

Stella Maris – Religious Life of the School - 2016

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

At Stella Maris this includes:

- ☞ Immersing students in diverse prayer experiences, including meditation.
- ☞ Using and teaching (modelling) prayer gestures and a variety of traditional prayers and devotions
- ☞ Providing a school wide calendar that ensures a prayerful perspective in celebrations of liturgical season:, Lent, Feast days, significant events such as ANZAC day.
- ☞ Inviting parents to join in class liturgies.
- ☞ Creating Sacred spaces/prayer spaces within the school and each classroom incorporating appropriate symbols and rituals.
- ☞ Providing access to planning templates for preparing liturgical celebrations.
- ☞ Induction into Year 6 Leadership and support for transition into high school – Retreat days.
- ☞ Celebrating special days; Father’s Day breakfast, Mother’s Day, Grandparent’s Day celebrations.
- ☞ Utilising knowledge and skills in the Arts to ritualise life events.
- ☞ Recognizing opportunities to ritualise and prayerfully support members of the community facing issues. Eg. Prayer rituals within class.
- ☞ Providing professional learning opportunities for staff about structure, principles and planning liturgy.
- ☞ Encouraging and supporting student participation in Parish life.

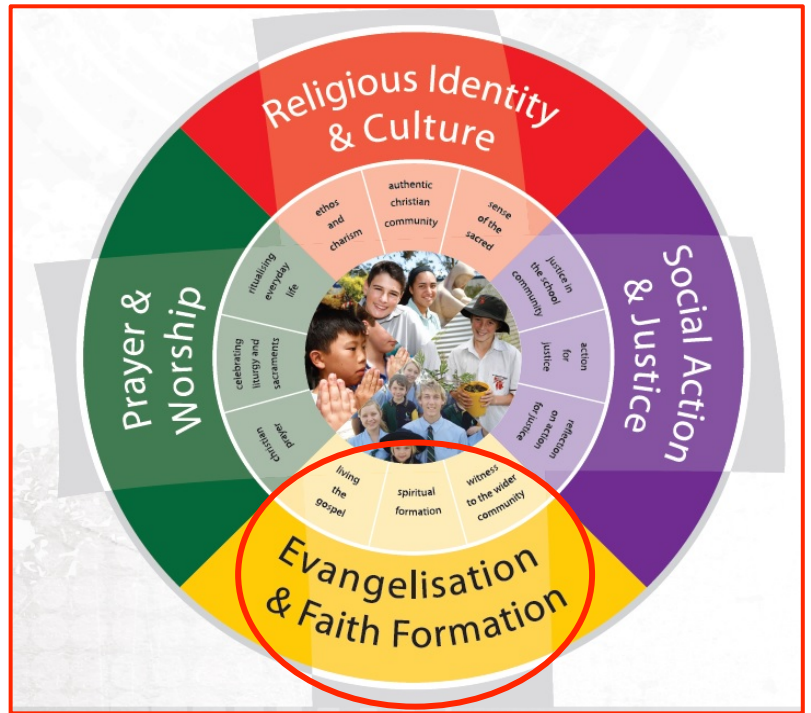


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EVANGELISATION AND FAITH FORMATION

At Stella Maris this includes:

- ☞ Identifying and using scriptural texts to promote and support the Christian values of the school - school website, liturgies, newsletters, class blogs.
- ☞ School prayer and Liturgies are strongly connected to Church liturgical year.
- ☞ Developing policies that ensure inclusion of all families.
- ☞ Meeting the pastoral needs of students and families through initiatives such as Care Pantry, Rainbows (Grief and Loss Program).
- ☞ Inviting representatives from the Church to participate in liturgies and teaching about the Church.
- ☞ Combined Parish and School Community Lenten Program.
- ☞ Using class strategies to make connections with home prayer and support the development of strong school, family and parish partnerships.
- ☞ Induction and faith formation for student leaders.
- ☞ Teachers are invited to lead staff prayer once a year.
- ☞ Support staff professional learning such as REAP.
- ☞ Provide opportunities to integrate formation experiences for students such as Year 5 & 6 camps.
- ☞ Incorporate data about religious profile of students in planning process.



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RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND CULTURE

At Stella Maris this includes:

Using symbols associated with the school charism in ritual and liturgy for affirming membership and a sense of belonging.

Celebrating days of religious significance to focus upon values associated with Stella Maris ethos and charism such as Presentation Day.

Regularly communicating the distinctive identity and nature of the school on School website/staff and parent portals.

Weekly acknowledgment of the local Gubbi Gubbi people at whole school assembly.

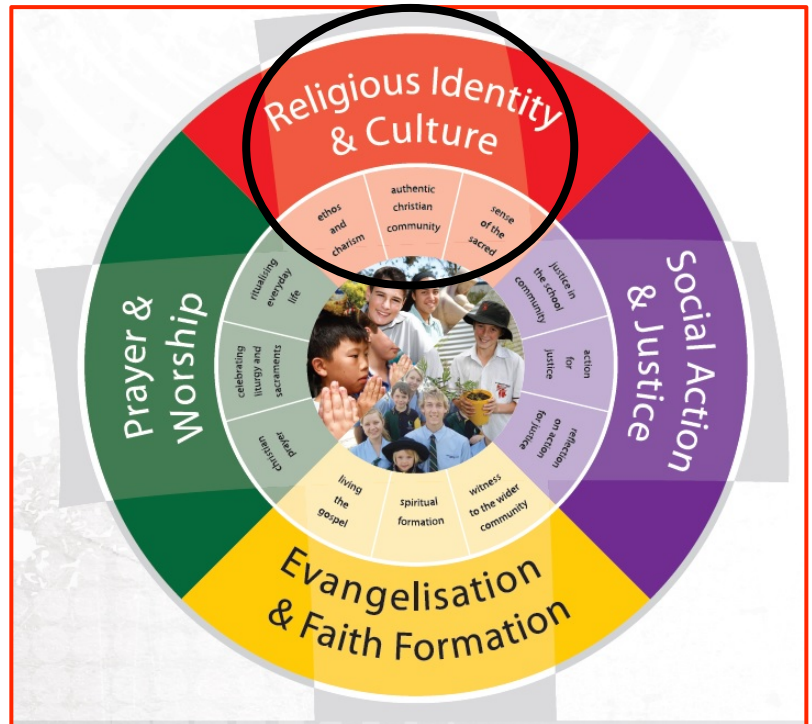
NAIDOC Week, Grandparents day, Reconciliation day, Care packages for local St Vincent De Paul distribution.

Creation of sacred and reflective spaces around the school including meditation circle, 'Spirit Lives Cross', story of creation – ampitheatre, Stella Maris Children's Chapel, and engaging students in the prayerful use of these spaces

Creating our School Song.

Nano Nagel Prayer / School Prayer.

Implementing and evaluating behaviour support policies and practices in the light of the vision and values of Jesus (Stella Behaviour Matrix) closely aligned to our Core Values and Learning Dispositions.



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SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

At Stella Maris this includes:

- Integrating a justice focus into school liturgies, classroom prayer and prayer assemblies.
- Christian Stewardship of resources and environment through the development of worm farm, permaculture garden, composting bins, water tanks and decreasing paper consumption.
- School buddy class system.
- Promoting the resources and activities of Catholic justice and peace agencies for prayer and action through involvement in Caritas and support of St Vincent de Paul through Winter and Christmas Appeals.
- Using school and classroom newsletters to challenge school community to reflect on current issues.
- Implement policies and practices that nurture a generosity of spirit e.g. Care Pantry.
- Opportunities for staff and students to reflect prayerfully on social justice issues during whole school and class prayer times.

