



Topic: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Policy No: B5

Policy Area: EDUCATION

Originally Released: 2009

Date for Review and Reformatting: 2014

Date for Review: 2016

Principal: MRS KERRIE MERRITT

1. 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, 62).

The Bishop is responsible for handing on the faith in his diocese and has the right and duty to oversee the Religious Education program and those appointed to teach it. (CCC 803-806). ‘The Religious Education program to be taught in the Catholic school is that promulgated by the diocesan Bishop. Like Christian witness and catechesis, Religious Education expresses ‘the divine power of the Message’ (Mandate, para 62). The Religious Education program aims to help students learn the teachings of the Gospel as proclaimed by the Catholic Church and to develop a sense of the nature of Christianity and of how Christians are trying to live their lives. It seeks to show non-Christians something of the mystery of Christ.

2. 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.

Catechesis provides experiences which deepen faith; it is the lifelong apprenticeship in Christian formation. "The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ" (GDC 80).

Definitions obtained from the CEO Religious Education Policy.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all classes at Assumption Catholic Primary School from Kindergarten to Year Six.

4. PRINCIPLES

4.1 Religious Education complements Catechesis offered in family, school and parish.

4.2 The Religious Education program to be taught in Catholic schools is that promulgated by the diocesan Bishop.

- 4.3 Religious Education in the school shall always respect parents as the prime educators of their children, particularly in the area of faith education.
- 4.4 The Religious Education curriculum shall be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as all other learning areas.
- 4.5 Religious Education shall serve the evangelisation process by taking the students and their needs as the starting point for teaching and learning.
- 4.6 Religious Education shall relate the knowledge and understandings of the Catholic faith to students' real life situations and experiences.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Teachers of Religious Education shall be committed Catholics and shall give active Christian witness to Catholic beliefs.

5. PROCEDURES

- 5.1 Religious Education complements Catechesis offered in family, school and parish.
- 5.2 Within the normal hours of instruction the time allocation for teaching Religious Education Learning Area and providing the opportunity to participate in catechesis activities shall be:

Class Year	Religious Education Minimum Time Allocation	Catechesis Minimum Time Allocation
Three Year Old and Four Year Old Programs	15 Minutes per day	60 Minutes per week
Year Pre-Primary and Year One	15 Minutes per day	60 Minutes per week
Year Two to Year Six	30 Minutes per day	60 Minutes per week

- 5.3 Although the CEO have not yet allocated minimum time allocations for the teaching of Religious Education in three year old and four year old programs, Assumption Catholic Primary School has agreed to keep it at the Pre-Primary level. Teachers are required to plan and provide quality programs, environments and pedagogical practices to raise the religious awareness of children.
- 5.4 Teachers of Religious Education shall have the necessary accreditation stipulated by the CECWA Policy Statement 2-C1 Accreditation.
- 5.5 Teachers shall keep parents / guardians informed on an ongoing basis as to the content of their child's Religious Education program usually via a parent letter at the beginning of each content area.
- 5.6 Assumption Catholic Primary School works closely with parents/guardians and Our Lady's Assumption Parish to support the sacramental programs of the parish.

5.7 Professional development in the area of Religious Education will be offered to all staff each year.

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

6. REFERENCES

Bishops of Western Australia 2009, *Mandate of the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia: 2009-2015*

National Catholic Education Commission, *Australian Religious Education: Facing the Challenges*, 1999

Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School*, 1977

Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School*, 1988

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1997, 2nd edn Doubleday, New York

Congregation for the Clergy, *The General Directory for Catechesis*, 1997

Pope John Paul II, *On Evangelisation in the Modern World*, 1975

Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium*, 1997

Code of Canon Law, 1983

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Assumption Catholic Primary School policy statement 2-B2 Curriculum

Assumption Catholic Primary School policy statement 2-C1 Accreditation

8. REVIEW HISTORY

Year Of Review	Reviewed by:	Amendments/ review
2009	ACPS Staff	Review
2012	ACPS Staff	Review
2014	ACPS Staff	Review and Reformatted
Next Review 2016		

9. NEXT REVIEW

2016