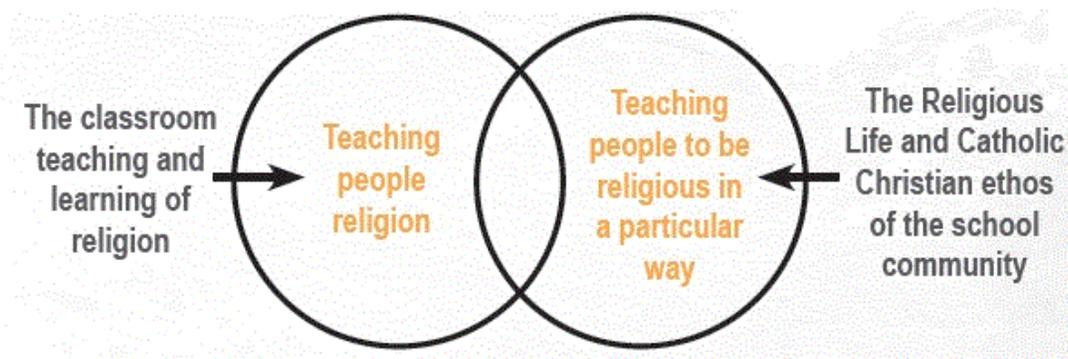


# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Vision for Religious Education within the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Brisbane provides a voice for our students to become religiously literate about the Catholic faith and to become a religious voice outside of the classroom and into the world.

*“The schools and colleges of the Archdiocese of Brisbane aspire to educate and form students who are challenged to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and who are literate in the Catholic and broader Christian tradition so that they might participate critically and authentically in faith contexts and wider society.”*

St Francis Xavier Catholic School shares and promotes the Vision for Religious Education articulated by Brisbane Catholic Education and the wider church. This vision includes the two dimensions of formation, namely, of students’ religious literacy and their personal faith.



The first of these dimensions is explained in the **Religious Education Curriculum P – 12** document. The second dimension is outlined in the Archdiocesan document, **Religious Life of the School**.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM P-12

**St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School** aims to nurture both the educational and the faith dimensions of our children within a Catholic Christian Community.



We provide a comprehensive **Religious Education Curriculum P - 12** Program that focuses on:

- our need to learn about religion - in particular the Roman Catholic tradition, and about other religious traditions in society, and
- our need to grow in and to express ourselves in the Catholic faith tradition, while respecting other traditions.

The RE Curriculum is based on an achievement standard approach and is aligned with the Archdiocesan vision, policies and guidelines. The Religious Education Curriculum is organised into four interrelated strands:

1. ***Sacred Texts***
2. ***Belief***
3. ***Church***
4. ***Christian Life***

The curriculum aims to develop our learners' religious literacy by providing high quality learning opportunities so all may participate critically and effectively as life-long learners in our faith communities and in society.

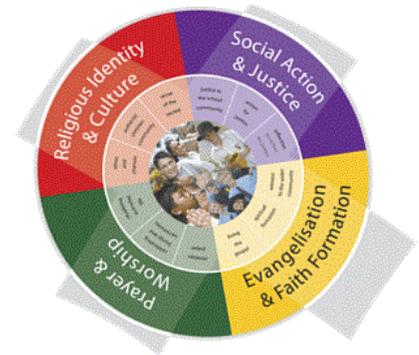
The School Scope and Sequence document demonstrates the planning for the classroom learning and teaching of religion which balances and integrates all four strands.

## **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

***The Religious Life of the School (RLOS)*** is comprised of four interrelated components:

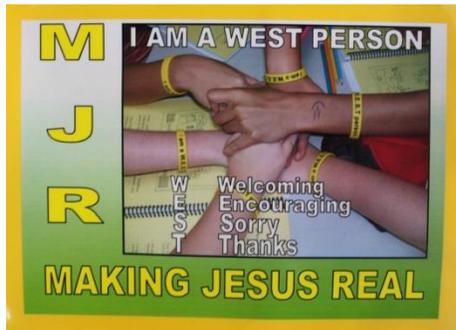
- ***Religious Identity and Culture;***
- ***Evangelisation and Faith Formation;***
- ***Prayer and Worship;*** and
- ***Social Action and Justice.***

Each of these components provides a focus on a particular aspect of the religious life of the school which assists with the faith formation of our students and families.



