



# SACRAMENTAL GUIDELINES

## **Rationale**

As a Catholic school we at St Patrick's will provide the opportunity for our students to grow in their relationship with God by becoming full members of the Catholic Church. The implementation of our Sacramental Program will enable our students to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

## **Aims**

- To define parish and school roles in the Sacramental Program
- For parents to be more actively involved in the preparation of their child for the sacraments
- To offer parents the opportunity to increase their own faith development

## **Key Personnel Involved**

### **Parish Priest:**

- ❖ Attend a meeting to assist in the planning of the Sacramental Program for the following year
- ❖ Be involved in the parent/child preparation sessions and oversee the sacramental celebrations
- ❖ Be available to meet with parents at any time
- ❖ Approve the Confirmation Liturgy before forwarding to the Bishop
- ❖ Coordinate the Bishop's visit to the school

### **Principal:**

- ❖ Attend a meeting to assist in the planning of the Sacramental Program for the following year
- ❖ Support the RE Coordinators and ensure the Sacramental Program is implemented as per guidelines

### **RE Coordinators:**

- ❖ Attend a meeting with the Parish Priest and Principal to assist in the planning of the Sacramental Program for the following year
- ❖ Prepare and facilitate the parent/child preparation sessions
- ❖ Inform and update Principal and staff regularly about sacramental program
- ❖ Regularly liaise with Parish Priest and parish secretary
- ❖ Support the classroom teachers in preparation of the children for each sacrament
- ❖ Ensure the Sacramental Checklist is followed
- ❖ Prepare the sacramental celebrations
- ❖ Be available to parents

### **Class Teachers:**

- ❖ Meet with RE Coordinators as required
- ❖ Prepare resources
- ❖ Implement program
- ❖ Assist in the parent/child preparation sessions
- ❖ Assist in the preparation of the celebrations

### **Parish Secretary:**

- ❖ Coordinates the sacramental program for children from other schools within our parish
- ❖ Liaise regularly with Parish Priest and RE coordinators
- ❖ Prepares Confirmation booklet and certificates
- ❖ Purchase resources as required

### **Parents:**

- ❖ Nominate children for sacraments and ensure all relevant documentation is forwarded to the school
- ❖ Attend Commitment Mass, Parent/Child Preparation sessions and celebrations
- ❖ Be involved in all aspects of preparation of their child for the sacraments

## **Implementation**

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered in Year 2 (as per Lismore Diocesan procedure). The date for this sacrament is set by the Bishop's office each year. The Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be offered in Year 3. The dates for these sacraments are set by the school. First Eucharist will be celebrated on the Feast of Corpus Christi. Older children who have been baptised and not previously received these sacraments are invited to join these groups.

The Sacramental Program is a school based program and will be implemented during Religion lessons. Children not attending St Patrick's Primary School are permitted to enrol in these sacraments. Children attending St Patrick's Primary School, not yet Baptised but wanting to receive the sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and Eucharist are required to meet with the Parish Priest.

First Eucharist and Confirmation will be celebrated alternative years at St Patrick's Church Macksville (odd years) and Star of the Sea Church Nambucca Heads (even years).

Responsibilities for the implementation are outlined in Appendix 1 (Sacramental Checklist).