



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Rationale:

- Religious instruction in all recognised and Minister of Education approved religious faiths is to be provided to students if accredited and approved instructors are available.

Aims:

- To make available quality religious education classes for students in recognised and approved religious faiths.

Implementation:

- The principal will make provision for special religious instruction to be scheduled where an accredited and approved instructor is available.
- Where an approved instructor is available to instruct students in a recognised religion, the principal will make the program available to students of consenting parents.
- All potential instructors from recognised religions must provide to the principal documentation indicating that they are accredited by their respective religious body and approved by the Department of Education. Appropriately accredited and approved religious instructors will provide documentation from ACCESS Ministries, the Catholic Education Office, the United Jewish Education Board, or the World Conference of Religions for Peace or similar recognised Minister of Education approved authority. A Working With Children Check is required.
- A qualified teacher is required to remain in the classroom with the instructor where classes are conducted during timetabled class lessons, however, where a principal is satisfied that a particular instructor is able to fulfil the required duty of care, the principal may agree that the teacher is not required to remain in the class continually.
- Parents must choose for their child to 'opt in' to the program. Where a consent form is **not** returned to the school, the child **will not** be allowed to take part in the program.
- Parents can withdraw consent in writing at any time.
- Attendance at religious instruction classes is not compulsory. Alternative and appropriate supervised arrangements will be made for students who do not participate.
- Students may not leave the school during school hours for religious instruction held elsewhere.

EVALUATION:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in November 2012