



St. Joseph's Primary School

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Rationale:

St. Joseph's Primary School Merriwa honours its commitment to quality Catholic education through its provision of high quality educational programs by which each child is enabled to reach their full potential.

(adapted from the school vision statement)

The Catholic School focuses on the faith formation of young people and educates them through the implicit and explicit teaching of religion.

The foundations of the Catholic School are based upon enhancing and promoting knowledge and understanding of the traditions of the Catholic Community, its story, its experiences and its teachings.

At St Joseph's we recognise that in matters of faith and religion, parents are the prime educators of their children and it is our intention to create a home away from home, supporting and developing the faith journey, which is instituted in the home.

St Joseph's School seeks the Gospel values of welcoming, caring and belonging; where teachers, parents and students work in peace and harmony as part of the Parish community.

As a learning community we encourage the pursuit of excellence in all fields of education, in accordance with each student's gifts and abilities. Thus enabling them to grow in self-confidence and take responsibility within the school and wider community.

Aims:

At St Joseph's we aim to:

- ◆ Develop a knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Tradition through the four strands, Jesus and Scripture, History and Beliefs, Celebration and Prayer and Justice and Morality
- ◆ Integrate the Gospel values, such as compassion, forgiveness, hope and justice into the life of the school
- ◆ Empower the students to reach their full potential, spiritually, socially, emotionally physically, and intellectually
- ◆ Immerse the students, teachers, parents and the wider Parish community in meaningful prayer and liturgy
- ◆ Support Sacramental Programs and shared community celebrations in partnership with the Parish
- ◆ Foster an appreciation and awareness of other religions and cultures.

Implementation:

PERSONNEL	TIME	PROCEDURES	RESOURCES	ASSESSMENT
<p>The following personnel are responsible for the implementation of the Religious Education Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Principal ◆ REC ◆ School Staff ◆ Parish Priest ◆ Pastoral Associates ◆ Parents ◆ Parish community ◆ Sacramental Team 	<p>Religion permeates throughout the school day. It includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prayer ◆ Hymns ◆ Altar serving ◆ Liturgies of the Word ◆ Liturgies of the Eucharist ◆ Masses ◆ Planned learning and teaching ◆ Activities associated with the Liturgical calendar ◆ K-12 RE Syllabus P75 <p>3.3.1 An average of thirty minutes a day is allocated to the classroom teaching of Religion.</p> <p>3.3.2 Timetabling needs to reflect the importance of the teaching of Religion</p>	<p>Diocesan K-12 RE Syllabus and Primary Resource Units are the key teaching resources.</p> <p>Prayer is an important aspect of the religious life of the school. Prayer can be experienced in the following ways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Staged Scope and sequence ◆ Liturgy of the Eucharist ◆ Liturgy of the Word ◆ School prayers ◆ Formal and informal prayers (see appendix) ◆ Staff meeting prayer ◆ Parish celebrations ◆ Sacramental program is parish based and promoted through school ◆ Outreach programmes ◆ Mission fundraising 	<p>Internal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Diocesan K-12 RE Syllabus and Primary Resource Units ◆ School resources located in Kindergarten Room, Library & classrooms <p>External</p> <p>Staff are encouraged to support the learning and teaching of Religion by integrating in their programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Visiting speakers ◆ Local excursions and incursions ◆ CSO resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Planned assessment identified in Program ◆ Work samples ◆ Observation ◆ Unit tests ◆ Reports ◆ RE Testing Year 6

Budget:

Budget allocated for the purchase of suitable resources to compliment the learning and teaching of Religion.

Source other means of donations to assist in maintaining the Religious Life of the school, eg, liturgical cloth, bibles, and items for sacred space. This may be through the P and F or other areas.

Evaluation:

The effective implementation of this policy is measured by

- Class Programs reflective of the RE Syllabus
- Student progress

This policy will be evaluated every three years by staff, or sooner if the need arises and reviewed at the beginning of each school year.

This policy was initiated in	February 2008
It will be evaluated :	2014

Helen Whale - Principal _____

Anne Marie Peebles - REC _____

John Lannen _____

Wendy Thomas _____

Angela Sullivan _____

Rachel Healy _____

The Scope and Sequence attached is currently followed by all teachers and suits the Stage based arrangements of the classes. The nature of the school is such that the composition of classes changes from time to time and the Scope and Sequence must change to reflect this.