



ST GEORGE PRECA CAROLINE SPRINGS, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Vision

At St George Preca School, within the parish of St Catherine of Siena, we seek to follow the example of our patron saint, St George Preca who lived his life through the Gospel values. His work was based on his belief that, “...*the whole world accepts the Gospel*”

We therefore endeavor to create a community in which every individual is cared for spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.

Rationale

At St George Preca Catholic Primary School we believe that the Catholic faith and its traditions are central to our school. Religious Education permeates all areas of school life, in an environment conducive to the development of a personal relationship with God.

Aims

The aim of our Religious Education Program is to create an environment conducive to the development of religious faith, and to develop within each child, an awareness of:

- Church & Community
- Prayer, Liturgy & Sacraments
- Scripture & Jesus
- Morality & Justice
- God, Religion & Life

We achieve this by providing the opportunity for personal growth in faith through Scripture, Prayer, Sacraments and Liturgy of the Catholic Church.

The Religious Education program is complemented by a whole school approach to social emotional learning.

Implementation Organisation

The Religious Education program is planned for and implemented by the Home Group teacher using the Archdiocesan texts, Coming to Know, Worship and Love for each level, along with a variety of other resources.

A yearly overview is completed in collaboration between the Religious Education Leader, the RE Team and Home Group teachers which includes a whole school focus and when appropriate, local and global issues as well as church and sacramental celebrations.

Sacramental programs are developed collaboratively by teachers and the Religious Education Leader in consultation with the Principal and Parish Priest.

The Religious Education program is planned for, implemented and evaluated by staff and the Religious Education Leader in consultation with the Leadership Team.

Assessment and Reporting at St George Preca Catholic Primary School

Assessment of Religious Education is ongoing and based on the standards as detailed in the CEM Religious Education Curriculum Framework. In levels, the Home Group teachers develop a Religious Education program and assess student learning in relation to those standards. The Religious Education Leader facilitates level planning of RE twice per term.

A variety of strategies are used to collect and record evidence of students' development of skills and knowledge. These include:

- Observation of students
- Samples of students work and the related analysis of achievement
- Discussions with the student
- Student Self Assessment
- Written report to parents at midyear and end of year.

Professional Development

All staff are given the opportunity and encouraged to take part in professional learning in Religious Education at termly Staff Professional Learning Meetings (PLMs). Every two years the school holds a staff conference which is devoted to professional and personal faith formation. Through planning, PLMs and our biennial staff conference, staff are encouraged to develop their own Personal Faith through Prayer and Liturgy.

School Based Sacramental Program

The Religious Education Leader and teachers collaboratively prepare the students for the Sacraments. This is supported by a whole school focus. All students in the class participate in the program for the preparation of the Sacraments, including those not receiving the Sacrament. Parents are provided with information about the program and are an important part of the preparation of their children for the celebration of each of the Sacraments. Families are invited to participate in a Family Faith Night with their child in preparation for each of the sacraments.

The Parish has the following Sacramental Time Line in place:

- First Reconciliation in Year 3
- First Holy Communion in Year 4
- Confirmation in Year 6

Parish School Communication

A connection between School and Parish is maintained through the celebration of Sacraments, Liturgies and Masses. The Parish Priest is involved and/or consulted in the development of the Religious Education program, including preparation for Sacraments.

Resources

The core resource of the Religious Education program is the Archdiocesan texts: Coming to Know, Worship and Love. There are a variety of resources available to supplement this text.

Implementation and Organisation

An annual budget for Religious Education is determined in consultation between the Religious Education Leader and the Principal.

Each Home Group participates in a Class Liturgy / Mass at least once per term. Other special Masses / Liturgies in accordance with the Liturgical Calendar are celebrated. These are the Beginning of the School Year Mass, End of Year School Mass, Feast of Saint George Preca School Mass. These are decided in liaison with the Principal, Religious Education Leader and the Parish Priest.

In accordance with CEM and CECV policy: *'All staff teaching Religious Education must be accredited to teach in a Catholic School or working towards this within 5 years of taking up a position in a Catholic School.'* Evaluation This Policy is evaluated and reviewed as part of the School Improvement Plan.