RELIGIOUS EDUCATION


The Vision for Religious Education is “The schools and colleges of the Archdiocese of Brisbane aspire to educate and form students who are challenged to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and who are literate in the Catholic and broader Christian tradition so that they might participate critically and authentically in faith contexts and wider society.”

The organisation of the Religion Curriculum P-12 includes a number of features: Year Level Descriptions; Content Descriptions; Achievement Standards; Content Elaborations; General Capabilities and Cross Curriculum Priorities.

Year Level Descriptions

Year level descriptions provide an overview of the content that is being studied and information about the learning contexts that are appropriate at each year level. They also emphasise the interrelated nature of the four strands and the expectation that planning will involve integration of content from across the strands.

Content Descriptions

The Religion Curriculum P-12 includes content descriptions at each year level. These set out the religious knowledge, deep understanding and skills that teachers are expected to teach and students are expected to learn. The content descriptions have been written to ensure that learning is appropriately ordered and that unnecessary repetition is avoided. However, a concept or skill introduced at one year level may be revisited, strengthened and extended at later year levels as needed.

Achievement Standards

Achievement standards indicate the quality of learning that students should typically demonstrate by a particular point in their schooling. An achievement standard describes the quality of learning (the extent of knowledge, the depth of understanding, and the sophistication of skills) that would indicate the student is well placed to commence the learning required at the next level of achievement. The sequence of achievement standards describes progress in the learning area. This sequence provides teachers with a framework for growth and development in the learning area. Across Prep to Year 10, achievement standards are accompanied by sets of annotated student work samples that illustrate actual achievement in relation to the achievement standard.

Content Elaborations

The Religion Curriculum P-12 includes content elaborations (for Prep to Year 10) and examples of connections to senior secondary courses in religion (for Years 11 and 12) that illustrate and exemplify content and assist teachers in developing a common understanding of the content descriptions. They are not intended to be comprehensive content points that all students need to be taught.

The Content of the new Religious Education Curriculum is organised in 4 strands: Beliefs, Christian Life, Church and Sacred Texts. What is actually taught at each year level in these strands increases with complexity across the year levels.

For example in Prep:

- Students learn about some Old Testament and New Testament stories that tell of a God of love, the creator of all, the goodness of God’s creation, God’s special relationship with all of creation and God’s plan that people help each other to live safely and happily together, for the good of all.

- Students listen to, read and view stories of and about Jesus in the Gospels that tell of Jesus’ life as a Jew, his mother Mary, his friends and family; of Jesus praying and teaching others to pray; of his teachings about love, compassion and forgiveness that challenged people about the way they were living; and of his suffering, death and resurrection. They learn that Christians believe God created people with the freedom to choose between good and bad, right and wrong. They explore examples of times, from familiar texts and their personal experience, when people make these choices.

- Students understand that prayer helps believers follow the teachings of Jesus; to live according to God’s plan. They learn about ways in which believers pray, either alone or with others, including the Sign of the Cross and Amen. They observe ways in which believers pray together during special celebrations and rituals that mark important times in the life of believers and in the Church year. They learn about the Church building as a sacred place for believers and the Bible as a sacred book for believers.
Whereas in Yr 6:

- Students are introduced to the Christian understanding of faith and the term ‘communion of saints’. They develop their understanding of the many ways in which faith is lived out and celebrated in the lives of believers past and present. They learn about the contexts and key messages of some Old Testament prophets and the contribution of some key people (laity, religious and clergy) to the shaping of the Church in Australia (c. 1900 CE to present). They understand the significance of Jesus’ New Law for the way believers live their faith, including an exploration of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. They develop their understanding of the role of celebrations in the faith life of believers, including the commemoration of High Holy Days by Jewish believers and the Church’s liturgical celebrations (including the Eucharist). They develop their understanding of prayer in the Christian tradition through an exploration of the Our Father, The Examen, and meditative prayer practices including prayer journaling.

- They are introduced to the Church teaching that the Holy Spirit guided the formation of the New Testament. Using a range of Biblical tools, they engage with a variety of Scriptural texts that describe Jesus’ relationship with God the Father and with humanity and proclaim Jesus as fulfilling all of God’s promises in the Old Testament.

The Religious Life of the School comprises four interrelated components: Religious Identity and Culture; Evangelisation and Faith Formation; Prayer and Worship; and Social Action and Justice. Each of these components, while mutually reinforcing, provides a significant focus on a distinctive aspect of the religious life of the school.