



Religious Education

Aim

At St Matthew's we acknowledge the aim of Religious Education given in the Syllabus:

*The aim of the subject Religious Education in Years 1 – 12 is to develop students' religious literacy in light of the Christian tradition so that they may participate critically and effectively in the life of their faith communities and wider society.
[Syllabus p18]*

This means that at St Matthew's, the school program in Religious Education aims to:

- develop children's awareness of Christian heritage and values in order to gain knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- encourage children to become active and knowledgeable participants in the faith community of St Matthew's.
- encourage children to live a Christian life through participation in a variety of Catholic practices.
- Develop an awareness of God and the role God plays in the lives of Christians.

Holistic Objectives

At the conclusion of the program, it is anticipated that students will have:

- developed their knowledge and skills regarding understanding and use of the Bible [*Scripture*].
- an understanding of God, the mystery of Christ within human existence and the role of the Church in promoting the Kingdom [*Beliefs*].
- a knowledge of prayer and sacraments and their role in nurturing personal and communal spirituality [*Celebration and Prayer*].
- a knowledge of the foundations of a Christian moral life and the social teachings of the Church [*Morality*].

The School Program

"Religious Education Years 1 to 10 Learning Outcomes" (2003) together with "A Statement on Religious Education for Catholic Schools" (1997) and "A Syllabus for Religious Education for Catholic Schools" (1997) constitutes the guidelines for RE in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. St Matthew's Religious Education program is based on these guidelines

The Assistant to the Principal – Religious Education, will assist teachers to plan and implement this program based on guidelines for each year level. Ongoing catechesis in sacraments will occur in each year level. Students will participate in the Parish Sacramental Program. The APRE will co-ordinate with the Parish Sacramental Team to ensure that children from St Matthew's are prepared and enrolled in the Parish program.

The following time line applies:

- Year Three* *Sacrament of Reconciliation – 2nd Rite*
- Year Four* *Sacrament of Confirmation and First Reception of Sacrament of Eucharist*
- Year Five* *Sacrament of Reconciliation – 1st Rite*

School liturgies will be celebrated on certain feast days and special occasions. Class masses and prayer celebrations will be celebrated regularly by the children. Formal and informal prayer is a feature of **daily** classroom life.

Parish Priest's Role

Because of pastoral concern, the Parish Pastor has an important function in relation to staff, children and families in the Parish School. As Pastor, he is interested in every aspect of the life of the school. As the Church's Liturgy is an essential means of fostering the growth of each child towards Christ, the Pastor will celebrate school liturgies. Working with parents and staff, the Parish Pastor will administer the Sacraments at the level of the children's understanding and readiness.