



ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRAYER POLICY

Rationale

Prayer is an important facet of our Catholic life. It is our most important medium of communication between God and our self. As educators in the Catholic Faith, we believe that our role is to complement and nurture the faith development which has already begun by the parents during a child's formative years. Learning to pray, to worship God, begins in the home (the domestic church).

Why do we teach prayer?

At St. Patrick's we teach prayer because....

- as a Catholic School we believe that it is our responsibility to encourage and nurture a habit of prayer in all our children.

Why do we pray?

At St. Patrick's we pray because

- Prayer is the means by which we express our relationship with God.
- As God's people we need to ask for help and we need to give God praise.
- We want and need to feel that we are in God's presence.
- Prayer is a way to thank God, and for us to be in His presence.
- We believe that Prayer is a two-way communication with God.

How do we pray?

At St. Patrick's we pray in both formal and informal ways. We use different forms of prayer such as....

- Liturgical Singing *{liturgical singing is prayer through music}*
- Meditation
- Reflective Prayer
- Personal Prayer
- Individual Prayer

At St. Patrick's we pray as...

- A group in our class
- A whole school (at Masses, assemblies and liturgies)
- A whole staff (Masses, meetings and prayer sessions)
- As individuals

When do we pray?

At St. Patrick's School we pray....

- At the beginning of our school day.
- At the end of our school day.
- Before we eat our lunch.
- During our Religious Education classes.
- During formal gathering times, such as Masses and Liturgies.

Current practice

- A prayer table is a central part of each classroom. *{the prayer table should include a cloth, crucifix, holy picture, candle and other related icons that the children may bring to share}*
- Religious icons and children's work will also be displayed in classrooms and around the school.

What prayers do we use?

At St. Patrick's the following prayers are the formal prayers that we use at each level.

Prayers	Prep	one	two	three	four	five	six
Sign of the Cross							
Morning offering							
Hail Mary							
Our Father							
Traditional Prayer before meals							
Simple Prayer before meals							
Act of Contrition							
Glory Be							
Hail Holy Queen							
Apostle's Creed							
Prayer for the dead							
The Rosary							
Stations of the Cross							
(Basic) Mass responses							
Mass responses							