



Holy Trinity Primary School

Catholic Identity Statement

Rationale:

To present the children an ordered exposition of Catholic truth in the context of a school climate and teacher-pupil relationships that are embedded with faith and charity and conducive to the pupil's spiritual growth.

Religious education is a lifelong process to which Catholic schooling contributes.

Its purposes are:

- to foster within each individual a growing understanding of and relationship with God;
- to help individuals to understand themselves and their Catholic faith tradition and to have an appreciation of the faith traditions of others;
- to enable individuals to participate fully in the life of the Catholic community;
- to heighten each individual's commitment to bringing the light of their faith to a discerning encounter with the surrounding culture and thus working towards its transformation.

Prayer:

Prayer is an essential component of the Religious Education Curriculum at Holy Trinity. Set times for prayers have been allocated: eg, start of the school day, before lunch and at the end of the day, as well as when opportunities for spontaneous prayer arise.

In addition to this, the introduction of formal prayers suitable to each Stage, are taught. Formal Prayers are taught at each level and the use and structure of Informal prayers are taught at each level also.

Throughout their schooling at Holy Trinity, the students will be exposed to, and will pray many different types of prayer, both formal and informal.

Sacred spaces are created within the classrooms and contain an array of religious icons. Many religious icons can be found around the school, which add to our catholic identity.

Staff:

The Staff of Holy Trinity celebrates Mass together at the beginning of the year and other occasions when appropriate. All staff meetings begin with a reflection or prayer. Each Monday morning the school will gather for a prayer to begin the week.

Liturgies:

The opportunity to come together to pray and celebrate various feasts and occasions is an important part of the spiritual life of everyone at our school. As a school we come together to celebrate Lent and Advent Liturgies. When we gather together for Masses and Liturgies, we celebrate our unity as a family and valued members of the Church.

School Masses:

The whole school comes together to celebrate Mass at the beginning and end of the year as well as other special feast days in the Church year. Each Friday classes attend the 10.15 Mass. There is a liturgy roster for classes to follow. Parents and members of the community attend these Masses.

The Role of the Parish Priest in the School Community

The Parish Priest of Holy Trinity is a regular visitor within the school. He works with in conjunction with the Principal to oversee the running of the school. Father Gerard and Father Thomas are always willing to work with the Religious Education Coordinator and members of staff, to guide them in preparation of School Masses and Liturgies. Sacramental programs are parish based. The REC and class teachers work very closely with Fr Gerard and Fr Thomas to ensure this program is successful. Class teachers also work with the children in class time.

School Involvement in Community Organisations

The staff and students of Holy Trinity support a number of community organisations. The staff and students participate in Project Compassion during Lent, raise money to send to the Missions at different points in the year and bring along gifts for St Vincent de Paul at the end of the year, in the lead up to Christmas.

Children from Stage 3 have the opportunity to be part of the Minnie Vinnie Group which is supported by Libby Ridley who is our School Chaplain and the Religious Education Coordinator.

Opportunities for Spiritual Development for Staff

One Professional Development Day is allocated every year, to providing opportunities for Staff to reflect and focus on their own Spiritual Development. This is done in a variety of ways, with support from members of the CSO team or using the expertise within the staff. Members of the executive are also provided with other opportunities to attend retreats and spiritual development opportunities as provided by the CSO. All staff also have the opportunity to participate in the 'Connections' Program.

(February 2016)