liturgical celebrations in our school.

Links with Families and the Parish Community.

Links with families and the Parish community are an integral part of the Catholic Identity at St Patrick's School. Parent involvement is encouraged through;

- family masses
- parish masses
- sacramental groups
- home school liaison
- information nights
- feast day masses
- Religious Education articles in the newspaper and Sandpiper
- school masses
- class liturgies
- supporting Caritas during Lent

LITURGY:

Basic Beliefs and Aims:

At St Patrick's we believe Liturgy is the gathering of our Christian community where we express our faith in God and each other. Because we believe this we will aim to:

- provide children the opportunity to actively prepare and participate in liturgical celebrations
- foster in children an enjoyment and love of liturgy
- provide children with the opportunity to experience different types of liturgy eg: Mass, assemblies, liturgy
- assist children in their understanding of the different features and parts in liturgical celebrations, so that they can more fully participate in them
- develop the children's awareness of the relationship liturgy has with our own daily living.

Organisation - Liturgy

- Participation in year level masses/liturgies once a term (on a rostered basis).



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- The order of the liturgical year is referred to so that appropriate feast days and celebrations are observed.
- The following occasions are celebrated by the whole school at times and dates organized with the Parish Priest:
 - Opening of the school year
 - Ash Wednesday
 - St Patrick's Day
 - Holy Week
 - Feast of The Sacred Heart
 - Mary McKillop's Feast
 - Assumption
 - End of year / Year 6 Graduation.

Mass Focus

The following actions and prayers are to be focused on at the appropriate year level.

Foundation –Year 6

Appropriate behaviour
Genuflecting
Entrance procession
Sign Of the Cross
Greeting
Penitential rite
Processing the Gospel
Readings and readers
Prayers of the Intercession
Procession of gifts
Eucharistic Prayer
Our Father
Blessings
Standing and kneeling
Sign of Peace
Dismissal
Symbols-the altar, bread and wine, water, candles.

Year 3 and 4

Children are to develop a broader understanding of the structure of the Mass.
Receiving communion
Confetior
Holy Holy
Lamb of God
Words of consecration
Tabernacle
Chalice, ciborium
Vestments
Stole

Years 5 and 6

Children are to continue to develop their understanding of the structure of the Mass and to develop an understanding of the liturgical calendar.

Social Justice

We believe that the Gospel values of acceptance, compassion, equity, equality and forgiveness as lived and modelled by Jesus form the basis of Social Justice.

Social Justice is central to the Church's mission. Social Justice ensures that the individual worth of each of us is valued.



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It calls upon us to work together in living out the Good News, to encourage the children to be sensitive to the rights of others, to enable the children to experience justice in their own lives and to ensure that the children are aware of Social Justice issues and actively respond to these.

Therefore we aim to:

- Appreciate our humanity by providing opportunities to:
 - question, explore and wonder
 - celebrate each person's purpose and existence.
- Explore children's feelings and to use their knowledge to understand the feelings of others (i.e. 'stand in your neighbour's shoes').
- Teach all children the concepts of justice and provide opportunities for them to respond.
- Nurture and develop an understanding, sensitivity and acceptance of differences so that we live peacefully and justly.

Organisation:

- The major social justice focus at St Patrick's School is Project Compassion through Caritas.
- We also support Financially St Vincent De Paul and other causes as nominated by staff and SRC.

Each area will cover units in Social Justice over a two year cycle as shown in the Source of Life scope and sequence.

Teaching and Learning Approaches:

- Shared Christian Praxis
- Integrated Inquiry Approach
- Liturgies
- Individual work
- Group work
- Fundraising
- Hands on related activities
- Guest Speakers
- Father's Night
- Mother's Day Morning Tea
- Grandparent's Day

Scripture

We believe:

- We share and experience Scripture in order to develop a relationship with Jesus which will be evident in our daily lives.
- That through Scripture we deepen our understanding of the Christian faith tradition.

Therefore we aim to:

- Break open the text of Scriptural passages thereby coming to 'Know the Text'; 'Encounter the Text' and 'Respond to the Text' through prayer and by translating it to our life today.
- Know the life of Jesus more fully.
- Reflect upon and break open the Sunday gospels.
- Provide opportunities to become familiar with Bible stories.
- Link Scripture with Integrated Units of Work.



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Principal Signature: _____

Board Member Signature: _____