“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
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.
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.

**PRAYER**

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 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EARLY STAGE ONE</th>
<th>STAGE ONE</th>
<th>STAGE TWO</th>
<th>STAGE THREE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>KINDER</strong></td>
<td><strong>YEAR 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>YEAR 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>YEAR 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YEAR 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>YEAR 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>YEAR 6</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 I AM SPECIAL</td>
<td>IN GOD’S LOVING CARE</td>
<td>THE GIFT OF CREATION</td>
<td>WORKING TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FROM ASHES TO EASTER</td>
<td>GROWING AND CHANGING</td>
<td>JESUS IN THE DESERT</td>
<td>LENT: A TIME FOR REACHING OUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE BIBLE: A SPECIAL BOOK</td>
<td>THE LAST SUPPER</td>
<td>PRAYING IN THE GARDEN</td>
<td>JOURNEYING WITH JESUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOD THE CREATOR</td>
<td>CELEBRATING EASTER</td>
<td>THE EASTER SEASON</td>
<td>THE WAY OF THE CROSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIFTS FROM GOD</td>
<td>STORIES OF JESUS</td>
<td>SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION</td>
<td>THE PENTECOST STORY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAPTISM</td>
<td>BELONGING &amp; CELEBRATING</td>
<td>LIVING AS GOD’S CHILDREN</td>
<td>THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CATHOLIC CHURCH</td>
<td>FRIENDS OF JESUS</td>
<td>THE SACRAMENT OF Penance</td>
<td>THE SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JESUS – A FRIEND TO ALL</td>
<td>MARY: MOTHER OF JESUS</td>
<td>EUCHARIST: THE STRUCTURE OF THE MASS</td>
<td>MARY – WOMAN OF FAITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JESUS IS BORN</td>
<td>CELEBRATING JESUS’ BIRTHDAY</td>
<td>WAITING IS OVER</td>
<td>THE PROMISE COMES TRUE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UPDATE:** 2013
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinder</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Sign of the Cross.</td>
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<td>• Sign of the Cross.</td>
<td>• Sign of the Cross.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Simple Morning PRAYER</td>
<td>• Simple Morning Offering.</td>
<td>• Morning Offering.</td>
<td>• Morning Offering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Simple prayers of praise and thanks.</td>
<td>• Simple prayers of praise and thanks.</td>
<td>• Informal prayers of praise and thanks.</td>
<td>• Prayers of praise, thanks, petition and sorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Simple grace before meals.</td>
<td>• Simple grace before meals.</td>
<td>• Grace before meals.</td>
<td>• Grace before meals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Spontaneous prayers.</td>
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<td>• Spontaneous prayers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Our Father.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Hail Mary.</td>
<td>• Hail Mary.</td>
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<td>• Hail Mary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Songs &amp; silence.</td>
<td>• Songs &amp; silence.</td>
<td>• Act of Contrition – prayer of sorrow.</td>
<td>• Glory be to the Father.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mass as a prayer of thanks.</td>
<td>• Mass as a prayer of thanks.</td>
<td>• Prayers of forgiveness.</td>
<td>• Prayers of forgiveness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Our School Prayer.</td>
<td>• Our School Prayer.</td>
<td>• Songs &amp; silence.</td>
<td>• The Eucharist is the most important prayer of the Church.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Sign of the Cross.</td>
<td>• Sign of the Cross.</td>
<td>• Sign of the Cross.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Morning Offering.</td>
<td>• Morning Offering.</td>
<td>• Morning Offering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prayers of praise, thanks, petition and sorrow.</td>
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<td>• Grace before meals.</td>
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<td>• Apostles Creed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Prayers of forgiveness.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Eucharistic Prayer for Children.</td>
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<td>• Eucharistic Prayer for Children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Psalms from scripture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Way of the Cross.</td>
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</tr>
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<td>• Mysteries of the Rosary.</td>
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Adapted from Step Out In Faith. Primary. 1992.