



# Religious Education Policy

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## Rationale:

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Religious Education at St. Peter's Parish Primary School provides students with an opportunity to experience a full and enriching Catholic tradition. By encountering this tradition we aim to celebrate, pray, reach out and learn to develop a sense of belonging; building and enhancing our personal and communal Catholic identity.

Using the influences of Jesus and Mary, we strive to learn and collaborate with a sense of mutual respect, resilience and responsibility. We welcome an open dialogue with other faith beliefs and perspectives in collaboration with the Catholic faith and beliefs. In welcoming families of various levels of Faith, we pride ourselves at St. Peter's on inclusivity, guided by the teachings to love and respect one another.

Through a partnership with the Local Parish: The Parish of Epping, Epping North and Wollert, we create a connection that links the faith of the school community to the faith of the parish community. Our Sacraments are celebrated with the community, along with level masses to build the foundations of these connections.

Religious Education at St. Peter's Parish Primary School is identified within two pillars: Religious Education and Faith Formation. Each pillar is a learning area which focuses on the knowledge and understanding of the Gospel handed on by the Catholic Church.

## Aims:

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At St. Peter's Primary School we aim to:

- provide an opportunity for staff, students and parents to encounter and explore their own faith through a Catholic perspective, offering regular occasions for liturgy, reflection and celebration.
- provide an opportunity for staff and students to encounter prayer through planning, and participating in formal and informal prayer as an expression of faith.
- provide an opportunity for staff and students to celebrate traditions and rituals through Mass, Liturgy and Social Justice projects to share in the Good News of the bible.
- ensure all Teachers of Religious Education are accredited to teach in a Catholic Primary School/ Accredited to teach Religion in a Catholic Primary School.

## Religious Education Aims:

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- Plan and implement a contemporary curriculum using the Religious Education Framework from Prep to Year 6 that allows for the scaffolding of Learning, Celebrating, and Praying together.
- Equip students with the ability to re-contextualise their understanding of scripture and tradition fostering a deeper understanding of the Gospels within the (NRSV) Bible.

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- Support staff in seeking further study or Professional Learning in Religious Education and applying their knowledge to the curriculum, learning and teaching and faith development of students.

## Religious Education Implementation:

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- Designing a curriculum plan in association with the Learning Framework established by the Archdiocese of Melbourne and in collaboration with the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). This documentation is used in conjunction with the Coming to Know, Worship and Love Framework.
- Religious Education is taught through a Faith, Life and World approach to Inquiry learning.
- Incorporating learning material with different areas of the curriculum (Inquiry, English etc.) when possible by responding in many different ways including song, prayer, liturgy, drama and art.

## Faith Formation Aims:

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- Assist students to integrate their faith, culture and experiences of life with a developing understanding of the mystery of God.
- Create an open dialogue encountering of Catholic Social teachings by reaching out and creating a sense of belonging to a local, national and religious community.
- Respect and acknowledge all influences within our faith lives, with an emphasis on parents being the first faith educators in our students' lives.

## Faith Formation Implementation:

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- Daily morning prayer and Christian Meditation incorporates a varying combination of formal prayers, informal prayers, song, scripture and reflection.
- Scheduled attendance of a Weekday Level Mass.
- Celebrating special times in our year (beginning of the year, Feast day, Easter, Advent etc.) with a whole school liturgy or mass.
- Participation in Social Justice events to reach out to both the local (St. Vincent De Paul Fundraising) and the international community (Project Compassion and Catholic Care).
- A whole parish sacramental program in conjunction with the other parish schools and catechesis program for the planning, implementing and celebrating of Reconciliation (yr3), Eucharist (yr4) and Confirmation (yr6).

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

Stage	Date	Ratified
Developed	August 2020	August 2020
Review 1	September 2022	
Review 2		
Review 3		