



COLOMA CONVENT GIRLS' SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION POLICY

Date policy agreed: July 2013

THIS DOCUMENT is a statement of the aims, objectives and strategies for the learning and teaching of Religious Education at Coloma School.

I. RATIONALE

The particular context for Religious Education takes account of the Catholic school as a community of faith.

As a Catholic School, we aim to develop and support the primary task of parents as the first educators of their children in the ways of faith.

The staff at Coloma School is dedicated to helping your child reach her full potential, develop into a responsible and respectful member of the community and live her life according to Christian values.

To help fulfil this overall goal, we have produced the following aims:

1. to ensure that Catholic beliefs and practices provide a basis for the pupil's education and the development of personal and social values.
2. to promote principles of justice and peace, respect for life, and care and concern for each other and the environment, as set out in the spirit of the Gospel.
3. to give consideration and respect for each child's home environment, including respect for other cultures and religions.
4. to maintain an effective, consistent code of discipline which will give every child a feeling of security, trust and confidence.
5. to promote good relationships and communication between children, parents, staff, the parishes and the wider community.
6. to offer the highest quality of learning opportunities, in a variety of contexts and through varied learning and teaching experiences.
7. to support those pupils with special needs whether intellectual, social, emotional, behavioural or physical.
8. to provide a welcoming, caring atmosphere in a stimulating and attractive environment which will foster a joy and willingness to learn.

These aims permeate the entire ethos, relationships and learning and teaching within the school.

Our development as a community of faith and learning is also informed by the following statement:

“The Catholic school is charged with sharing the Christian vision in a manner which upholds the dignity of the individual and respects the living experience of all the members of its community.”

Respect and tolerance are promoted by providing opportunities for pupils to learn about and reflect upon the beliefs and practices on which different members of its community base their lives. Studying Christianity and other principal religions also contributes to the development of pupils' own beliefs, values and sense of identity.

2. AIMS OF RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION:

Catholic religious and moral education is distinctive in that it takes place within the context of faith. Faith can be understood in two ways – faith as content (a body of knowledge) and faith as a personal act (a process of developing personal belief and trust in God). The overall aims of the Religious and Moral Education programme in Coloma School are:

- to develop knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and Christianity;
- to enhance the spiritual and moral development of all pupils;
- to develop knowledge and understanding of different Christian denominations and other world religions;
- to help pupils to consider their values and develop their own beliefs;
- to provide pupils with opportunities to reflect on their own experiences of life and to ask questions and express their feelings in a safe environment;
- to help pupils to develop a sense of conscience, knowing right from wrong, and to help them to make good choices.

Prayer and worship:

Prayer forms an integral part of the life of the school and there are several opportunities each day for prayer and reflection.

- Reflect and become more aware of God's presence in all aspects of life.
- Share joys and sorrows.
- Show respect for all faiths.
- Show reverence in sacred spaces.

Moral Education:

The caring atmosphere and positive relationships that are nurtured in the school should help to develop appropriate moral values and a sense of individual and collective responsibility.

In "Evangelium vitae" (1995), Pope John Paul II wrote that: "ecological awareness needs to be encouraged....an awareness of the relationship between God and humankind brings a fuller sense of the importance of the relationship between human beings and the natural environment, which is God's creation and which God entrusted to us to guard with wisdom and love (cf. Gen 1:28)."

The school supports many charities and engages in Christian action programmes that respond to the dignity of each person and the needs of the developing world.