



## **St Kieran's Vision for Religious Education**

St Kieran's adheres to the Vision promoted by Brisbane Catholic Education. This includes two dimensions of Religious Education: The Classroom teaching of Religion and the Religious Life of the School.

At St Kieran's our aim is to "educate and form students who are challenged to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and who are literate in the Catholic and broader Christian tradition so that they might participate critically and authentically in faith contexts and wider society." (Archdiocese of Brisbane, 2013)

The Vision for Religious Education appropriately aligns with the goal for learning and teaching as articulated in the Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) Learning and Teaching Framework (2012):

As a Catholic Christian community we educate all to live the gospel of Jesus Christ as successful, creative and confident, active and informed learners empowered to shape and enrich our world.

The Vision for Religious Education challenges students to be a religious voice in the world. The Vision gives greater prominence and a renewed orientation to the critical interpretation and evaluation of culture. Through vibrant and engaging Religious Education, students become active constructors of culture rather than passive consumers. In this way, students are challenged to live the gospel of Jesus Christ in their everyday lives. Pope John Paul II (1984) reminds Catholic schools to:

*Develop your culture with wisdom, ask culture what values it promotes, what destiny it offers, what place it makes for the poor and the disinherited, how it conceives of sharing, forgiveness, love.*

Religious Education at St Kieran's seeks to develop the religious literacy of students in light of the Catholic Christian tradition, so that they might participate critically and authentically in contemporary culture. Students become religiously literate as they develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to interpret and use language confidently in and for faith contexts and the wider society.

At St Kieran's religious literacy includes ways of talking, acting, creating, communicating, critiquing, evaluating, participating, ritualizing, theologizing, worshipping, reading, reflecting and writing with others in a variety of religious and secular contexts. We aim to assist students to articulate their faith and live it in an open and authentic way.

We want religious literacy and faith formation to complement the integration of the two dimensions, teaching people religion and teaching people to be religious in a particular way assists students as they seek to find meaning in their lives.

Jesus Christ is always the center of this vision. Through engagement with both dimensions of Religious Education, students are challenged to be cultural agents in light of the Gospel: authentic witnesses to the Mission of Jesus Christ in the world today. This deepens our charism "To know Jesus is to love him." (Canassians). It also enables us to live out our Mission Statement and our School motto of "Strength Through Caring." This motto guides our words and actions as we strive to bring the love and knowledge of Jesus through attitudes of genuine caring and support of one another. We are committed to caring by fostering the core values of love, justice and compassion. Christ is a visible expression of God's love for us so we inherit this

calling to shape God's dream for a better world. We embrace the Brisbane Catholic Religion Curriculum whilst remaining faithful to the tradition of our Canossian sisters who founded our school.

As a Catholic community we:

- Seek to know Jesus
- Treat people with compassion
- Promote the Common Good
- Strive for resilience
- Trust in God
- Love one another
- Welcome others
- Value life-long learning

References: Archdiocese of Brisbane (2013). Religious Education: Archdiocese of Brisbane. Archdiocese of Brisbane.