



Jubilee Catholic Parish



ST FINBARR'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Purpose of the Kids in Action Program At St Finbarr's School

The main purpose of the Kids in Action (KIA) program is to strengthen connections between St Finbarr's Catholic Primary school, the Jubilee Parish and the wider community. The initiative gives the students at St Finbarr's various opportunities to engage in the life of the Parish and consequently in the Religious Life of the School. This connection allows the parish to be present and active with the faith education and formation of the students. It also allows for the students to be present and active in the liturgical and social dimensions of the parish.

"A true test of the school's authentic identity and culture is the extent to which the Church is present in the school and the school is present in the Church"
(Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane, 2012).

A secondary purpose of KIA is to enhance the learning and teaching of the Archdiocese of Brisbane's RE Curriculum and give religion teachers on-going opportunities for personal faith formation and professional development.

"School staff who truly live their faith will be agents of a new evangelization in creating a positive climate for the Christian faith to grow, and in spiritually nourishing the students entrusted to their care" (Pope John Paul II, 2001).

What does KIA look like at St Finbarr's School?

At present there are two avenues through which this initiative is enacted; *Social Action & Justice* and *Evangelisation/Faith Formation*. These are two of the four components of *The Religious Life of the School P-12*. These avenues are open to change, depending on the direction of the school, the school goals and the *Strategic Renewal Framework*.

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Social Action & Justice

The Year 5 and 6 students are involved in an educational program, which invites them to develop a personalised understanding of social action and justice. Throughout the year the students have opportunities to participate in social action that are practical, hands on and educational. This understanding of justice has emerged from the Biblical tradition. This rich Biblical understanding portrays a just society as one marked by the fullness of love, compassion and peace through Jesus Christ.

“Social justice obliges people to be active and productive participants in the life of society and insists that society has a duty to enable them to participate in this way” (Economic Justice for All, 1986, n.68-71).

Evangelisation/Faith Formation

All of the students at St Finbarr’s are involved in two programs; Sacred Singing and Kids in Action Sessions. Sacred Singing is a 20-minute session once a week, which allows the whole school to learn the hymns sung at the weekly Mass and gain an understanding of the religious messages and sacred scriptures within the hymns. This also links to the Parish Sunday Mass, where the students participate as a choir. Kids in Action sessions are lessons planned collaboratively by the KIA Coordinator and the classroom religion teacher. The purpose of these sessions is to deepen the students’ understanding of the Religion unit being taught in their classroom. These sessions are designed to align with the BCE DELT (Delivering Excellent Learning and Teaching) strategy and Visible Learning.

Evangelisation means bringing the Good News to all strata of humanity, and through its influence, transforming humanity from within and making it new (On Evangelisation in the Modern World, 1975, n.18).

Scope for Expansion

The KIA program was designed specifically for St Finbarr’s School and the Jubilee Parish. The programs and activities are specialised to suit the needs of the school and parish community and the individual students at St Finbarr’s. If the program were to be used in another school, The Parish Priest, Principal, APRE and KIA Coordinator would need to modify the program to suits their particular school culture and context.

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