The Religious Education Curriculum P – 12 and the Religious Life of the School documents, together, present students at St Francis Xavier with an Ignatian worldview and invite them into the life of a community guided by that worldview. At St Francis Xavier Catholic School, our **identity and culture** are aligned with the tenets of what it means to be an Ignatian school.

Our aim is to provide opportunities for each child to develop a close personal relationship with God. We nurture their faith and spiritual development in a Catholic Christian environment steeped in the unique **Ignatian spirituality** of St Ignatius of Loyola. St Ignatius and St Francis Xavier were two of the seven founders of the Jesuit order (Society of Jesus). The core to the Ignatian Spirituality is encapsulated in the quote *“Finding God in All Things”*. As a Catholic School following in the Ignatian tradition, our Mission Statement reflects the values that our patron saint aspired to bring to the world. St Francis Xavier was a man of faith and courage who inspired love and whose mission was to find God in all things.



Making Jesus Real (MJR) is a way of living which the St Francis Xavier school community teaches and witnesses to one another. It is an everyday spirituality with a positive approach to life and highlights the importance of respectful and right relationships with all those we meet. MJR encourages us to be **W.E.S.T.** people who - **W**elcome, **E**ncourage, say **S**orry, give **T**hanks.

We can become people who compliment; use encouraging words; smile; give thanks; say sorry, please and thank you; give a wave, wink or thumbs up. Every kind act that we do is living the Catholic faith – those small simple gestures are living as Jesus would want us to do. They help us to be a happy and positive person. When we live out W.E.S.T. we are making the Gospel, the “Good News”, happen in our daily lives.

At the end of each day we need to ask ourselves these questions:

- Where was Jesus in my life today?
- Did I see God and the good in myself and others?

At St Francis Xavier Catholic School, we strive to be both an educative and evangelising community. We **evangelise** and support **faith formation** through our identity and culture; through word and action within our school community, parish and wider community as well as through the Religious Education curriculum. To support the Staff to model and teach the tenets of and Ignatian school, faith formation opportunities are provided:

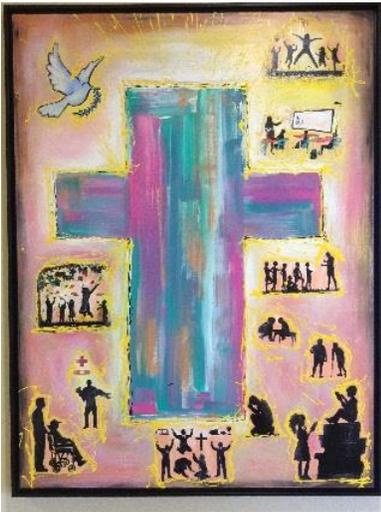
**IGNIS 1 - Finding God in All Things** which is a national two day program introducing the participants to the life of St Ignatius Loyola, his worldview and approach to ministry based on the

Spiritual Exercises. It also gives an insight into the governance structures and works of the Society of Jesus. This program is facilitated by two of our staff members.

**IGNIS 2 - *Tasting the Spiritual Exercises*** is a national two-day program follows on for participants who have experienced Ignis 1. The Province expectation is those who attended the Ignis 1 program will attend this program. Participants will through prayer, reflection and conversation consider the intention, rhythm and central focus of the Spiritual Exercises and the preferential option for the poor. This program is facilitated by Mr Martin Scroope, Director, Canisius Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Sydney.

**RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE** is an opportunity of doing the Spiritual Exercises in daily life. It offers the participants to make a commitment to praying each day over a number of weeks as well as to meet for conversation about the Spiritual Exercises with a spiritual director / companion. The spiritual director for the last three years is Fr Michael Ryan sj, Director Sevenhills Centre for Ignatian Spirituality, Adelaide.

**Prayer, liturgy and worship** are integral aspects of our religious school life. The development of a culture of prayer at St Francis Xavier is achieved through daily prayer in classrooms and at Prayer and Virtues assemblies. Each Monday our community prays St Ignatius' special prayer known as the Examen.



