



DRAFT PRAYER POLICY

Our Vision

We seek to build a learning community, enriched by diversity and united in faith for today, tomorrow and into the future. Therefore our mission is to build a community that celebrates faith, learning and diversity.

Strategic Goal: We aim to give life to our faith

Goal: We celebrate our Catholic faith and provide opportunities for faith development through prayer, liturgy, ritual and mass

School Motto: United in Faith

Four Pillars

- Faith: We celebrate our FAITH by living Gospel Values
- Diversity: We celebrate DIVERSITY by embracing each person's unique identity and giftedness
- Learning: We celebrate LEARNING by striving for excellence in a student-centred environment
- Community: We celebrate COMMUNITY by promoting a spirit of togetherness

Introduction

We are committed to creating a vibrant Catholic community, acknowledging and celebrating diversity, enriched by and united in faith. Our policy documents are based on our deep understanding of the vision and mission of Jesus, and our core purpose of building the kingdom of God. This policy is also informed by our understanding of the importance of prayer in our lives and the lives of believers.

Prayer is central to our daily Christian living at Our Lady of the Way Primary School.

Rationale

At Our Lady of the Way we work together as a community of teachers, students and parents toward positive relationships. We value prayer as a means of deepening our connection with God.

We believe prayer is our natural calling and response to the wonder and mystery of life. Through prayer we enrich our relationship with God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Prayer has multiple expressions (vocal, meditative, contemplative) and forms (petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise). Prayer is a rich and valued part of our Catholic Christian tradition and faith life. Praying enriches our sense of the sacred and is powerful, meaningful and life changing.

At Our Lady of the Way School we endeavour to create an environment where all members of the community feel welcome at the table of the Lord. It is the responsibility of everyone in the community to strive to make this happen.

Consequences

In implementing this policy, Our Lady of the Way school, in partnership with our families will consider:

- Students of other faith backgrounds
- The unique way in which prayer is experienced by individuals

Therefore we will:

- o provide opportunities for all in the community to be people of prayer
- o teach a variety of prayers, including prayer forms from other religious traditions, and provide multiple contexts for prayer experiences
- o take time for prayer each day
- o formally teach traditional prayers
- o endeavour to develop in students the value of prayer for everyday life

Procedures and practices:

At OLW:

- o there will be a sacred space created in every classroom with symbols, images, colours and music to help engage people in rich prayerful experiences
- o there will be many opportunities for students to be actively involved in the prayer life of the school and Catholic community through: daily class prayer, assembly prayer, class and school liturgies and class, school and parish Masses
- o different forms of prayer will be modelled for students as a natural response to life circumstances
- o there will be opportunities for students to learn formal prayers and these will be recorded on a school prayer scope and sequence
- o as a school of Our Lady, prayers and devotions to Mary, including the Rosary, will be highlighted

- appropriate behaviours for prayer time will be explicitly taught and expected
- there will be opportunities for students to create and facilitate prayer experiences
- staff will gather each week to read and reflect on scripture and to pray
- staff members will design and lead prayer experiences for one another
- staff will access professional learning to broaden and deepen their understandings about prayer
- parents will be invited to participate in the prayer life of the school in classrooms, assembly liturgy and other special liturgies and masses
- we will create a prayer garden
- we will provide tools: eg prayer journals in the classrooms, staffroom and in the office for people in the community to offer their prayer intentions
- we will celebrate our Marian identity on the feast of Mary Help of Christians feast day May 24th