

Sacred Heart Highgate Learning Area Policy

Learning Area: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.



Rationale

'Religious Education is the first Learning Area in the Catholic School Curriculum. This is so, because, though a classroom activity, Religious Education is a form of the Ministry of the Word. Unlike the other Learning Areas, it is an activity of Evangelisation in its own right.'
(Mandate Letter, p.43)

Definition

Religious Education is a learning area which focuses on the knowledge and understanding of the Gospel as it is handed on by the Catholic Church to those who follow Christ in today's world.

(C.E.C.W.A: Policy Statement 2-A5)

Principles

1. Religious Education complements catechesis offered in family, school and Parish. Catechesis refers to:
"the education of children, young people and adults in the faith of the Church through the teaching of Christian doctrine.'
(Catechism Of The Catholic Church, p. 869)
2. The Religious Education program to be taught in Catholic Schools is that promulgated by the Archdiocesan Bishop of Perth.
3. Religious Education in the school shall always respect parents as the prime educators of their children, particularly in the area of faith education.
4. Religious Education Outcomes shall be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as all other Learning Areas.
5. Religious Education shall acknowledge the stages of faith development of students.
6. Religious Education shall relate the knowledge and understandings of the Catholic faith to student's real life situations and experiences.

7. Religious Education shall always present Catholic Beliefs and practices in the context of the Christian Promise of Salvation and the questions and aspirations of the human heart that God alone can satisfy completely.
8. Teachers of Religious Education shall be committed Catholics and shall give active Christian witness to Catholic Beliefs.

Teaching and Learning Practise.

1. Religious Education shall have priority in all planning, including the development of the school's timetable.
2. Within the normal hours of instruction the minimum time allocation for the Religious Learning Area shall be:

Kindergarten: Incidental 'God Talk' throughout the day.

Pre-Primary-Year 1. 15 minutes per day.

Years 2-6. 30 minutes per day.

All classes teach formal prayers and hymns.

Prayer occurs at the beginning of the school day, before lunch and before the end of the day.

Each class from Pre-Primary to Year 6 prepares two liturgies per year.

There is a whole school liturgy at least once a term.

Liturgies and other catechesis activities including Christian service are essential for the effective evangelisation of students but are separate from the Religious Education program and not part of the time allocation. There needs to be at least 60 minutes per week of such experiences averaged over the particular year level's academic year.

3. The Religious Education program, as promulgated by the diocesan Bishop, shall be implemented with reference to the principles and procedures of the CECWA Policy Statement Curriculum.

4. Sacramental programs are Parish Based, Family Focused and School Supported. Schools shall work closely with parents/guardians and parishes to support the Sacramental programs of the parish. The Parish Priest meets with School Leaders and the Parish Catechist to plan the programs.

5. Appropriate resources shall be made available for the Religious Education Learning Area.

Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting.

.Schools shall keep Parents/Guardians informed on an ongoing basis as to the context of their Child's Religious Education Program. The *Progress Maps* for Religious Education (CEOWA) describe student achievement of the five outcomes that provide a framework for curriculum in Religious Education.

Two outcomes are assessed, evaluated and formally reported on each semester, with the same academic rigour as the other learning areas.

Oral reporting-written assessments are made reference to in Three Way Interviews.

Formal written reports at the end of each semester.

The Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment for Years 3 and 5.

References:1. *Catholic Education Commission Of Western Australia: Policy Statement.* 2. Religious Education Learning Area Statement and Progress Maps.

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