Students are encouraged to participate in and experience a variety of prayer forms including traditional and informal styles. The staff members take the opportunity to regularly participate in prayer each Monday morning, Staff Meetings and at our monthly Staff Mass.

On a fortnightly roster, classes join with the parish community to celebrate Eucharist at either the 9.30am Thursday or Friday masses. Classes also attend Anointing Masses with the sick and lead these celebrations.

Special feast days and liturgical seasons are celebrated at our school with various liturgical celebrations held during Holy Week, St Francis Xavier Day, the Feast of St Mary of the Cross, Catholic Education Week, Grandparents Day, Under 8's Week and Christmas. Advent Assemblies are celebrated in preparation for Christmas. Parents are invited to attend and are encouraged to join with the children in celebrating these special events.

**Social Justice in Action** is an important component of the Ignatian tradition. Fundraising days are held during the year to focus on a particular aspect of social justice such as Project Compassion, Rosies Winter Appeal, Catholic Missions – Sock it to poverty, Date Night, St Vincent de Paul projects, Sorry Day and World Environment Day. At St Francis Xavier Catholic

School we are committed to following the example of Jesus, St Ignatius and St Francis Xavier through word and action.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

We believe in the value and uniqueness of each person who is created in the image of God. Our ethos is grounded in gospel values, following in the Ignatian tradition and so Pastoral Care permeates our relationships and our work. Pastoral Care involves all the members of the school community in fostering an atmosphere of belonging, where the dignity and the worth of each person is continually affirmed and developed.

Pastoral Care is built on open communication and mutual respect, and is an intentional active response to the needs of staff, parents and students. Apart from this overall philosophy, which characterises our every endeavour, one of the more formalised structures sees 'buddy' classes meet regularly during each term for the purpose of building relationships between children beyond their particular year level. It also gives each child the opportunity to get to know and build a relationship with a teacher other than his/her classroom teacher.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION**

Throughout the year support is given to outreach services of our school, local community and overseas.

These activities are coordinated by the Year 6 Student Leaders and Committees.

Such support is given to:

- Go Fund Me – SD
- Purple Day – Jarred Gortat
- Caritas Australia
- Catholic Mission
- Rosies
- St Vincent de Paul
- The Morcombe Foundation
- Date Night for Ghana





Holy Family Catholic Parish  
Runaway Bay



## HOLY FAMILY PARISH SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Faith is primarily nurtured in the family. The Church recognises that parents are best qualified to decide their child's readiness and participate in the process of preparation.

The Parish Sacramental Preparation Programs are pastoral activities involving the family and parish communities. The school has a shared responsibility with the parish and is supported through the school's Religious Education Curriculum P - 12.

Parents participate actively in their child's sacramental preparation. Parents are intimately involved in their children's lives and it is in the home where they live love, forgiveness, faith and hope. These experiences form the basis for all sacramental preparation. The immediate preparation in the months before the celebration is an opportunity for faith to be shared in the family.

The Holy Family Parish has a particular role in providing suitable resources, support and encouragement for families in the immediate preparation of children for the sacraments. The sacramental preparation is co-ordinated through the parish office. A team along with the Parish Priest assists with planning, parent meetings and arranging the celebrations which are held in the parish.

In September 2015, the Third Edition of the Sacramental Policy of the Archdiocese of Brisbane was published. The changes are as follows:

- In the year when the children turn eight (Yr 3), they are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in the **Sacrament of Confirmation**.
- In the year when the children turn nine (Yr 4), they are welcomed to the Lord's Table and receive **First Holy Communion (Sacrament of Eucharist)**.
- **The Sacrament of Penance is a two – step process.**
  1. A simple celebration of the second rite of the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for First Holy Communion.
  2. In the year when the children turn ten (Yr 5), they prepare for the Sacrament of Penance with individual confession and absolution (the first rite).



Notification of the Holy Family Parish Sacramental Preparation Program is published via the School Newsletter and the Parish Newsletter. Parents are asked to carefully consider the seriousness and commitment involved in the preparation of your child/children to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.

***Jackie Cameron – Assistant Principal – R.E.***