



Crows Nest State School

Prep to Year 10

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Dear Parent/Carer

Queensland state schools embrace a multitude of cultural, religious and non-religious beliefs. Under the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*, schools are to provide RI each week 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.

In previous years, RI has been conducted in the Primary School at Crow's Nest State School on a separate faith group basis – that is, lessons were run by leaders of the various faith groups and students were placed into their faith group, as identified when you enrolled your child (ren) at the school. This meant that students often needed to leave their classrooms to attend their group's RI lesson (e.g. if you identified your child as Catholic on the enrolment form, from Year 1, your child attended a RI lesson run by a volunteer from the Catholic church. Likewise for other denominations.). Each faith group used the same materials (Godspace) for the lessons. Non-attenders were supervised in a different location to the RI lesson.

Since 2019, the volunteers from the various faith groups have agreed to run a cooperative arrangement for RI in the Primary School. This means that volunteers from one of the faith group will provide RI for all students in a Year level who have chosen not to opt out of the RI program. This is common in many schools in Queensland and as mentioned earlier, the RI volunteers will continue to use the same materials – called Godspace. The cooperative arrangement aims to minimise student movement around the school, as each year level will be taught RI (and non-attenders in the room next door) in their classroom learning space. The Secondary students will continue to have RI in a cooperative way once per term. Alternate arrangements are made for Secondary students whose parents have chosen them not to participate in RI.

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 given consent and indicated a religion on the *Application for Student Enrolment Form* or in other written advice to the principal. A parent, regardless of their own faith (if any), may choose to give consent for their child to participate in one of the RI programs listed below.

Any child not participating in RI, or whose nominated religion is not represented within the RI program/s at the school, will receive other instruction by a qualified member of school staff in a separate location during the time RI is held. Other instruction will relate to subject areas that have already been covered in class.

At any time, parents may provide written instruction to the principal to change their preference for their child to participate in or be withdrawn from RI. If a parent does not update their consent by completing and returning this form, their previous written instructions to the school will continue to apply.

The faith group/s that provide/s religious instructors to deliver the program at our school is/are listed below:

Arrangements for programs	Name of RI program	Delivery details
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christian Cooperative Program Faith groups involved in delivery of instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catholic• Uniting Church• Anglican	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program title : Godspace (Primary) <p><i>Godspace is a resource to help children find their place in God's space - his world.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commencing Term 1, Week 3• Year level (P-6) - Thursday afternoons (Periods 7 & 8)• Year level (7-10) once per term - linked to school's Wellbeing program.





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Parents may also wish to access the Department's RI policy statement available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/school-operations/ri-policy-statement.html> for further information.

If you would like further information about RI or other instruction at our school, please contact us on 4698 3111.

Your sincerely

Scott Edmunds
Principal

