



Faith Lutheran College, Redlands

Faith in Christ ... prepared for life.

Worship Policy

Lutheran schools aim to encourage and support students, informed and sustained by the word of God, to develop their God-given talents so that they may shape and enrich their world. As central to their mission and ministry, Faith Lutheran College, Redlands seeks to nurture individuals who are aware of their humanity, open to the influence of the Holy Spirit and growing in and living according to a 'cohesive world view'. (*A vision for learners and learning*). Opportunities to observe and invitationally experience Christian worship are foundational aspects of Lutheran Education.

Faith Lutheran College, Redlands is implementing this policy to ensure that students and staff are aware of their right to be treated with equity and fairness, and without discrimination.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff and students.

Responsibility

The Principal

Point of Contact

The Principal / College Pastor

Background

Definition: What is Christian Worship?

The Board for Lutheran Education Australia (BLEA) Statement on school worship states:

Worship begins and ends with the presence and acts of the Triune God. It goes from heaven to earth, from God to human beings. This is seen clearly in the way in which God conveys love, grace and mercy to human beings through readings from the Bible, forgiveness of sins, proclamation of the gospel, the enactment of Baptism, the celebration of Holy Communion (where appropriate), and the performance of blessing.

Worship can be understood to have a strongly sacramental thrust which consists in God's action towards us. Human beings respond to God's presence and activity in praise and thanksgiving. Thus the dynamic of Christian worship is God's action, human response.

Worship in the Lutheran Church affirms this flow of God's action (the sacramental element) followed by our response (the sacrificial element) of worship. This can be displayed in the form of a table.

The Dynamic of Christian Worship	
God's Action	
God calls to worship	God gives his gifts to us (He gives himself to us in the Lord's Supper)
God forgives	He blesses us
God speaks (Readings) God Listens	He sends us into the world
Human Action	
We respond	We bring our gifts in an offering
We confess	We give ourselves in loving service
We listen	We praise him
We pray	We go out and serve the Lord

The School as a Context for Worship

The context in which schools meet for worship (class, year, school), means that certain elements are appropriate and others are not (for example, there no presupposition of a participant's faith, baptism nor involvement in congregational life).

Therefore, since school worship at Faith Lutheran College, Redlands is compulsory for all, care must be taken so as not to put people in situations where a conflict of conscience arises (for example, where a person (adult or student) is expected to make a confession or response which does not reflect their faith).

Appropriate Elements for School Worship include

- ✓ Bible Reading
- ✓ Telling Bible Stories
- ✓ Relevant Gospel messages based on the biblical narrative
- ✓ Prayers of request and thanks – for students, school and the world
- ✓ Blessing
- ✓ Singing – in a context of optional involvement
- ✓ Group silence for meditation and contemplation
- ✓ Drama, puppetry, liturgical dance

Additional practical considerations at Faith Lutheran College, Redlands

- The Principal is the spiritual leader of the College
- When worship is compulsory at Faith Lutheran College, Redlands, care must be taken to ensure that no one is asked to act against their conscience – God's loving action should be emphasised rather than a demand for faith responses
- Worship should be accessible to students in language and style
- A variety of different worship styles should be offered
- The difference between teaching and worship must be understood by leaders of worship
(based on an extract from the Board for Lutheran Education Australia (BLEA) as reflected in Chaplaincy in a Lutheran School)

Other Faith Lutheran College, Redlands specific worship activities will include Devotion and Prayer times.

POLICY

At Faith Lutheran College, Redlands:

The expectations of staff and students include:

- Attendance at whole school and staff chapels / worship
- Participation in staff retreats as specified by the Principal
- Leadership and / or facilitation of staff devotion according to roster
- Leadership and / or facilitation of a daily devotion with students

Adapted from "Statement on School worship" BLEA / GCC
April 2002

PROCEDURES

Procedures to support the implementation of Faith Lutheran College, Redlands worship policy include:

Chapel

- ✓ Staff are to discuss the planning and leadership of Chapel with the pastor prior to the Chapel program being planned.
- ✓ The Pastor or designated worship leader has responsibility for overseeing Chapel.
- ✓ There needs to be a staff member who oversees the leading of Chapel services. This can be the class teacher, the Pastor, the Head or Deputy of the school. The Chapel needs to give a biblical message which may progress through the bible or relate to the Christian calendar.

Devotion Guidelines

Devotion will occur every day for a minimum period at the beginning of the day. The suggested order for devotion includes:

- ✓ Light candle/s, lights off
- ✓ Songs (2/3)
- ✓ Message with a spiritual focus including a Bible reading / story
- ✓ Prayer – as a class or teacher led

The church calendar can be used as a devotion theme e.g. Epiphany, Pentecost, Ascension, Lent, Thanksgiving. Staff requiring assistance or mentoring regarding devotions can ask the College Pastor, leading Christian Studies Teachers, Head of School or Principal.

Prayer time

Prayer time will be part of Chapel, class devotion time and staff devotion time and may occur as a separate activity. Prayer time may include prayer for Faith Lutheran College, Redlands' students and families, particularly in times of crisis, prayers for others in our community and world who are experiencing pain and suffering and, the Lord's Prayer.

At all times worship practices at Faith Lutheran College, Redlands will align with the Christian ethos and values as outlined in *A Vision for Learners and Learning* and with the rites of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

Adopted FLCR College Council 5-3-14