



## Religious Education Policy

*Ratified by Staff April 2008*

### Rationale:

The world is the primary context and place of God's revealing himself to all humanity. It is in the reality of our daily lives that we come to know God as Creator, Jesus as Saviour and the Holy Spirit as our guide.

Our school is part of this world and part of the community of the church and we invite all members to look for God in the world and to live a life framed by the life of Jesus. As a school community we celebrate our Catholic identity. Religious Education is an integral part of the overall curriculum at St Peter Julian Eymard School and vital to the life of the school community. The Religious Education Policy is developed in light of our Vision Statement:

**Spirit filled people  
Working together  
On a journey of learning  
Embracing life  
And creating our future**

### Aims:

- The school aims to develop an environment in which Gospel values may be witnessed and lived out in daily life and the knowledge and understanding of our faith is continually developing. We aim to develop a sense of belonging to a larger Parish and world community with a responsibility of care for each other.
- The Formal Education Program is prepared in accordance with the new Religious Education Framework- "Coming to Know, Worship and Love", "To Know, Worship and Love" –the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition text in conjunction with "The Melbourne Guidelines" and supported by other resources.
- The children come "To Know" the traditions through the deliberate, sequential and systemic teaching and learning activities and experiences.
- "To Worship", is the prayer, sacramental and liturgical life of the school. There will also be opportunities for students to participate in Liturgies and Eucharistic celebrations during the year.
- "To Love" is concerned with living within the Catholic tradition. This is a call to live with principles that support the common good. It is the call to love and build our relationships: with our God, ourselves and others within our local and global community.

### Implementation:

- The focus for our units is provided in the Doctrine (attachment 1) that we need to cover.
- Units may be planned at a whole school level where we consider the liturgical seasons of the Church, such as Lent/Easter and the Sacramental programs that are conducted throughout the school.
- Levels choose their own units from the Framework documents ensuring that areas of *Church and Community*, *Prayer Liturgy and Sacraments*, *Morality and Justice*, *Scripture and Jesus and God Religion and Life* are covered. A sample of units covered at the various levels along with an evaluation is filed in the staffroom. Levels are encouraged to adapt the Framework units to include other resources.
- We gather as a school to celebrate significant dates within the liturgical and school calendar. Levels are invited to contribute to the planning of these celebrations which are co-ordinated by the Religious Education Co-ordinator. Each class attends one parish weekday Mass. Each Level is invited to attend a weekend Family Mass once a year, these masses are planned by parents and supported by staff.
- Each Level will nominate a representative on the Religious Education Team. The RE Team will meet twice a term or as needed and will be facilitated by the Religious Education Co-ordinator.
- It is important to remember that while school is a significant time and experience in the education of faith, it is the parents who hold the primary responsibility for education in faith. It is within the life of the Parish that this faith is practised and at school we support parents, and the Parish in education of faith.
- The Sacramental Programs are formally taught in class with an expectation that parents attend Adult Faith Education evenings related to each of the Sacraments. Sacramental Programs are two-year programs with Reconciliation received in Year Three, Eucharist in Year Four and Confirmation in Year Six. Other levels will show support for the Sacramental Program by including appropriate related units.
- Foundations for learning Christian values and living are laid not only by what is taught, but also by the climate that is created in the classroom. Children learn by the attitudes and behaviours that are modelled and encouraged by the teacher in relating with students and others in the community.
- As in other subjects there are assessments, samples of these are included in work sample folders that are sent home to parents. Reports will include a comment about the units covered and the children's participation in this subject area.
- Prayer plays an important part in the faith life of a Catholic school. Each classroom has a dedicated Prayer Focus, which is used each day for class prayer.
- Students should know a range of prayers (traditional and modern) by the time they leave our school. (Attachment 2)
- Students will be invited to participate in areas of social justice at both global and local levels. Our school participates in fundraising efforts to support: Caritas-via Project Compassion and Mission Week, the work of St Vincent de Paul within our local community and Centacare.
- Religious Education is taught daily in formal stand alone lessons or integrated in units of work which aim to develop the children's religious literacy in the light of the Catholic tradition.

**Evaluation:**

Evaluation of the Religious Education Policy will occur as per the cycle of policy review. Staff will be responsible for the evaluation, the Religious Education Coordinator will oversee the process.