



RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS

Scope: This policy applies to catechists who deliver Catholic Religious Instruction in State Schools within the Diocese of Rockhampton.

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Parishes discern appropriate and realistic goals for Religious Instruction (RI) in State Schools in their own parish and choose the model of ministry most suited to their community and their available teachers.

2. DESCRIPTION

Religious Instruction is permitted in state schools under the provision of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. The conduct of all RI must be in accordance with the Religious Instruction Policy Statement of the Queensland Department of Education.

In accordance with the above procedural document, Catholic RI teachers in State Schools within the Diocese of Rockhampton offer RI in either of two forms - denominational (where Catholic students are taught by Catholic teachers) and co-operative. In the co-operative model, various Christian churches agree to present a combined Christian RI program. This model is the one most commonly adopted in the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton.

This policy clarifies the decision making process for parishes in the area of Religious Instruction in State Schools.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. All programs to be used by Catholic RI teachers in State Schools will be approved by the Bishop and communicated to parishes through the Catholic Education Office (CEO) supporting Religious Instruction in State Schools. In addition, these programs must have been successfully reviewed by the Queensland Department of Education to determine consistency of the materials with legislation and departmental policies, procedures and frameworks, and developmental appropriateness of the materials for the relevant age groups.
2. Parishes who decide to join with other churches to form an ecumenical team for the provision of cooperative Religious Instruction follow the guidelines presented in the Religious



- Instruction Policy Statement of the Queensland Department of Education. and its supporting documents.
3. Where a model of cooperative Religious Instruction is used, provision should be made in parishes to catechise Catholic children through parish programs such as Children’s Liturgies of the Word and sacramental programs.

4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS AND POLICY STATEMENT

- Queensland Government [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006](#) Chapter 5 Religious Instruction
- Queensland Government [Education \(General Provisions\) Act Regulations 2017](#) Part 5 Religious Instruction
- Queensland Government [Religious Instruction Policy Statement](#)

RESOURCES

- Australian Catholic Bishops Conference *The Impulse of God’s Grace: Pastoral Letter on the Centenary of the Ecumenical Movement* 2010
- Christian Religious Instruction and Chaplaincy in State Schools Commission of Qld Churches Together Queensland *Co-operative Religious Education*
- Congregation of the Clergy *Catechetical Directory* 2020.
- Saint John Paul II *Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism* 1993
- Saint John-Paul II *Ut Unum Sint (That They May All Be One)*: Encyclical Letter on commitment to ecumenism 1995