



SACRAMENTAL GUIDELINES

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

Rationale

As a Catholic school we at St Patrick’s will provide the opportunity for our students to grow in their relationship with God by becoming full members of the Catholic Church. The implementation of our Sacramental Program will enable our students to receive the sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation, First Holy Communion.

Aims

- To prepare young people (of appropriate age) and their families for the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Key Personnel Involved

Parish Priest:

- ❖ Attend a meeting to assist in the planning of the Sacramental Program for the following year
- ❖ Liaise with Parish Office and Schools to support non-school based candidates
- ❖ Be involved in the parent/child preparation sessions and oversee the sacramental celebrations
- ❖ Be available to meet with parents to discuss Sacramental program and preparation
- ❖ Approve the Confirmation Liturgy
- ❖ Coordinate the Bishop’s visit to the school
- ❖ Be available to visit the school during Sacramental preparation
- ❖ Support classroom teachers in delivering the Sacramental programs to candidates.

Principal:

- ❖ Attend a meeting to assist in the planning of the Sacramental Program for the following year
- ❖ Support the LOSE / LOct and ensure the Sacramental Program is implemented as per guidelines
- ❖ Attend Sacramental meetings and celebrations

LOSE / LOct:

- ❖ Attend a meeting with the Parish Priest and Principal to assist in the planning of the Sacramental Program for the following year
- ❖ Prepare and facilitate the parent/child preparation sessions for school based candidates

- ❖ Inform and update Principal and staff regularly about sacramental program
- ❖ Regularly liaise with Parish Priest and parish secretary
- ❖ Support the classroom teachers in preparation of the children for each sacrament
- ❖ Ensure the Sacramental Checklist is followed
- ❖ Prepare the sacramental celebrations
- ❖ Prepare and deliver Sacramental Retreat Days
- ❖ Be available to parents
- ❖ Liaise with St. Mary's Bowraville about the Sacramental programs
- ❖ Liaise with the school office about: enrolments, funds, forms and baptismal certificates
- ❖ Prepare certificates
- ❖ Check student records

Class Teachers:

- ❖ Meet with RE Coordinators as required
- ❖ Prepare resources
- ❖ Implement program
- ❖ Assist in the parent/child preparation sessions
- ❖ Assist in the preparation of the celebrations
- ❖ Prepare and deliver Sacramental Retreat Days in consultation with LOSE and LOCT

Parish Secretary:

- ❖ Coordinates the sacramental program for children from other schools within our parish
- ❖ Liaise regularly with Parish Priest and LOSE and LOCT

Parents:

- ❖ Nominate children for sacraments and ensure all relevant documentation is forwarded to the school
- ❖ Attend Commitment Mass, Parent/Child Preparation sessions and celebrations
- ❖ Support the faith development of their child

Implementation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered in Year 2 (as per Lismore Diocesan procedure). The date for this sacrament is set by the Bishop's office each year. The Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will be offered in Year 3. The dates for these sacraments are set by the school. First Eucharist will be celebrated on the Feast of Corpus Christi. Older children who have been baptised and not previously received these sacraments are invited to join these groups.

The Sacramental Program is a school based program and will be implemented during Religion lessons. Children not attending St Patrick's Primary School are permitted to

enrol in these sacraments and be supported by the Parish. Children attending St Patrick's Primary School, not yet Baptised but wanting to receive the sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are required to meet with the Parish Priest.