



# Religious Education policy

## Rationale

Religious Education in Australian Catholic Schools develops students' knowledge and understandings of Christianity in the light of Jesus and the Gospel, and its unfolding story and diversity within contemporary Australian and global society. It expands students' spiritual awareness and religious identity, fostering their capacities and skills of discerning, interpreting, thinking critically, seeking truth and making meaning. It challenges and inspires their service to others and engagement in the Church and the world (Religious Education in Australian Catholic Schools – Framing Paper, National Catholic Education Commission, 2018).

Catholic schools seek to develop to the fullest the spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical, social and emotional gifts of all students. Religious Education plays a vital part role in the development of these gifts and is essential to the wholesome formation of students throughout their time at Catholic schools.

## Values

Each person is created in the image and likeness of God. This is the source of human dignity, limitless potential and an entitlement to fullness of life. Jesus Christ is the most complete revelation of God and God's love for us.

## Policy statement

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Toowoomba will implement a Diocesan-approved Religious Education program in a way which empowers learners to engage fully with the Catholic tradition contextualised within their personal experiences and contemporary culture.

## Consequences

- School leaders are to give priority to Religious Education demonstrated by: staffing; time allocation; timetabling; resource provision; professional learning; and evaluation and improvement processes.
- All religious worldviews are to be welcomed and respected and all students encouraged to grow in their own faith traditions.
- Student learning in Religious Education is to be complemented and enriched by regular involvement in the religious life of the school.
- All staff members are to support the school's Catholic ethos.
- Teacher engagement in regular and ongoing professional learning will lead to and support a post-critical belief.
- The academic rigour applied in other subjects in the areas of planning, teaching, assessing and reporting is to be evident in Religious Education classes.
- Effective pedagogical practices as outlined in the TCS Teaching and Learning Framework are to engage and empower learners in reflection and dialogue with Catholic understandings, culture and their own experience.
- Teachers of Religious Education are to be accredited for this role by the Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office.
- Planned and structured processes to enable the engagement of parents with their child's learning in Religious Education are to be in place.

Most Reverend Robert McGuckin | Bishop of Toowoomba