

St Bernard's School



ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL
he ara ki to ao

Religious Education Programme Parental Guidelines

The purpose of this booklet is to give parents an overview of the Religious Education programme in the school and how the role of the school complements your own role, and the role of the parish.

The Role of the Home, the School and the Parish

The Family-Whanau

Parents are the first educators of their child. It is at home that faith and the Gospel values are first learnt. Families nurture the development of faith and spirituality as their children grow.

The School Community

Schools have two roles:
-teaching the Religious Education programme;
-creating an environment that provides pastoral care, and providing opportunity for prayer, sacramental celebrations and rituals.

The Parish

The parish welcomes children as they join others to participate in celebrations, liturgies, faith sharing and service. Parishioners are witnesses of living faith for children.

How the Programme is Structured

The programme is made up of six learning strands.

These are designed to increase the children's knowledge and skills in Religious Education and help them develop Christian attitudes. The six strands are: *God, Jesus, Christ, The Holy Spirit, Church, Sacrament and Communion of Saints*. Each year the strands build on what has been learnt in previous years. Three strands are covered each year.

Also studied are two Learning Modules, each of which is an important area of essential knowledge. The modules are: *The Liturgical Year* and *Prayer and Sacramental Celebrations*.

The Programme also contains a handbook entitled *Myself and Others*, which gives teachers the Catholic perspective on the health curriculum.

The Purpose of the Programme

The programme helps children to develop an understanding about how Catholics celebrate, live and pray.

At St Bernard's School we follow the Religious Education programme for Catholic Schools in Aotearoa as designed by the Bishops of New Zealand.

The programme teaches:

- what the Catholic Church believes and teaches;
- understanding about how the Catholic Church celebrates, lives and prays; and how people can respond freely to God according to their gift of faith.

The programme helps to guide the children as they develop Christian attitudes, those expressions in word or action of the way Jesus lived.

- * speaking with gentleness
- * care
- * love
- * tolerance
- * compassion
- * integrity
- * self-control

- * acting with kindness
- * patience
- * joy
- * strength
- * courage
- * generosity
- * perseverance

How the Programme is Taught

In School

Each Strand has a teacher's handbook from which lessons may be planned. Lesson activities take a variety of forms, art and drama based, co-operative games, activity sheets and or simply discussion. There is also a digital resource for each lesson which encourages discussion, provides visuals and prompts questioning and

reflection. Teachers also link their Religious Education objectives to the topic study for that term and integrate wherever possible.

At Home

A number of activity pages from the programme are designed to be completed with you at home. These pages give you a chance to see what the children are learning and discussing in class. If these activity pages are sent home please spend time with your child discussing the content of the previous lesson in school and then support them with the relevant home page.

Assessment

At the end of each strand the children's knowledge and understanding of important concepts is assessed. These assessments may be in a written or an oral format. Findings from these assessments will be used to focus future planning and to inform the teacher for the following year of where to focus their teaching.