

Spiritual child

It is important for children to know that they are loved, loved by God, their family and their teachers.



CURRICULUM

Early Years Learning Framework Links (EYLF):

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

NSW Curriculum and Syllabus Links:

Communicates ways to be caring, inclusive and respectful of others PDe3

Communicates stories of their own family heritage and the heritage of others HTe-1

Recognises that there are different kinds of spoken texts with specific language features and shows an emerging awareness of some purposes for spoken language ENe-6B

God loves every person infinitely. 'Life and physical health are gifts entrusted to us by God' and it is everyone's responsibility to not only take care of oneself but also look to the needs of others (Catechism of the Catholic Church - CCC2288)



FAMILIES



READ



2 min

Spirituality is an element of the wellbeing and mental health that makes up the whole child.

The spiritual element can be unseen, unheard and difficult to describe. In Catholic education, along with the spiritual, it is the physical, intellectual, social/emotional and cultural elements of the person that are recognised as the whole.

Celebrating the spiritual child involves finding opportunities to nurture their spiritual growth. This includes activities such as praying together, reading bible stories, spending time in nature, discussing religious symbols and reflecting on what they are thankful for and what they feel when they talk about God.

Spirituality means different things to every child and to every community. It connects children in a faith community, gives them a sense of security and belonging and reminds them that they are deeply loved.

"Wellbeing is a state in which the individual realises their own abilities, can cope with normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully and is able to make a contribution to their community." World Health Organisation 2004










EXPLORE



10 min

Some ideas for learning in the everyday:

-  Set up a sacred space at home or outdoors
-  Pray with your children
-  Share Bible stories
-  Talk about God and Jesus
-  Take a walk in the garden and talk about nature – God's creation
-  Model for and encourage your child to act with kindness in the world
-  Say thank you to God for all the wonderful things in the world



TEACHERS



REFLECT



30 min

Reflect on your knowledge and practice.

Consider the EYLF, NSW Syllabus and LPs:

- Where have these children come from?
- Where are you taking them?

Think about the learning that happens in your classroom - How do you complement wellbeing through spiritually in your classroom?

What are some characteristics of the early learner that attribute to being spiritual?

After watching the video, what do you want parents to know and understand about the ethos of Catholic schools?



ENGAGE



45 min

Engage in a learning conversation with parents.

What can you see in the video that challenges what you think about teaching the 'whole child'?

Talk about experiences in your classroom that foster the 'spiritual child'.

How do other elements of the whole child evident across your classroom and school day? (intellectual, physical, social/emotional and cultural)

What opportunities can you create at home to cater for the 'spiritual child'? Consider the activities in the Explore section.