

# St. John the Baptist Parish School

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

### Rationale

As a Catholic school, Christian values are the focus of our curriculum, our school and our community. Our faith permeates all aspects of our lives at St. John the Baptist, and Religious Education helps our students learn and express the Christian values and behaviours we all cherish.

### Learning Principles

- To provide students with a high quality and integrated Religious Education program that reflects and complements Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- We believe that Religious education is a partnership between the family, St. John the Baptist's Parish and the school.

### Procedures

- The Religious Education Coordinator will coordinate the Religious Education program at our school.
- The program will be supported by adequate resources.
- Classroom teachers, supported by parents and members of the church, will teach the program.
- Standards and Progression Points have been developed through extensive consultation with Religious Education Coordinators in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. They are based on, and are a development of the Objectives, Learning Foci and Standards set out in the introductory section of the *Coming to Know, Worship and Love Curriculum Framework*.
- The curriculum will be based on the standards and progression points of the *'Coming To Know, Worship and Love'* series.
- The program will be planned at the commencement of each year, but will retain a degree of flexibility to allow for special or incidental occasions.
- As Religious Educators we have a responsibility to provide opportunities for students to experience a living faith through participation in prayer and liturgy.
- We will provide regular exposure to the Scriptures and opportunities to proclaim the Scriptures through readings, responses and prayers.
- We will provide regular opportunities for all students to plan, prepare, present and participate in school/parish liturgies.
- We will support the Sacramental program by focussing on all sacraments as they are celebrated.
- Our Sacramental Program for Baptised Catholic Students will consist of:
  - First Eucharist – Year 3 and 4
  - Reconciliation – Year 3 and 4
  - Confirmation – Year 5 and 6

- Religious Education will form part of the daily curriculum, culminating in a weekly time allocation of not less than 2½ hours.
- Our religious values will be integrated into the entire curriculum, and other activities throughout the day, in line with our Values Education Rationale.
- The knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that the program seeks to teach will take into account the varying ages of students and their differing stages of development.
- Our school will develop a systematic and planned approach that will provide our students with opportunities to explore the connection between reflection, prayer and action for the good of others and their world.
- Student achievement in Religious Education program will be reported on individual student academic reports twice yearly.

## **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle.