Religious Education
School Policy
2-B5 EDUCATION

RATIONALE:

‘Religious Education is the first Learning Area in the Catholic school curriculum. This is so because, through 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 Letter, 43)

‘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 Letter, 43). 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.

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 to those who follow Christ in today’s world.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Religious Education complements Catechesis offered in family, school and parish.
2. The Religious Education program taught at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School is that promulgated by the diocesan Bishop.
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. Religious Education outcomes shall be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as all other learning areas.
5. Religious Education shall acknowledge the stages of faith development of students.
6. Religious Education shall relate the knowledge and understandings of the Catholic faith to students’ real life situations and experiences.
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.
8. Teachers of Religious Education at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School shall be committed Catholics and shall give active Christian witness to Catholic beliefs.
PROCEDURES:

1. Religious education shall have priority in all planning, including the development of the school’s timetable.

2. Within the normal hours of instruction the minimum time allocation for the Religious Education Learning Area shall be:
   
   PP - 1  15 minutes per day.
   
   Yrs 2 - 6  30 minutes per day.
   
   Liturgies and other catechesis activities including Christian service are essential for the effective evangelisation of students but are separate from the Religious Education program and not part of the time allocation.

3. The Religious Education program, as promulgated by the diocesan Bishop, shall be implemented with reference to the principles and procedures of the CECWA Policy Statement Curriculum.

4. Teachers of Religious Education shall have the necessary accreditation stipulated by the CECWA Policy Statement Accreditation.

5. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School shall keep parents/guardians informed on an ongoing basis as to the content of their child’s Religious Education program.

6. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School shall work closely with parents/guardians and parishes to support the sacramental programs of the parish.

7. Appropriate professional development shall be available for teachers of Religious Education.

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

References:

Mandate Letter 2001-2007
Australian Religious Education: Facing the Challenges (Gerard J. Holohan)
Catechism of the Catholic Church (Vatican City 1994)
The General Directory for Catechesis (Congregation for the Clergy 1997)

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