

Aims of Religious Education

Religious Education in the early years aims to provide students with the opportunity to **discover God in people and creation** by:

- Experiencing the created environment, using all of their senses
- Expressing basic ideas about the created environment in which they live
- Sorting and classifying living and non-living things
- Identifying signs of God's creation
- Wondering at what God who created their world is like
- Developing an awareness that by caring for living and non-living things they are living as God wants
- Discovering things about themselves
- Identifying significant others
- Recognising people and places of importance
- Wondering at all the ways God loves them
- Developing awareness that by caring for people they are living as God wants.

Religious Education in the early years aims to provide students with the opportunity to **draw on human experiences of God** by:

- Identifying the many gifts that God has given them
- Reflecting on experiences of family, love, care, forgiveness and community
- Exploring a range of human interactions
- Demonstrating socialisation into the early years community
- Reflecting on experiences of play and work, likes and dislikes, belonging and celebrations
- Wondering at God in the midst of human experiences.

Religious Education in the early years aims to provide students with the opportunity to **know Jesus** by:

- Wondering at the person of Jesus in the Gospels
- Wondering at Jesus' love for them
- Hearing and being immersed in stories about the life of Jesus
- Identifying significant people in the life of Jesus
- Identifying the way that Jesus loved and cared for people
- Engaging in play experiences based on the stories of Jesus
- Responding to stories about Jesus
- Exploring and making meaning of Scripture.

Religious Education in the early years aims to provide students with the opportunity to **live like Jesus** by:

- Naming ways that people can show love and be considerate like Jesus
- Identifying ways of including people based on how Jesus included people
- Exploring ways of forgiving like Jesus
- Identifying ways of choosing to do good following the example of Jesus
- Wondering at the love that Jesus had for all people
- Using their special gifts to help others
- Wondering at the ways they can use their gifts to help people
- Knowing special people who like Jesus used their gifts to help others in particular ways
 - Mary, the mother of Jesus
 - Joseph
 - Some saints (patron saint of the school or founding order).



Religious Education in the early years aims to provide students with the opportunity to develop a basic understanding of **Catholic life, prayer and Scripture** by:

- Knowing that prayer is the way that people develop a relationship with God.
- Recognising religious symbols including the cross, liturgical colours and holy water.
- Knowing simple ways of praying – making the Sign of the Cross, joining hands in prayer, singing.
- Engaging in informal prayer experiences i.e. prayers of praise, thanks, sorrow, petition, spontaneous prayers or through song or movement.
- Participating in rituals (e.g. Children's Liturgy of the Word, having a set process for coming to prayer).
- Appreciating the importance of Christmas and Easter as special celebrations for the followers of Jesus.
- Developing an awareness that God's family is called the Church.
- Coming to know of the relationship between Jesus and the Father.
- Developing an awareness that Jesus came to tell people about God's love.
- Meeting the parish priest and knowing of his role in the Church.
- Visiting the parish church and learning of its role as the place that gathers God's family.
- Knowing how God's family celebrates and experiencing liturgies and other appropriate school activities.
- Recognising the Bible as the special book that tells people about God's love.
- Observing, manipulating and retelling Scripture stories using pictures and other objects.
- Participating in ritual to listen to and respond to Scripture.