



Brescia House

SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Pope John Paul: *“The reason for the existence of the Catholic School is the quality of religious instruction integrated into the life of the pupils.”*

Brescia Religious Education places emphasis on education by invitation in the belief that *“Faith is caught not taught”*. This encourages an open, enquiring attitude, free of all indoctrination.

Religious Education is foremost Christ-centred in its content and underpinned by the charisma of the founder of the Ursuline Order, St Angela, Patroness of Brescia House. It presents the teachings of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church at the same time broadening basic knowledge of Christian denominations and world faith religions.

The Catholic-Christian ethos is lived out and experienced in:

- Weekly assemblies focused on scripture reading, prayer and sacred singing.
- Weekly celebration of Holy Mass by the Primary School and monthly by the High School
- Prayer focus: beginning each day; at the start of all RE lessons, pupil events, staff meetings etc.
- Celebrating special feast days and other special liturgical occasions eg. St Angela, St Ursula, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Advent etc.
- Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, First Holy Communion (Gr 4) and Confirmation (Gr11)
- Retreats for each grade and staff.
- A Pastoral care programme for staff and pupils
- A Religious Education curriculum of 2 hours per week for each grade; it is life-centred, universal in context; well-structured according to CIE guidelines, appropriate to pupil level and assessed for understanding and progress.
- A cooperative relationship with the Bryanston Parish of the Resurrection
- A comprehensive community service orientation for all grades to put faith into action.

The Religious Education programme is renewed through:

- regular team meetings; meetings with Principal, Heads and Sisters; CIE and CSO
- Ongoing formation of RE teachers through in-service programs, reflections days, retreats, workshops, conferences, research, reading etc
- Teacher and resources appraisal

Parents are kept informed of the school's religious events via school newsletter, as well as their daughter's involvement and progress via term reports and personal contact.

Religious Education aims to make the pupil aware of the cultural and social diversities of our country and so instill in our pupils a respect for and acceptance of the dignity of all cultures and creeds. The

Religious Education of Brescia House supports and complements the primary moral teachings and values of the home in striving for the development of the spiritual, social, intellectual, aesthetic and emotional aspects of the pupil. Paramount to her self-image is the awareness that she is *“created in the image and likeness of God”*.