



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

'An inclusive, excellent Religious Education is a right of every student entrusted to our care.' (Archbishop Mark Coleridge, 2013)

FOCUS

At St Matthew's, the Vision for Religious Education challenges students to be a religious voice in the world. Through the school program of Religious Education at St Matthew's, staff aim to:

- develop the religious literacy of students in light of the Catholic Christian tradition, so that they might participate critically and authentically in contemporary culture
- develop the students' knowledge, skills and dispositions to interpret and use language confidently in and for faith contexts and the wider society
- develop ways of talking, acting, creating, communicating, critiquing, evaluating, participating, ritualising, theologising, worshipping, reading, reflecting, and writing with others so that students can interact in a variety of religious and secular contexts. (*Shape of Religious Education, 2013*)

The Religion Curriculum P-12 encompasses two complementary, yet distinct processes, teaching students religion and teaching them to be religious in a particular way (*Moran, 2016*).

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It is a requirement that 150 minutes of Religious Education is taught per week. At St Matthew's, teachers use the Brisbane Catholic Education Religion Curriculum P – 12 to plan, teach and assess student learning. Content in each year level is organised around four broad strands. These are:

- Sacred Texts
- Church
- Beliefs
- Christian Life

RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Through the Religious Life of the School, students participate in a variety of focused activities to assist them to put into everyday action the topics they learn about in the classroom. These are based around four main organisers:

- Religious Identity and Culture
- Evangelisation and Faith Formation
- Prayer and Worship
- Social Action and Justice

ROLE HOLDERS

St Matthew's staff affirms and supports **parents/care givers** in their primary role as first educators of their children in the faith as they encourage family discussion and involvement in the faith life and spiritual development of their child.

The Assistant Principal –Religious Education (APRE) assists teachers to plan and implement St Matthew's Religious Education program. Students are invited to participate in the Parish Sacramental Program. The APRE co-ordinates with the Parish Sacramental Team to ensure that children from St Matthew's School are enrolled in the Parish Program. School liturgies are celebrated on selected feast days and special occasions. Class masses and formal prayer celebrations will be attended regularly by students. Parents/care givers are warmly invited to attend these occasions. Formal and informal prayer is a feature of daily classroom life.

The Parish Priest, currently Fr Rodrigo Tomala, has an important role in relation to staff, children and families. He administers the sacraments to children, presides at mass and during liturgies, visits classes and speaks to the children about specialised topics. He is a valued member of the school community.