Religious Instruction

POLICY

Rationale
Religious instruction in all recognised and approved religious faiths is to be provided to students if accredited and approved instructors are available.

Aim
- To make available quality religious education classes for students in recognised and approved religious faiths.

Implementation
- The Principal should make provision for special religious instruction to be scheduled on the school timetable (30 minutes per week) where an accredited and approved instructor is available.
- Where an approved instructor is available to instruct students in a recognised religion, the Principal will make the program available to students of consenting parents.
- All potential instructors from recognised religions must provide to the Principal documentation indicating that they are accredited by their respective religious body and approved by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Appropriately accredited and approved religious instructors will provide documentation from ACCESS Ministries, the Catholic Education Office, the United Jewish Education Board, or the World Conference of Religions for Peace or similar recognised Minister of Education approved authority.
- A qualified teacher is normally required to remain in the classroom with the instructor, however, where a Principal is satisfied that a particular instructor is able to fulfil the required duty of care, the Principal may agree that the teacher is not required to remain in the class continually. Such decisions must be recorded and regularly reviewed.
- The Principal will ensure that prescribed form (GC566-revised 2007) or at least the precise words contained therein, is used to obtain parent consent or refusal to allow a child to take part in religious education. Failure to return the form within 14 days is taken to be consent to the child taking part in religious education.
- Attendance at religious education classes is not compulsory for students whose parents request that they be excused, in which case, the Principal will make alternative supervisory learning arrangements for these students.
- Where the ACCESS Ministries agreed Christian syllabus (Religion in Life) is taught, students are not to be grouped according to denominations, but are to be taught in their usual classes. However, students of Catholic, Jewish, Islamic or other recognised faiths should have religious education lessons provided separately for each faith.
- All volunteer religious instructors require a Working with Children check to work in schools.

References
- Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide

Curriculum – Religious Instruction

March 2011
Evaluation
This policy will be reviewed every three (3) years or as deemed necessary.