



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

St Francis Catholic School, in the Franciscan tradition, educates the whole child for today and tomorrow.

We believe in:

PEACE & JOY

*Embracing our Catholic Identity through the fostering of Christian values.
Nurturing a welcoming, compassionate and caring environment that draws together children, parents, teachers and community.*

INTEGRITY

Developing a sense of responsibility and self-esteem in each individual.

JUSTICE

Building and nurturing a stimulating learning community where all are supported in reaching their full potential.

CREATION

Respecting and taking action to sustain our natural environment.

"Understanding and defining the role of Religious Education in the Catholic School encompasses understanding the world of the student, focussing especially on the family, the classroom curriculum and the methodology within the context of the Church. An holistic curriculum needs to be presented to inform about the spiritual wisdom of the Christian faith found in the Scriptures, in Tradition and in the Liturgy. This engages the children's reason, memory and imagination and leads to a whole way of life reflected in the total life of the school community where family, school and parish work together."(Source of Life Core Document p.2)

Commitment to Child Safety

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe all of the time. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance for child abuse. At St Francis we strive to maintain a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety. We are committed to continually reviewing our Child Safe policies and practices to ensure that every effort is made for ongoing improvement of our Child Safe environment.

We at St Francis recognise that some groups of children are particularly vulnerable are we are committed to promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal/linguistically diverse children and also promoting the safety of children with a disability.

Belief Statement:

At St Francis Primary School we believe that our Catholic faith is at the core of who we are and what we do. We believe that through our Catholic identity and Religious Education program students will develop a respect for themselves and others and value their gifts. We believe that the education of the whole person provides the foundation for lifelong learning.

Aims:

Through providing a wide range of Religious Education and celebrations in the school, we aim to:

- foster and promote the active practice of love, social justice and mercy in accordance with the example of Jesus and the Catholic tradition.
- develop an awareness of the relationship between self, God and others in the context of local and global community.
- maintain a family/parish based sacramental program involving a parental education program.
- develop a sound knowledge of Catholic Traditions and Spiritual stories which can be built upon as we journey through life.
- provide opportunities for children to participate in formal and informal prayer and recognise its importance in their daily lives.
- endeavour to create an environment where Gospel values are a lived experience.

Implementation

- Religious Education will be planned by each unit using schools "Source of Life" planning document
- Religious Education units will follow a two-year cycle.
- Religious Education will be taught daily and incorporated into all areas of the school Curriculum.
- The school will participate in regular parish celebrations and liturgies.
- Children will be given opportunities to pray, both formally, through Scripture, meditation, classroom and assembly prayer.
- A variety of resources, including books, CD's, Godly Play resources and prayer boxes, to enhance the teaching of Religious Education.

Evaluation:

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