RATIONALE:

At Our Lady’s School the individual is encouraged to develop as a whole person, with Catholic values as the foundation of all learning. The Religious Education program endeavours to enhance students’ knowledge of God within the Catholic principles and beliefs, while acknowledging the cultural diversity of students and their families. At Our Lady’s we recognise that the parents are the primary educators in Faith as we continue to ‘Grow together, in faith, for the future’.

AIMS:

- To model the Catholic faith, tradition, principles, beliefs and values in our daily lives.
- To support the students so that their behaviours reflect the Gospel values.
- To support each individual’s Faith journey.
- To celebrate and encourage a supportive relationship between parish, school and the wider community.
- To be proactive towards social justice issues by living out the Gospel values of love, compassion, justice and truth, where the dignity of the human person is respected.
- To continue to foster links between home and school.
- To expose the students, mostly through story, to the ways in which spirit-filled people live and have lived.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The Gospel values form the basis for all learning.
- The Religious Education program is taught with specific Faith concepts, signs, symbols and gestures relating to the Inquiry unit. Units are chosen in line with the Liturgical Year of the Church and the Faith life of the school and Parish.
- ‘Coming To Know Worship and Love’ is used as a reference to plan the Religious Education Inquiry units.
- Students learn about the teachings of Jesus Christ through Story, Wondering, Responding and Praying the Word (‘To Know, Worship and Love’).
- Opportunities for reflection, prayer and liturgy are presented to enable staff, students and the community to grow and deepen their personal faith.
- A whole school approach to Meditation. All staff and students spend ten minutes twice a week in meditative prayer. Staff not in class also participate. Any students arriving late attend meditation in the Office area. This enables classes to remain prayerful.
- Students actively participate in class Masses, Sunday Masses and liturgies.
- Sacramental Programs are conducted for eligible students.
- Students from Years Three to Six have the opportunity to regularly receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- Students are encouraged to respond to the needs of others in practical ways.
- The school continues to support two social justice fundraising initiatives – Project Hope and St. Jude’s School in Tanzania. Students also learn about and participate in local community projects connected to Caritas (Project Compassion) and St. Vincent de Paul.
- Sunday Scripture is incorporated into the weekly class program.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.