

## Education in Faith Overview

### Definition

At Annunciation school we believe that the term Religious Education encompasses all our endeavours to provide the opportunity for students to grow in and deepen their experience, knowledge and love of God and our Catholic beliefs and traditions. The main component of this is the sequential, developmental and comprehensive classroom based teaching programs organised at school level, in accordance with CEO policies, and implemented by classroom teachers. This learning and teaching is enhanced by activities beyond the classroom, including whole school, parish and wider Catholic community activities. It is envisaged that these experiences will nurture the students' overall faith development and enable them to develop a set of values which will enrich their lives, and which they will be able to draw upon during all life situations.

### Rationale

At Annunciation school we recognise that the teaching of Religious Education is one of the foundations of our existence as a Catholic school. We acknowledge that we are employed by the church to assist parents in the teaching of their children about our shared Catholic faith. We understand that this teaching is based on the living traditions and practices of the Catholic Church, having as its source the Gospel message and the values of Jesus Christ. As Catholic educators we share these values and beliefs; we accept the responsibility of being faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church, and we recognise the importance of our role in actively passing on this faith. We see this catechetical role as a means through which the faith of the children is nurtured, leading them to a developing awareness of God in their lives and helping them integrate faith and life.

### Outcomes

At Annunciation we believe that working towards achieving the following outcomes will enable the children to more effectively integrate faith and life.

- The children will develop a knowledge and understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church, with particular emphasis on: The Trinity [God Father, Son and Holy Spirit]
  - The traditions and stories of the faith community and the wider Church [as experienced in Sacrament, Scripture, Prayer and Liturgy].
  - Living life as a Catholic.
- The children will develop the ability to recognise God present in their lives.
- The children will develop the ability to respond to God in their lives.

### Aims

At Annunciation we will work towards the successful achievement of the stated outcomes through:

- Planning, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive, sequential Religious Education program based on the recommendations, guidelines and directives of our Archdiocese.
- Participating in activities beyond the classroom, eg. parish celebrations, that contribute to the children's learning about our Catholic faith.
- Monitoring, assessing and reporting on children's learning on a regular and on-going basis.

- Fostering a school environment that enhances effective learning and that gives witness to the Catholic values that underpin our teaching.