

Worship and Chapel Guidelines

Worship is the very centre of our school life. In the narrow sense, it is that time when we gather as a group to hear God speak to us and when we as individuals come before God. Both these aspects of worship need to be encouraged in a natural reverence for God at our school. Worship activities should be planned with prayer, diligence and care, for it is the springboard for life. We should always endeavour to make our worship times meaningful and vibrant.

Staff

Staff worship occurs at the beginning of each school day. Each member of staff is invited, on a roster basis, to lead staff devotional times on Mondays and Tuesdays. Staff are encouraged to prepare meaningful devotions, seeking to involve other members of staff in worship. Materials, suitable for staff devotions, are available in the library and staff resource room.

Staff are given the opportunity to pray in prayer groups on Wednesday mornings. These groups are randomly selected on a term basis and posted in the staff room. These groups are an ideal time to share other people's burdens, get to know our colleagues on a more personal level and show our care for one another. Friday mornings we gather for a time of singing and worship through music.

On Thursday mornings we meet a little earlier and share in deeper study activities prepared by the Principal, congregational minister or school chaplain.

Class

Some form of worship shall be conducted in each class at a convenient time during each school day. Time will be allocated on the school timetable for class worship. This will normally be on a single class basis unless teachers wish to combine with another class. These, of necessity, will be brief and, depending on the year level, ideally pupil orientated or in the upper years, may be student led. These times should be a time of reverence and reflection designed to draw the class together and model a daily habit of worship and conversation with God. Resources for leading class worship are available from the teacher resource room.

Chapel

The whole school community are invited to worship together at chapel services on Friday mornings in the Bethania Lutheran Church. These services will normally be led by parish minister, visiting Lutheran pastors, school chaplain or the Principal. Classes will be rostered to contribute to Chapel services through prayer, messages, art, song or dance. A staff Chapel committee will be formed, on a volunteer basis, at the beginning of each year to provide direction to and plan Chapel services. Other special services may also be scheduled such as Ascension Day, Ash Wednesday, Reformation Day and Anzac Day.