



St Pius X High School

Policy on Teaching of Religious Studies

1. Rationale

To best serve the needs of our students, we at St Pius X believe that a Catholic School must offer a systematic approach to the classroom teaching of **Religious Studies**. This incorporates best teaching practice with a characteristic set of aims, learning outcomes, content, strategies, resources and assessment as rigorous and as challenging as those of other curriculum areas.

2. Aim

- 2.1 To provide a framework to enhance or promote knowledge and understanding of the traditions of the Catholic Community: its story, its experiences and its teachings, through the following four strands: Jesus and Scripture, History and Beliefs, Celebration and Prayer, Justice and Morality.
- 2.2 To encourage students to find meaning and excitement in learning about the story, experiences and teachings of the Catholic Christian tradition.
- 2.3 To enable students to be more articulate and thoughtful about the Catholic Christian tradition and its place within the religious and cultural diversity of Australian society.
- 2.4 To encourage informed participation of students in the Catholic Church
- 2.5 To enable students to know, understand and integrate Gospel values such as compassion, forgiveness, hope and justice in daily life.

3. Implementation

3.1 *Program documentation and assessment*

- 3.1.1 The Diocesan Religious Studies Syllabus (K-12), is mandatory at St Pius X.
- 3.1.2 Religious Studies programs are documented in a manner consistent with the diocesan *Programming Policy*.
- 3.1.3 Religious Studies is to be assessed and reported in terms of stage outcomes, similar to other KLAs.
- 3.1.4 The Religious Studies Coordinator will be a member of the Studies Team

3.2 *Personnel and Qualifications*

- 3.2.1 A Religious Studies Coordinator will be appointed
- 3.2.2 Religious Studies classes are taught by committed Catholics with an awareness of Catholic tradition and culture.
- 3.2.3 The contribution of teachers of other denominations or traditions is always valued and recognised.

3.2.4 Selection of teachers will reflect the importance of the classroom teaching of Religious Studies.

3.2.5 Religious Studies teachers are encouraged to participate in some relevant professional development courses each school year.

3.2.6 Those teaching Religious Studies are expected to gain accreditation by undertaking appropriate courses of study.

3.2.7 Diocesan support and consideration given to those doing post graduate studies in Religious Studies/Religious Education be publicised and made available to appropriate members of staff

3.3 *Time Allocation*

3.3.1 An average of 100 hours in each academic Year will be allocated to the classroom teaching of Religious Studies.

3.3.2 The importance of Religious Studies will be reflected in the timetable by considering staffing, rooming and lesson placement.

3.3.3 A separate meeting schedule to that of other faculties will be developed to enable teachers of Religious Studies to meet and develop the course.

3.4 *Resources*

3.4.1 Each year an appropriate school budget is to be allocated for the *Classroom Teaching of Religious Studies* reflecting this policy and the priorities of the diocese.

4. Budget

4.1 Appropriate professional development of all staff will be supported with funding from the school

5. Evaluation

5.1 The evaluation of the *Classroom Teaching of Religious Studies* includes: student participation, assessment of student learning outcomes, and teacher presentation of the Catholic tradition.

5.2 Unit registers will form an important part of evaluation.

5.3 This policy will be reviewed every 5 years or more often if the need arises.