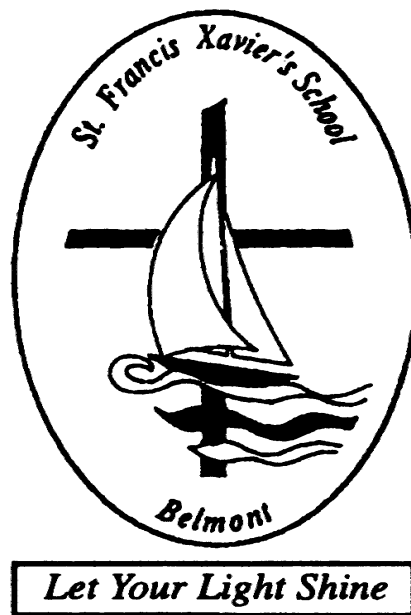

Classroom Teaching of Religion Policy



***“ I am the light for the world! Follow me,
and you won’t be walking in the dark. You
will have the light that gives life.”***

John 8 : 12

2012

to be reviewed

2015

RATIONALE

St Francis Xavier's Primary School participates with the parish in the mission of the Catholic Church, of spreading Jesus' message found in the Gospel. As such Religious Education is vital to the life of St Francis Xavier's Primary School and Parish community. Religious Education concerns itself primarily with the faith formation of children within the school. It does this through providing content knowledge of the Catholic faith and faith experiences through liturgy and acts of social justice. The Gospel values as modelled by Jesus Christ provide a framework for this policy and give purpose and direction to all who share responsibility for Religious Education.

This policy reflects the Diocesan and School Vision Statements by:

- *Recognising the family as the initial provider of faith education, promoting the partnership between home, parish and school, and acknowledging their right to participation.*
- *Valuing the uniqueness and importance of each individual.*
- *Nurturing the whole person towards achieving full potential.*
- *Assisting students to become discerning, self-disciplined, compassionate and contributing members of society.*
- *Developing pupils' knowledge and understandings.*
- *Encouraging the pursuit of excellence in all fields of school education in accordance with each student's gifts and capabilities.*
- *Responding to special needs as these are identified.*

AIMS

At St Francis Xavier's we aim to:

- Provide a high standard of religious education from the four strands; Jesus and Scripture, History and Beliefs, Celebration and Prayer and Justice and Morality; as outlined in the Diocesan Religious Syllabus.
- Foster an understanding that we are loved and cared for by God and that we are called to share this love with others.
- Develop the student's knowledge and understanding of the rituals and tradition of the Catholic Church.
- Develop the student's knowledge of Scripture including the Old and New Testament.
- Provide opportunities for the community to develop their relationship with God through prayer, liturgy and service.
- Acknowledge that the development of the whole child is a combined effort of home, school and parish community.

IMPLEMENTATION

Programming Documentation

- The Diocesan Religious Education Syllabus, Foundation Statements and Units of Work will be the basic reference materials for the teaching of Religious Education.
- Each grade teacher will complete an overview and work program in line with expectations as outlined in the Diocesan Programming Policy.
- Teachers will follow the school Scope and Sequence and teach according to syllabus Foundation Statements, Outcomes and Content. (Scope and Sequence attached to this policy)
- Teachers will develop a teaching program across all strands which include Foundation Statements, Outcomes, Sequence of Learning, Curriculum Differentiation, Resources, Planned Assessment and Evaluation.
- Student assessment is differentiated, open ended and embedded in each unit of work
- Teaching and Learning activities will be balanced across the four strategies for teaching religion, lived experience, content, internalization and expression, as outlined in the syllabus
- Information and Communication Technologies will be embedded as an essential teaching tool in Religious Education.
- The use of the Interactive Whiteboard will facilitate ICT in the teaching of Religious Education.
- Relevant professional development opportunities will be provided for teachers.

Assessment

- Assessment of Religious Education will be embedded in the unit, happen regularly, and may involve:
 - Classroom observation.
 - Teacher set tests and assessment tasks.
 - Teacher / student discussion.
 - Work samples.
 - Classroom participation and interest.
- Planned assessment tasks are linked to the Foundation Statements in the Sequence of Learning.
- Assessment results are recorded by individual teachers.
- Achievement in Religion is formally reported to parents each semester via a system wide school report and parent / teacher interviews. An A – E grade (Years 1-6) is given in achievement across the strands, an indication of effort and a comment is included. For Kindergarten, an indication of achievement is given in an appropriate report.

