**2022 PROSPECTUS UPDATE – RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION 25/08/2021**

Religious Instruction:

Queensland state schools embrace a multitude of cultural, religious and non-religious beliefs. Under the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*, schools are to provide Religious Instruction (RI) if approached by a faith group seeking to provide RI and students of that faith attend the school.

RI informs students about the beliefs and values of a particular religion. It is delivered by volunteers of a faith group using instructional materials approved by that faith group. RI is required to be consistent with legislation and Department of Education policies and procedures.

All RI instructors must hold a blue card and participate in compulsory Student Protection and Code of Conduct training. RI instructors are only entitled to deliver the RI program outlined below. A school staff member will be present during the delivery of RI.

Participation in RI is not compulsory. Any student (except Prep students) may participate in RI if a parent has provided written instructions to the school.

Students are allocated to Religion Instruction based on information provided by parents on the completed *Application for Student Enrolment form* unless other written instructions have been provided to the school.

***Note:*** *This consent remains in effect unless the parent informs the school otherwise in writing.*

A description of the RI available is provided below.

**Multi-Faiths Religious Instruction**

Participating faith groups: Local Christian Churches come together to offer Christian RI on a cooperative and non-denominational basis. These local Churches may, amongst others, include Anglican, Australian Christian Churches, Baptist, Catholic, Churches of Christ, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Salvation Army and Uniting Churches.

Authorised program: The providers of Christian RI use authorized program resources and are committed to best-practice programs that have been reviewed by independent curriculum experts. The most popular Christian RI program resources in use in Queensland state schools are: Connect, Beginning with God and Big Questions (all published by Christian Education Publications) and GodSpace (published by Burst Christian Resources).

At our school the following programs are used:

[Beginning with God](https://www.cepstore.com.au/welcome-to-beginning-with-god) is a one-year program consisting of 40 lessons that introduces students to the key themes of the Bible and the Christian faith. Children engage with the themes through music, drama, reading and writing, puzzle-solving, drawing and asking questions.

The seven main themes for the lessons are:

* God and His world
* A troubled world and God’s remedy (includes 2 Easter lessons)
* Jesus, God’s Son, is always with us
* Jesus cares for people
* Responding to Jesus and God
* People in God’s unfolding plan
* God’s plan fulfilled (with 4 lessons for Christmas)

See lesson structure: <https://cepconnect.com.au/images/uploads/BWG-Syllabus-all.pdf>

[Connect](https://cepconnect.com.au/curriculum) is a three-year program presented across three levels of schooling – infants, lower primary and upper primary. The lessons are Bible based covering Bible history from creation to God’s ultimate purpose. Each lesson introduces concepts, themes and major characters from the Old and New Testaments. Lessons also cover key Christian events such as Easter and Christmas. Students engage with the concepts through music, drama, reading and writing, puzzle-solving, drawing and asking questions.

See lesson structure: <https://cepconnect.com.au/images/uploads/Connect-scope-and-sequence-all.pdf>

Aims and goals: The aim of Christian RI is to inform students about the basic beliefs of the Christian faith from a non-denominational perspective.

Lesson structure: Christian RI may involve a variety of up-to-date teaching methods including storytelling, prayer, music, drama, craft, activity books, games, quizzes, video clips and puppet shows. Program resources are written by professional educators and are age-appropriate. Religious Instruction classes are conducted in the middle session on Mondays, between 11:30am and 1:00pm.

For further information, including module and/or lesson descriptors visit: <https://multifaithsri.org.au>

Parents of students participating in these programs will be advised if a faith group requires funds to cover the expense of materials used in RI.

Students who are not participating in Religion Instruction will be provided with other instruction in a separate supervised location. Other instruction must relate to part of a subject area already covered in class and may include, but is not restricted to:

* Personal research and/or assignments
* Revision of class work such as creative writing or literacy and/or numeracy activities which could include online programs currently accessed by the students of that school
* Wider reading such as independent reading appropriate to the student
* Art and Craft

Parents will be advised of any changes to the Religion Instruction and other instruction programs to ensure they are able to make an informed decision on their child’s participation.