

Glendowie School Procedure

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION



RATIONALE

- To offer religious instruction as part of the educative process

GUIDELINES

Upon approval by the Board of Trustees:

- The school may close for 30 minutes a week for religious instruction for classes where suitable instructors are available.
- Opportunities may be given through the Religious Instruction in School programme for school wide occasions, to observe significant religious events in keeping with the Religion in Life Syllabus. These opportunities are expected to be in the vicinity of 1-2 a year, usually offered to the junior school but may be also offered to the the whole school, after consultation with the Principal. Parents who had opted out of the weekly classroom programme, would have the opportunity to opt in or out of these events.
- Children whose parents have informed the Principal in writing that they do not wish to attend will be exempt from the Religious Instruction programmes. Facilities will be made available for these children.
- While the class is closed, parents may choose on written permission, to keep their children at home until after the religious instruction class has finished. Supervision of these pupils during this time is the responsibility of parents.
- Class teachers will leave their classes settled for the religious instruction instructor and will not take part in the lesson in case a conflict of interest should be perceived by parents.
- Children who prevent others from receiving religious instruction within the classroom because of disruptive behaviour will be referred to the class teacher, where necessary management strategies will be put in place.
- The voluntary instructors must agree to the Code of Expectations. These adults will also hold current police vetting.
- Before commencement of the Religious Instruction to School Programme, a note will be sent to parents of the classes, which include; advising them of the programme and the necessity to have in writing their wish to opt into the programme for their child.
- The Board will need to give approval each year for the voluntary instructors to teach the Religious Instruction in Schools programme. The Board has the right to revoke this approval should circumstances warrant it.
- The Board will be advised of the Religious Instruction in Schools programme at the beginning of each school year.
- The convener will liaise with the Principal or senior management team member, over availability of the religious instruction teachers and in relation to the classes to be included in the programme.
- Staff members employed at Glendowie School require approval from the BOT to teach religious instruction. Staff members who seek approval from the BOT to take part in

religious instruction or religious observation will be directed to teach a class other than their own class, so that a conflict of interest is not likely to be perceived.

- The Board would take into consideration the need to ensure that the teacher's own class was being taught at this time and that the teacher's class programme was not being disadvantaged.
- Visits by parents following normal school procedures. Refer to: Consultation Policy and Parent Involvement with Classes Policy.
- Copies of the Syllabus will be available at the office for parents to view.

REFERENCES

1964 Education Act Section 78, 78a, 79, 80

Religion in State School – Churches Education Commission.

updated 2018