Personnel

- Religious Education Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the religious education program and checking individual teaching programs, to ensure they comply with the Diocesan Programming Policy and Syllabus Document.
- All teachers of religion are to have, or be in the process of obtaining the required level of faith accreditation as outlined by the Diocesan Faith Accreditation Policy (2011).
- All teachers of religion are responsible for acquiring the 'currency' of professional development and spiritual formation required for continuing accreditation in accordance with the Diocesan Faith Accreditation Policy (2011).

Time Allocation

Teachers will allocate a minimum of 150 minutes each week to the teaching of Religious Education. This includes RE lessons, prayer time, liturgies and masses.

Resources

- Teachers will make use of the wide variety of Religious Education resources including books, audio, visual, Internet and personnel.
- Teacher resource books are located in the Interview room.
- Each class has the responsibility to maintain their classroom Religious Education / Prayer Space.
- Resources will be continually updated in order to meet the needs of the syllabus, staff and children.

BUDGET

- The school sets an appropriate amount from within the overall school budget to be allocated for use within the area of Religious Education. This covers the cost of maintaining existing resources and equipment as well as purchasing new resources.
- The budget also covers providing money for the appropriate inservicing of the R.E.C. and staff, and suitable incursions to enhance and support the Religious Education program.
- Staff members wishing to purchase resources should approach the REC, for the request to be considered by the leadership team.

EVALUATION

The effective implementation of this policy is measured by

- Class Programs reflective of the Religion Syllabus
- Student progress
- Participation of all members of the community at liturgical celebrations
- Year 6 Diocesan RE test results

Evaluation of this policy will take place:

- Every two years OR
- With significant staff changes
- As the need arises
- When changes in government or diocesan policy occur

This will be done by

- REC and teaching staff

This will be done at

- Staff meetings
- Policy review meetings

Religion Resource Units K-6 – Scope & Sequence

	EARLY STAGE 1	STAGE ONE		STAGE TWO		STAGE THREE	
	KINDER	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
1	I AM SPECIAL	IN GOD'S LOVING CARE	THE GIFT OF CREATION	WORKING TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY	LIVING JESUS LAW OF LOVE	THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JESUS	STEWARDS OF CREATION
2	FROM ASHES TO EASTER	GROWING AND CHANGING	JESUS IN THE DESERT	LENT: A TIME FOR REACHING OUT	A. AN INVITATION TO BELIEVE B. PRACTICES AND PROMISES C. A TIME FOR RECONCILIATION	A. AN INVITATION TO BELIEVE B. PRACTICES AND PROMISES C. A TIME FOR RECONCILIATION	A. AN INVITATION TO BELIEVE B. PRACTICES AND PROMISES C. A TIME FOR RECONCILIATION
3	THE BIBLE: A SPECIAL BOOK	THE LAST SUPPER	PRAYING IN THE GARDEN	JOURNEYING WITH JESUS	PASSOVER EXODUS	THE WAY OF THE CROSS	CROSSROADS
4	GOD THE CREATOR	CELEBRATING EASTER	THE EASTER SEASON	THE JOURNEYING TO EMMAUS	NEW LIFE	EASTER: THE CALL TO FOLLOW	THE ROAD AHEAD
5	GIFTS FROM GOD	STORIES OF JESUS	SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION	THE PENTECOST STORY	HEBREW & CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES	JESUS – TRIAL UNIT	JESUS – TRIAL UNIT
6	BAPTISM	BELONGING & CELEBRATING	LIVING AS GOD'S CHILDREN	THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	THE CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA	CHURCH HISTORY – TRIAL UNIT	CATHOLIC BELIEFS – TRIAL UNIT
7	THE CATHOLIC CHURCH	FRIENDS OF JESUS	THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE	THE SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST	SAINTS	SACRAMENTS OF HEALING – TRIAL UNIT	SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE – TRIAL UNIT
8	JESUS – A FRIEND TO ALL	MARY: MOTHER OF JESUS	EUCHARIST: THE STRUCTURE OF THE MASS	MARY – WOMAN OF FAITH	CALLED TO SERVE OTHERS	CATHOLIC VALUES – TRIAL UNIT HEBREW SCRIPTURES – TRIAL UNIT	SOCIAL JUSTICE – TRIAL UNIT CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES – TRIAL UNIT
9	A WAITING TIME	GETTING READY FOR JESUS	WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS	MAKING PROMISES	A. JESUS EMMANUEL B. THE ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS MESSAGE C. THE JESSE TREE	ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS - TRIAL UNIT	ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS - TRIAL UNIT
10	JESUS IS BORN	CELEBRATING JESUS' BIRTHDAY	WAITING IS OVER	THE PROMISE COMES TRUE	A TIME TO GATHER	JESUS – TRIAL UNIT	JESUS – TRIAL UNIT

