

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

RATIONALE

Religious Education is:

- An educational process – educating the students in the traditions, celebrations and knowledge of the Catholic faith.
- Nurturing the ability of the individuals to develop their own faith in a supportive environment.
- Developing an understanding of and relationship with God.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

At St. Theresa's we believe that:

- The formation of faith is a life long journey, which begins at home with the family.
- The school has an important role and responsibility in the development of the child's faith.
- The Gospels impact on our lives and with our relationship with God.
- Religious Education involves:
 - Imparting knowledge
 - Demonstrating/modelling the faith to the children
 - Participating in and learning about traditions and rituals
 - Participating in prayer
 - Participating in sacraments
 - Discovering God through the Bible
 - Participating in celebrations
 - Developing relationships between the school and family.
- That Religious Education should be inclusive of the different backgrounds of the children.
- It relies on a supportive community environment, which links children, family, school and parish.
- The programme be continually developed and reviewed and must attempt to reflect the individual needs of the students.
- The staff needs to be prepared and continually receive opportunities for professional and faith development.

AIMS

The central aim of religious education is to help students develop a conscious, loving relationship with God, in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

At ST. Theresa's we aim to:

- Enhance the students' knowledge of God.
- Develop awareness of
 - Self
 - Others
 - The world
 - The faith community.
- Understand the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic Church.
- Develop a positive attitude within the school community towards people and their rights.
- Encourage children to live by the Gospel values.
- Celebrate the presence of Jesus in the Sacraments.
- Offer professional and faith development opportunities to staff, parents, families and the school community.

IMPLEMENTATION

- There is a school appointed Religious Education Coordinator and a formal written role description.
- A focus is chosen from the units in the St. Theresa's programme document. Each unit is to be concisely planned and recorded using the accepted planning sheet.
- The units in the document are to be continually updated.
- All grades are to have formally planned Religious Education lessons – minimum of 4 per week (***This needs further discussion***)
- A range of curriculum materials are used to plan the programme units such as Religious Education Guidelines, Know, Worship & Love Texts, library resources and use of the internet.
- Keeping of adequate and up to date resources to compliment the programme.
- Professional Development - To be available to staff – attempt to meet personal needs and professional development
- Teachers are encouraged to be accredited to teach Religious Education.
- Iconology around the school will visibly reflect the "Catholic" spirit.
- Whole school reflections to be a normal practice.
- There will be special times throughout the year where the whole school attends, including an invitation to the wider school community, e.g. Beginning of Year Mass, Graduation and End of Year Mass, Christmas & Easter celebrations.

- There are special times throughout the year where the staff come to pray/reflect and celebrate.
- Sacraments are developed throughout Prep-6 but celebrated:
 - Reconciliation – grade 4
 - Eucharist – grade 3
 - Confirmation – Grade 6