



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

POLICY

Goals:

- The goals in Religious Education at Cana Catholic Primary School have been formulated for our students and their families.
- They are incorporated in the day-to-day teaching program in Religious Education and Family Sacramental Evenings.
- Our goals centre around the following aspects:
 - JESUS
 - SCRIPTURE
 - SACRAMENTS
 - COMMANDMENTS / BEATITUDES
 - TRADITION
 - PRAYER
 - EUCHARIST
 - FAITH COMMUNITY

These aspects are found embedded with the Learning Descriptors within the New MACS Religious Education Curriculum Framework: *Scripture and Jesus, Church and Community, God, Religion and Life, Prayer, Liturgy and Sacrament and Morality and Justice.*

Jesus

- To promote a deep understanding of Jesus Christ derived from the Gospel teachings, as a model for our students' lives. – 'Do What Jesus Tells You.'

Scripture

- To understand the teachings of the Bible and how the Gospel messages relate to students' lives.

Sacraments

- To develop an understanding of the meaning of each Sacrament and its significance in the students' lives.
- To participate in and celebrate the Eucharist each week.

The Ten Commandments / Beatitudes

- To learn about the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes so as to enable students to accept the challenge of living out these commandments and precepts.

Tradition

- To understand our Catholic faith traditions and beliefs and actively engage in them through prayer and service.

Prayer

- To provide a variety of experiences so as to understand the meaning of prayer.
- To encourage the practice of personal prayer.
- To know that the Holy Spirit helps us to pray.
- To teach prayers so as to take an active part in the Liturgy.

Faith Community

- To embrace the Catholic faith and participate in celebrations of the traditions, scripture, Eucharist and our student's membership in the Catholic community.

Beliefs About Religious Education:

It is about:

- the faith and developing a relationship with God
- learning the meaning of being Catholic – its practices and tradition
- living the teaching of Jesus every day
- sharing and modelling God's love
- living our school motto 'Do What Jesus Tells You'

It needs to include:

- a sequential developmental program that takes into account the students' previous knowledge and experiences, with objectives relevant and age appropriate, with regular student assessment and teacher evaluation, so that students learn about:
 - ritual / prayer – formal and informal
 - The Mass
 - The Sacraments
 - scripture
 - Saints
 - Traditions / beliefs of the Church

As a result – we hope that:

- students will learn about Jesus and live like Jesus
- skills for life will be learnt and living faith nurtured
- students will be committed and happy members of the Catholic community belonging to Jesus

Planning / Programming:

- Religious Education planning takes place systematically and is timetable for each alternate week.
- Grade level teachers meet with the Religious Education Leader and units of work are planned for each classroom.
- Archdiocesan materials are used, **New MACS Religious Education Curriculum Framework, Coming To Know, Worship and Love**, together with the School Based Program and along with relevant resource materials.
- The catechetical process in planning is based upon that which is contained with the Teachers Handbook of **Coming to Know, Worship and Love**.
- Programs are planned and then recorded in a separate work program.
- Each teacher's work program is on Google Drive weekly. Each program includes objectives, content, assessment and an evaluation by the teacher.
- Teachers also keep a running sheet indicating the unit taught and the achievement of each student.

Evaluation:

- Evaluation is an integral and regular part of the teacher's program. Teachers are encouraged to write a reflective statement after the Religious Education lesson.
- This enables the teacher to reflect upon the presentation, the response and the future directions of the unit, in accordance with the needs of the children.
- Evaluation is seen as an important element of our whole program and discussion takes place at fortnightly planning sessions.

Reporting:

Reporting is that instrument which informs the parents about the students' progress in Religious education.

And so,

- Opportunity for regular parent communication is a priority.
- Written / oral reporting is given regularly through the year.
- Families are met at least once a year to discuss religious formation of the students.
- Reporting complements and is linked to content and outcomes as listed in the unit of work and on See Saw.
- A unit of work includes Learning Intentions and Success Criteria which reflect a catechesis approach where students are moved deeper within their wonders through Knowledge and Understanding, Reasoning and Responding and Personal and Communal Engagement.
- Learning Intentions are shared with the community through fortnightly classroom newsletters,

Professional Development:

- Professional Development in Religious Education is considered to be most important and so regular opportunities for staff members are provided.
- Staff are expected to take advantage of the opportunities as they arise. Development is encouraged, both personal and professional.
- Each year a Reflection Day is organised and presented for whole staff involvement.

- Together with this opportunity, staff meet regularly to discuss program and planning and when appropriate, attend relevant professional development related to Religious Education.

Parental Involvement:

Parental involvement is continuous and ongoing. It takes place in a variety of ways.

- Within the Religious Education daily program – parents are invited to respond to take home material related to the unit of work.
- Special emphasis is given to parental involvement in preparation for the Sacraments – Family Sacramental Evenings are held and the whole family is involved in learning related activities about specific sacraments.
- Each sacramental family attends at least one of these days each year.
- Parents are also involved in the fortnightly Eucharist celebration at Cana.
- Parents participate in the reading at Mass, Offertory Procession or distribution of Holy Communion.
- Parental involvement in the life of the Religious Education program is vital at Cana. It is encouraged and more than this, it is expected since it is the belief of the parish that, whilst the parish and teachers provide the formal religious education, parents are the first teachers.
- Partnership with parents is an integral part of the Parish school life and so consistent and diligent efforts are made to include, inform and involve parents at every opportunity from Prep to Six.

This policy was last reviewed in February 2023.