



APPLICABLE TO	All teaching staff
DOCUMENT OWNER	St Joseph's Primary Denman
APPROVAL DATE	June 2019
APPROVED BY	St Joseph's Primary School Executive Team
LAST REVIEW DATE/S	2019
NEXT REVIEW DATE	January 2022 or as needed
RELATED DOCUMENTS	Diocesan Religious Education Syllabus ____ Religion K-6 Scope and Sequence 2018 CSO Assessment Policy 2019 Assessment Policy 2019 Assessment Procedures 2019 CSO Reporting Policy 2017 Reporting Policy 2018 CSO Programming Policy 2019

Purpose

The purpose of this Religious Education Policy is to present clear guidelines for acceptable and consistent practice in the teaching of Religious Education and to support teaching staff in the implementing of the Diocesan Religion syllabus.

Policy Statement

St Joseph's Primary School Denman is grounded in the traditions of Mary Mackillop and the Sisters of Saint Joseph who were instrumental in the foundation of Catholic education in the Denman community.

With patience, courage, a forgiving heart and trust in God, Mary Mackillop and her Sisters managed to overcome all obstacles, not only for Catholics everywhere but for all Australians, including our Denman community. We continue in the same way to ensure our students grow in faith and respond from that faith perspective to social justice issues in the community and wider world.

Our mission is to bring the Gospel values to reality in the daily lives of all in our community. It is our aim to create a quality school through effective pedagogy, positive relationships and teamwork. It is our mission to ensure all students learn to high levels.

A systematic approach to the teaching of classroom religion with due regard to students' growth and development will be offered. It will incorporate best teaching practice with a characteristic set of aims, learning outcomes, strategies, resources and assessment as challenging as those of other Key Learning Areas.

As a Catholic school, we promote the teachings and vision given to us by Jesus in both the formal and hidden curriculum.

We encourage students to develop a conscious loving relationship with God as loving Father, Jesus the risen Christ and the Holy Spirit.

As a Catholic school community, we promote the teachings and vision given to us by Jesus in both the formal and hidden curriculum. Through Church experiences, Sacramental programs, celebration of liturgy, prayer and social justice opportunities we guide students in growing in knowledge about Christ's mission. We integrate the Gospel values and allow our students to be agents of their own learning as they bring a world of experiences, helping to discover and celebrate their Christian Catholic identity within the living experience of the family of God – the Church in the world.

Definitions

Religion: This is a curriculum taught with a Catholic worldview that invites students into a dialogue and encounter with Jesus Christ; that leads them to realise the inherent goodness and dignity of all creation.

Scope

This policy applies to all teaching staff and personnel at St Joseph's Primary Denman. This policy is informed by the Assessment Policy (2019) and Reporting Policy (2017) and is to be read in conjunction with the Religious Education Procedure document.

Guiding Principles:

Religious Education's major purpose is to invite students into a dialogue and encounter with Jesus Christ; that leads them to realise the inherent goodness and dignity of all creation. Through the diverse and engaging curriculum, students will receive a holistic Christian education that develops every aspect of their potential, so they can 'fulfil their destiny of becoming saints' (The Catholic School) and make Jesus more present, and real in their lives

The Diocesan Religious Education Syllabus is reflected in all K-6 primary schools scope and sequence documents and teaching programs across the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Religious Education is timetabled for 2 ½ hours per week or equivalent over the semester/year.

Assessment in Religious Education aligns with the CSO's Assessment K-12 Policy (2019) and the school Assessment Policy (2019).

Reporting in Religious Education aligns with the CSO's Reporting K-12 Policy (2017) and the school Reporting Policy (2018).

Responsibilities

PRINCIPAL

The Principal is responsible for:

- Ensure that the School Policy is aligned with system policy and ensure that NESA requirements for curriculum and registration compliance are in place
- Ensure that assessment practices are consistent and enacted by all staff
- Ensure that Scope and Sequence is enacted by all staff
- Commit to providing appropriate resources and ongoing professional development

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The Religious Education Coordinator in collaboration with the Principal is responsible for:

- Familiarising staff members with existing resources within the school, promoting their use to support units of work and acquiring new resources

- Promoting the talents, knowledge and resources of other staff members
- Supporting staff members with programming and assessment of units of work
- Supporting staff in planning liturgies and Masses
- Enlisting the assistance of support personnel

TEACHERS

Teachers are responsible for:

- Planning integrated, teaching, learning and assessment activities based on the Religious Education Syllabus
- Follow the school Scope and Sequence for Religious Education
- Use records of assessment data to monitor achievement over a period of time
- Engage in professional development to enhance their understanding of the teaching of Religious Education
- Differentiate learning and assessment activities for students
- In consultation with the Religious Education Coordinator plan liturgies and Masses

Budget

Funds will be allocated annually from the school budget to support the successful implementation of this policy. Based on the specific and at times variable needs of each stage, staff will prioritise the purchase of resources necessary to effectively implement the teaching of Religious Education.

Legislative/Professional Guidelines

Australian Professional Standards for Teachers NSW Institute of Teachers 2015

NESA English Syllabus 2015

CSO Programming Policy 2019

CSO Reporting Policy 2017

CSO Assessment Policy 2019