



Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Sacramental Policy

Rationale:

At Our Lady Help of Christians School we believe that participation in and opportunities to celebrate the Sacraments strengthen us as a Catholic community. Sacraments are moments of encounter with God. They are given to us by Jesus Christ and are outwardly expression of His love for us. The Eucharist strengthens and nourishes us as members of a Catholic community.

The preparation and celebration of Sacraments is undertaken in collaboration with the Parish Priest and other members of the parish ministry team. All Baptised Catholics are invited and encouraged to participate in Sacraments when these are celebrated.

Aims:

We aim to:

- Support parents/families as the first educators in faith of their child/ren.
- Provide opportunities to gather, celebrate and be nourished by the Sacraments as a faith community within the Catholic tradition.
- Develop an awareness of, response to and celebration of the students' relationship with God, Jesus Holy Spirit and the world in which they live.
- Foster a sense of belonging in the church by providing an opportunity for Baptised Catholic children to participate in the Sacramental programmes and receive Sacraments as age appropriate.

Implementation:

At Our Lady Help of Christians School we celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Eucharist & Confirmation) and a Sacrament of Healing (Penance) annually in collaboration with the Parish Priest. Our Sacramental programme includes:

- Sacraments are offered at the following year levels (Penance – Year 3, Eucharist – Year 4 & Confirmation – Year 6).
- When preparing to receive Sacraments, all students in a year level learn about the Sacrament in Religious Education lessons and those children who are Baptised Catholics whose parents have enrolled them in the Sacrament will receive the Sacrament on the advertised date.
- Using *To Know, Worship and Love* texts and exemplar units are key resource in planning and teaching lessons preparing children to receive the Sacraments.
- Certificates, holy medals and stoles are prepared for students receiving Sacraments.
- *Religious Education Curriculum Framework* (2018) utilising tools such as the Pedagogy of Encounter is used when planning Religious Education units teaching about the Sacraments.
- Facilitating parent information evenings prior to celebrating Sacraments.
- Facilitating a whole day reflection day (off site) for candidates preparing to receive the Sacrament.
- Ongoing purchase of Religious Education resources with particular focus on Australian texts to support children and teachers in the preparation of Sacraments.
- Developing children's understanding of the context of Scripture and the Gospels and how this relates to the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation and Penance (Reconciliation).
- Teachers use a variety of texts and resources when planning lessons including the use of ICT e.g. RE Source.
- Provide professional learning opportunities to develop teacher's knowledge of Sacraments.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Staff - Term 1 2019