



Rationale

The community of St Therese's believes that Religious Education involves the collaboration between parents, school and parish in the faith development of our children. Religious Education involves faith development through example, prayer, celebration of liturgy and worship, initiation into the life of the Church through the Sacraments and teaching values with a Catholic perspective. This occurs formally through Religious Education lessons and, informally permeates every aspect of life in our school community.

Goals

Religious Education in a Catholic school aims to develop:

- appreciation and deep understanding of the richness of the Catholic Tradition
- religious self-understanding and spiritual awareness
- openness to religious questions and to a religious interpretation of the world
- awareness of the diversity of voices in society and within the school
- discernment and participation informed by the Catholic Tradition.

These objectives are achieved through three strands of learning in Religious Education:

- Knowledge and Understanding – seeking truth;
- Reasoning and Responding – making meaning,
- Personal and Communal Engagement – living story

In the discipline of Religious Education students form religious knowledge and understandings and ways of thinking and responding through the exploration of five content areas:

- Scripture and Jesus
- Church and Community
- God, Religion and Life
- Prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments
- Morality and Justice.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

Units of work are chosen in a number of ways. The Liturgical year and other major world events have a major influence on the choice of unit. Topics are also chosen to tie in with the Sacraments, to relate to integrated units being studied, and on a needs basis for a particular class e.g. (loss and grief).

All staff use an inquiry approach to teaching religion. Within that structure, teachers plan both small group and whole class activities which encourage students to wonder and discover answers to their questions. Other areas of the curriculum are often included in R.E. lessons such as Art, Drama and Music.

Students are prepared for and receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in grades 3, 4 and 6 respectively.

All students are encouraged to be part of the faith community by participating in a variety of liturgies throughout the year. These take the form of whole school masses, class masses and liturgies to celebrate special occasions.

Major Resources

- To Know, Worship and Love – Student Text and Teacher Resource (Catholic Diocese Of Melbourne)
 - Making Jesus Real Texts (Grade 3-6)
 - Classroom prayer tables/spaces
 - Bibles
 - Topic related books - children/staff resources
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- Online multimedia (music)
- Picture Sets
- Family and Mission Week Kits
- Project Compassion Kits
- Online resources from 'RESOURCE'

Assessment

We accept that children learn in different ways and at different rates. In the domain of Religious Education, students are assessed across the three strands.

- *Knowledge and Understanding:* Learning in this strand is evident when students explain their understanding of the Catholic faith and its elements in dialogue with multiple perspectives within and beyond the Catholic Tradition. It asks students to articulate a considered point of view.
- *Reasoning and Responding:* Learning in this strand is evident when students interpret and make meaning of their life, the world and their social context, as well as their religious tradition, responding with openness to transformation and with empathy to others.
- *Personal and Communal Engagement :* Learning in this strand is evident when students reflect on their story, deepening awareness of their feelings, questions, beliefs and worldviews in relation to others' stories. It also asks students to apply their insights to new directions of hope for relationships and the broader world.

Teachers should provide a variety of opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning within each of the above strands. Student assessment tasks should not be limited to "pencil and paper tests". A wide range of activities which encompass the different learning styles and strengths of students should be employed.

Evaluation

The Religious Education Programme is evaluated through:

- monitoring of the children's progress and response and adjusting the programme as necessary
- continued development of units that reflect adjustments made within the renewed Religious Education curriculum
- continued development of appropriate attitudes such as interest and participation in the programme and Parish life
- reviewing units and appropriate resources available with a continued focus of bringing a Catholic perspective to contemporary world issues.
- monitoring staff needs in professional development and ensuring a common understanding of current teaching practices in religion

This Policy will be reviewed as part of a cyclical process in accordance with the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Document Control

Version	Author	Purpose/Change	Date
0.1	Various STS L'ship Members	Initial policy drafting	Pre 2018
1.0	D. Rulli	Policy reviewed and changes made throughout	Mid 2019