

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

POLICY

Rationale:

- Religious instruction in all recognised and Minister of Education approved religious faiths is to be provided to students if accredited and approved instructors are available.

Aims:

- To make available quality religious education classes for students in recognised and approved religious faiths.

Implementation:

- The principal should make provision for special religious instruction to be scheduled on the school timetable (30 mins per week) where an accredited and approved instructor is available.
- Where an approved instructor is available to instruct students in a recognised religion, the principal will make the program available to students of consenting parents.
- All potential instructors from recognised religions must provide to the principal documentation indicating that they are accredited by their respective religious body and approved by the Department of Education. Appropriately accredited and approved religious instructors will provide documentation from ACCESS Ministries, the Catholic Education Office, the United Jewish Education Board, or the World Conference of Religions for Peace or similar recognised Minister of Education approved authority. A Working With Children Check is required.
- A qualified teacher is normally required to remain in the classroom with the instructor, however, where a principal is satisfied that a particular instructor is able to fulfil the required duty of care, the principal may agree that the teacher is not required to remain in the class continually. Such decisions must be recorded and regularly reviewed.
- The principal will ensure that prescribed form [\(GC566\)](#) or at least the precise words contained therein, is used to obtain parent consent or refusal to allow a child to take part in religious instruction. Parents can withdraw consent in writing at any time.
- Attendance at religious instruction classes is not compulsory. Parents must sign an “Opt In Permission form at the beginning of each year or at enrolment. For students whose parents request that they be excused, the principal will make alternative and appropriate supervised learning arrangements for these students.
- Where the ACCESS Ministries agreed Christian syllabus (Religion in Life) is taught, students are not to be grouped according to denominations, but are to be taught in their usual classes. However, students of Catholic, Jewish, Islamic or other recognised faiths should have religious instruction lessons provided separately for each faith.
- Students may not leave the school during school hours for religious instruction held elsewhere.
- All volunteer religious instructors require a Working with Children check to work in schools.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

March 2015