

# Prayer Policy

Holy Spirit Community School

*North Ringwood*

**INTRODUCTION:**

Updated May, 2015

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1995) tells us that prayer and Christian life are inseparable. (CCC 2754)

“Prayer is the turning of our awareness to the presence of God within our lives: it is the movement of heart and mind to this presence. Liturgy ritualizes this unique relationship of our life and faith through the rich heritage of our Catholic Tradition.”<sup>1</sup>  
It is on this tradition that we regard prayer as central to the life of our school.

### **RATIONALE:**

Prayer at Holy Spirit Community School is an integral part of the daily life of our school community to maintain our Catholic identity and to assist our students to develop and nurture their growing relationship with God.

*Lord, teach us to pray.* (Luke 11:1)

### **AIMS:**

At Holy Spirit we aim to develop a child’s relationship with God through personal prayer. From this developing relationship with God they will grow in a sense of their own worth, their capacity for creativity and wonder, and in responsiveness to the whole of life and to the needs of others.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Modeling the importance of prayer, especially through regularly praying together as a staff
- Establishing prayer as a central focus within the classroom.
- Beginning each day with Christian Meditation as a whole school
- Providing opportunities for a variety of prayer forms
- Developing an understanding of the nature of prayer, and its importance in daily life
- Providing opportunities for children to express their own thoughts, feelings and concerns in prayer
- Teaching the formal prayers of the Church
- Teaching the responses to the Mass including the Eucharistic Prayer
- Linking prayer with Scripture

### **GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION:**

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At Holy Spirit we....

- Create a prayer focus area in each classroom
- Create a new prayer cloth with each new cohort of students
- Facilitate daily Christian Meditation
- Provide regular opportunities for individual and communal prayer (including weekly assembly reflection and singing).
- Regularly expose children to a variety of ways of praying including: praise, thanks, artistic, spontaneous, dramatized, song, dance, reflective, and contemplative prayer.
- Provide opportunities for structured and unstructured prayer in a variety of environments, including the Reconciliation Site, Danuta's Dedication Bird Bath, nature, the meditation garden and the chapel.
- Provide regular opportunities for the celebration of, and involvement in, whole school and class, liturgies and Masses.
- Sequentially teach the formal prayers of the church, and the responses to the Mass. (See attached scope and sequence)
- Include a prayer component in the Religious Education program each year from P-6.
- Provide regular opportunities for reading the Bible and responding to it prayerfully.

### **MAJOR RESOURCES:**

**Coming to Know, Worship and Love (CEO, 2008)**

### **Appendices**

#### **1. Holy Spirit Formal Prayer Scope & Sequence**

**Holy Spirit Prayer Policy**  
**Formal Prayers – Scope and Sequence**

	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Expose	Learn	Expose	Learn	Expose	Learn	Expose	Learn
<b>Sign of the Cross</b>	*	*		*		*		*
<b>Our Father</b>	*			*		*		*
<b>Hail Mary</b>	*			*		*		*
<b>Glory Be</b>				*		*		*
<b>Our Holy Spirit Blessing</b>	*		*			*		*
<b>Act of Sorrow</b>				*		*		*
<b>Prayer for the Dead</b>					*		*	
<b>Blessing Before Meals</b>	*		*			*		*
<b>The Rosary</b>	*		*		*		*	
<b>The Angelus</b>							*	
<b>Hail Holy Queen</b>							*	
<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	*		*		*		*	