



# Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

## Religious Education Policy

### **Rationale:**

At Our Lady Help of Christians School we believe that participation and opportunities to strengthen our faith underpins all that we do. Religious Education is what makes our school distinctly different to other neighbouring schools. We are inspired by the person of Jesus and aspire to live out Jesus teaching as acclaimed in the Gospels. As a school community we value qualities such as service, respect, compassion and justice as modelled by our founders the Sisters of Mercy. We strive to foster a relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit for every member of the school community.

In Religious Education we offer meaningful opportunities for students to explore, reflect on and practise our Catholic tradition. The Making Jesus Real (MJR) programme compliments Religious Education lessons and is a means through which students are taught and modelled Gospel values. In our community we celebrate our shared story and the rich religious and cultural diversity of our community.

### **Aims:**

We aim to:

- Develop an awareness of, response to and celebration of the students' relationship with God, Jesus Holy Spirit and the world in which they live.
- Foster a sense of belonging in the church by providing an opportunity for all children to participate in prayer, liturgies and sacramental programs.
- Highlight the Doctrine of the Catholic Church and issues of social justice as important features.
- View Religious Education as an area in the curriculum which brings together many other disciplines and aspects of life, integrating these in a context of spirituality.

### **Implementation:**

At Our Lady Help of Christians School we promote Catholic identity, faith and social justice. Our Religious Education programme includes:

- Using *To Know, Worship and Love* texts as a key resource in planning and teaching lessons as mandated by the Episcopal Vicar for Religious Education.
- Implementing *Religious Education Curriculum Framework* (2018) utilising tools such as the Pedagogy of Encounter.
- Planning and teaching two to three Religious Education lessons each week from Foundation to Year 6.
- Assessment and reporting based on the achievement standards as described in the *Religious Education Curriculum Framework* (2018) for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.
- Morning Prayer as part of the daily classroom routine.
- Providing a range of different prayer types i.e. meditative prayer and use of ICT.
- Class prayer tables that focus on liturgical season and symbols of our faith.
- Celebration of Sacraments (Penance – Year 3, Eucharist – Year 4 & Confirmation – Year 6).
- Facilitating parent information evenings prior to celebrating Sacraments.
- Whole school Masses on special occasions, Feast Days and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Classes attending a weekly 9:15 a.m. parish Mass as per roster.
- Reflections and prayers at whole school assemblies.
- *Acknowledgement of Country* read weekly at whole school assembly.
- Social justice initiatives undertaken by Mini Vinnies Conference (SRC members) from Foundation to Year 6.
- Promoting Catholic teachings and the Church's perspective in Religious Education lessons.
- Professional learning opportunities are facilitated to support teachers to better understand the issues of life, faith and our Catholic tradition.
- Ongoing purchase of Religious Education resources with particular focus on Australian texts.

- The teaching and promotion of Catholic Social Teachings and Principles.
- Developing children's understanding of the context of Scripture and the Gospels.
- Teachers use a variety of texts and resources when planning lessons including the use of ICT e.g. RE Source (CEVN).
- Provide professional learning opportunities to develop teacher's knowledge of Scripture and the Gospels.
- *Making Jesus Real* (MJR) programme is taught from Foundation to Year 6.
- *Spirit of Jesus* awards presented to one student from each class weekly at whole school assembly.
- Catholic identity of the school is promoted in the wider community.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.