

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School



Sacramental Policy

Introduction

We follow the Sacramental Preparation Programme 'With You Always' to support our children in their journey towards knowing God through the sacraments of the church. The emphasis within this programme is on the parents passing on their faith to their children. Our church community in partnership with catechists and teachers support the parents in this delivery.

The 'With You Always' programme aims to:

- Engage parents and children in sessions that are welcoming and active.
- Offer time for parents and children to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ within the parish community.
- Help parents and children learn about the Faith and respond to God's Word in their daily lives.

The 'With You Always' resource:

- Is faithful to the liturgical year.
- Provides seven sessions once a month from September to May.
- Includes two additional celebrations of the sacraments.
- At every session families are always together.
- Includes separate parent, child and catechist pages.
- Is enriched by, but is not dependant on, the school RE curriculum.
- Offers special challenges for large groups.
- Provides a range of suggestions to engage children, recognising the variety of learning styles.
- Provides integrated sessions of preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist (Holy Communion).
- Has an emphasis on activity, song, and continuing the learning at home.
- Offers a celebration of Family Reconciliation in Advent.
- Includes a rehearsal for the Communion Mass.
- Leads to reception of Communion around the time of Pentecost Sunday.

Role of the Parents and Carers:

- Create a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity and selfless service are the rule (CCC 2223).
- Introduce the Faith to their children and help them develop as the "first teachers of their child in the ways of faith" (Rite of Infant Baptism).
- Make contact with the parish and parish priest to request sacramental preparation.
- Attend Mass regularly together as a family.
- Attend Family Catechesis sessions with their children throughout the year.
- Celebrate Family Reconciliation (confession) with their children.

- Attend or be present at meetings to organise the Communion Mass.

Role of Parishes:

- Welcome families regardless of their level of commitment to the Church.
- Welcome and support families through the liturgy, sacramental preparation, family catechesis, and other opportunities.
- Work with the school to communicate with parents.
- Provide catechesis and catechists to support parents to prepare their own children for Reconciliation and First Communion using the 'With You Always' Family Catechesis resource.
- Prepare for liturgical celebrations of First Reconciliation and First Communion in the parish.
- Coordinate the practicalities of the liturgies with catechists and families.

Role of schools:

- Through the Religious Education lessons, enable children to grow in knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and the Life and teaching of Jesus and His Church.
- Each year in the Religious Education programme, explore and focus on the sacramental themes of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation.
- Deliver material in this educational process appropriately according to the age and capacity of each child.
- Provide parents and carers with clear information about their child's progress in Religious Education.
- Assist the parish in communicating with parents and carers.
- Collaborate with the parish and families in facilitating catechesis.

Spiritual Enhancements:

Our Headteacher organises annual opportunities for our Year 6 children and for our WYA group of children to embark on spiritually enhanced away days and experiences. This includes things like an annual pilgrimage for our Year 6 cohort before they spread their wings and leave us, journeying onto secondary school. The Pilgrim day is always planned carefully and with the children in mind to offer stillness and reflection upon the year they have had and all of the experiences they have had with their school family over the years.

Our sacramental group of Year 4 children engage in spiritual experiences like Eucharistic Adoration through our links with the Sisters of Charity.

