Holy Name Primary School

Religious and Faith Education Policy

Rationale
This policy gives expression to the purpose of religious and faith education at Holy Name. It describes the nature and purposes of religious and faith education, while acknowledging the diversity of religious backgrounds and experiences of students within the Holy Name community.

Religious and faith education in the classroom assists students understand and appreciate religion and the variety of ways of expressing religious beliefs. Classroom religious and faith education is not directly focused on creating a religious experience as much as an educational exploration of religion. It nurtures and supports students in a Christian faith. It can only occur in a setting of free association and willing participation. The important condition in religions and faith education is that students are ready, willing and able to share their faith and nurture the faith of others.

The purpose of the classroom teaching of religious education at Holy Name Primary School is to help students become informed and capable of thinking seriously about religion, acquiring knowledge, attitudes, values and skills. The challenge for faith education at Holy Name Primary School therefore, is to discover and design opportunities for faith education within the rhythm of its life and routines. Through such opportunities students may experience that Christian wisdom which gives sense, unity and hope to personal, social and spiritual life.

Values
All people are created “in the image and likeness of God”, and so are fulfilled with a natural spiritual yearning. They seek to understand themselves in the light of the transcendent reflected in the world in which they live. They seek to know their own religious tradition and to see the connection between religion and other areas of human life and culture. Faith is nourished in the life of community. At the inspiration of the Holy Spirit any response in faith will always be freely chosen.

Policy Statement
All students at Holy Name Primary School will be provided with opportunities to deepen their knowledge and understanding of religion and faith education as expressed in approved Diocesan Religious Education Guidelines and to appreciate how religion and faith can make a valuable contribution to their personal development and general education.

Consequences
- The family will be acknowledged as the first place where faith can be nurtured and ideally provide a wide variety of situations for education in faith throughout life.
- That the classroom teachers at Holy Name Primary School develop and teach from an accredited program that has been developed in accordance with the approved Diocesan Religious Guidelines.
- The classroom teaching of religion will complement, build on and strengthen the family teaching of religion in the home.
- Students’ religious literacy will be enhanced. Within this context, ecumenism will be embraced and the faith tradition of each student will be respected. All students will be encouraged to deepen their understanding of their own faith tradition and the faith tradition of others.
- Students will not be seen as merely passive recipients of religious and faith education. They will be given responsibility for active participation in religious and faith education suited to their age, intellectual development and personal needs.
- Students will be provided with opportunities to reflect on and address contemporary religious, faith and social justice issues.
- Classroom religious and faith education will be interesting, relevant and satisfying for students.
• Teachers will teach, assess and report religious education in the same way they approach the teaching, assessing and reporting of other key learning areas and employ a variety of teaching strategies in an academically challenging way.
• Teachers will seek appropriate integration of religious and faith education with other key learning areas.
• Teachers of Religious Education will be accredited according to Diocesan requirements.
• That opportunity will be sought to nurture the inter-relationship between school and parish community and in the spirit of ecumenism relationships with other faith communities.
• That for Holy Name Primary School, opportunities for religious and faith education will be found in activities including but not limited to retreats, community service, class and school Masses and other liturgies, celebrations and rituals, prayer and quiet times.
• Levels of personal maturity can take many years to develop.
• Appropriate professional development and in-service support is undertaken to ensure provision of quality religious and faith development/education.

25/08/15
Date of Issue
Dr Richard Landers
Holy Name Catholic School
Chairperson

25/08/20
Date of Review
Mrs Kathy Bliss
Holy Name Catholic School
Principal

Note: Updated May 2015