Religious Education

Life in Sts Peter and Paul’s School community is based on Catholic values and Catholic beliefs about learners and learning. We begin from the premise that we are made in the image and likeness of God, particularly embracing the values of the Good Samaritan charism including compassion, hospitality, welcome, and listening with the ears of the heart.

We recognise every person as being a life long learner, who is like others in some ways but is unique in other ways. We believe that: Jesus gives meaning to life and learning; every person can learn successfully; learning is the active, social construction of meaning; and opportunities for learning encompass the richly diverse aspects of all life experience.

Learning about Religion (Religious Literacy)

Within the Key Learning Area of Religion, formal learning and teaching takes place from Prep to Year 7. Students study Religion under the four strands of Sacred Texts, Beliefs, Church and Christian Life.

In Sacred Texts, students become familiar with the Old and New Testaments, learning to understand the authors and intended audiences of these texts. They are assisted to comprehend how the texts relate to modern day living.

In Beliefs, students learn the significance of Christian and Catholic beliefs and their relevance to contemporary life.

In Church, children learn to create and engage in a variety of forms of prayer, liturgy and rituals. In conjunction with the candidates’ families, the Sacramental Program for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion is run by the Parish, and it is strongly supported by classroom Religion lessons.

In Christian Life, students are led to develop moral understanding and reasoning. They are assisted to recognise that the bible is the Catholic guide to moral living and to acknowledge the importance of prayer and sacraments in the development of moral life.

Our Religion Program endeavours to develop students as Life Long Learners in the following ways:

Community Contributors – who relate peacefully with others, act justly to solve problems, support a just society and apply a religious framework to moral issues.

Quality Producers – who create products that achieve their purpose and are appropriate for their intended audience, construct and apply knowledge to make meaning and communicate religious ideas and concepts, and successfully accomplish projects that are ethically accountable.
Leaders and Collaborators – who develop and incorporate Christian leadership skills and effective interpersonal skills, and who nourish relationships with God, self, others and the environment.

Designers and Creators – who generate ideas, designs, systems or information to meet current needs, respond to multiple experiences and ideas, and use innovative methods and technologies to solve problems, make decisions and envisage hopeful futures.

Effective Communicators – who communicate effectively and confidently, actively listen, compose and comprehend a range of texts, explore ideas critically, and communicate religious matters.

Active Investigators – who investigate underlying issues, generate and access information, evaluate perspectives, and explore the Catholic religious heritage as well as the religious heritage of other traditions.

Reflective, Self-Directed Learners – who critically reflect on issues, assumptions and values, and develop an awareness of the spiritual nature of life.

**Learning to be Religious**

The church of Sts Peter and Paul’s is situated centrally between the school, the court play areas and the oval, providing a unique awareness of our membership within the Parish, and a constant reminder of our daily living out of Catholic, Christian relationships.

Students engage in a variety of prayer celebrations throughout their time at Sts Peter and Paul’s School:

In each classroom, the day begins and ends with a prayer. Grace is said before meals. Each Monday after lunch, students and teachers engage in a few minutes of Christian Meditation. Sacred spaces are created in each classroom and in the staff room. A cross or a crucifix is situated in each room and there are many sacred pictures displayed throughout the school.

Weekly school assemblies begin with a series of set prayers and often include highlights from classroom activities e.g. reading student-composed peace poems, or showing scarves they have knitted for the homeless people.

Lenten Assemblies are celebrated in the church and they culminate with a whole school Holy Thursday liturgy.

Year level masses and liturgies are held weekly in terms 2, 3 and 4, with classes celebrating alongside parishioners, parents and friends. Other whole school masses include: our Sts Peter and Paul’s feast day mass, which is celebrated on the last Friday of Term 2; and the beginning and end of year masses.

Many other class prayer celebrations are held throughout the year, e.g. mother’s and father’s day liturgies. The students take active leadership roles in these celebrations, acting as readers, altar servers, gift bearers, etc.