

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

1. Rationale:

1.1 Religious Education is to be provided to students if accredited and approved instructors are available at an appropriate time.

2. Aims:

2.1 To provide quality religious education classes for students whose parents request them.

3. Implementation:

3.1 The principal should make provision for religious education to be scheduled on the school timetable (30 minutes per week) where an accredited and approved instructor is available.

3.2 All potential instructors must provide to the principal documentation indicating that they are accredited by their respective religious body and approved by the Department of Education.

3.3 A qualified teacher is required to remain in the Learning Area with the instructor.

3.4 The principal will ensure that prescribed form (GC566-revised 1996) or 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.

3.5 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 arrangements for these students. Normally this will mean that the student is provided with appropriate work by the class teacher who will maintain the supervisory role.

3.6 Where the agreed syllabus 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.

3.7 Should it be necessary for a class to be cancelled because of a whole school or class activity, it is the class teacher's responsibility to provide the religious education teacher with two weeks notice.

4. Evaluation:

4.1 This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle. This policy was ratified by school council on 20th April 2015.