

## ***Our School and Community***

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### Background

Our Lady's College was opened in 1964 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, with students in Years 8 and 9. In 1976 the first lay principal was appointed, and the College became part of the Brisbane Catholic Education system. In 2015, Year 7 students joined the community. The College affirms the Josephite tradition through integration and promotion of the core values of service, compassion, justice and integrity within all aspects of College life.

### Our Vision

Our Lady's College shares and promotes the Vision for Religious Education articulated by Brisbane Catholic Education. At this College, Jesus Christ is always the centre of this vision. Through engagement with both dimensions of Religious Education, students are challenged to be cultural agents in light of the Gospel, authentic witnesses to the mission of Jesus Christ in the world today.

Religious Education at Our Lady's seeks to develop the religious literacy of students in light of the Catholic Christian tradition so that they might participate critically and authentically in contemporary culture. The College Mission Statement clearly captures both the Vision and the Learning Framework and enunciates the core Josephite values of the College (justice, compassion, service and integrity).

As well the Religious Life of the School (RLOS) complements classroom learning and is seen through the Staff and Student Formation Plans, the outreach programs and service learning and the prayer life of the College. The College offers a wide range of formation opportunities that support the development of the student at different ages.

Our Staff are supported by the resources of Brisbane Catholic Education to share in the mission to present, "a world class education system that encourages and supports every student to be the very best they can be, no matter where they live or what kind of learning challenges they may face." (Mparntwe Declaration).

### Our Tradition

Our Lady's College endeavours to support and promote our Christian story and our Josephite Catholic tradition. The traditions of the College are introduced in the first Year 7 unit, and the Church history units build on the Catholic story with the morality units interpreting this story into how we live. Our Josephite tradition is reinforced through our connections with AJASS Colleges, the Mary MacKillop Foundation, Gate Ministry and JJAMM Day celebrations. Mary MacKillop values are demonstrated at every College assembly with the awarding of Mary MacKillop awards for each year level. The use of Mary MacKillop quotes as themes for each year reinforces the connection further. Mary MacKillop as an example of leadership is a focus for the Year 11 Leadership Retreat.

Time is provided for all staff to reflect and develop their faith through focused professional development provided by the College. Additionally, some staff are offered the opportunity to develop their Josephite Spirituality through attending an annual Mary MacKillop Colloquium at Mary MacKillop Place, Sydney and Kincumber Orphanage.

### Contemporary Context

The College has a literacy improvement agenda and R.E. classes support this with a focus on Writing Analysis Tasks concepts. There is targeted teaching of identified literacy skills to specific groups and differentiated practices are part of planning and delivery. Learning Intentions and Success Criteria are part of planning process and delivery, and cognitive verbs are unpacked within the curriculum. An academic mentoring program assists students with developing self-directed learning. As well the RE program has been updated to include changes to the syllabus, in particular the new mandated scripture. Staff and Student Formation Plans have been created to formalise a plan that supports the Religious Life of the School. Cross curricular priorities continue to be explored in the RE program. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and culture are explored in elements within the RE program particularly in Religion and Ethics and Study of Religion. Sustainability is discussed within morality units in Junior R.E. with a focus on Catholic Social Teaching. Catholic Perspectives across the curriculum are being embedded in planning with a focus on developing shared understandings and common language.

Every learner is created in the image and likeness of God, and deserving of respect. All learners can achieve success in life and learning and programs are flexible to meet needs and support students. Learning is life-long, and students are taught tools to develop their capabilities and maintain their own learning.

At Our Lady's College, parents are informed about the religious education of students through newsletter items and social media images and reports. Parents are contacted with any concerns about assessment or progress as well as contact commending students. Regular contact between staff and parents is encouraged and supported. The College Portal and College Website feature information about the Religious Life of the School, outreach and service activities and curriculum offerings. As well the annual College magazine features a section on Religious Education that presents a review of the program, approaches and experiences within the classroom teaching of Religious Education within that year. New staff to College have an induction that includes an understanding of the College ethos and the College 'story' is included in the Induction Folder.

### Curriculum

The Religion Curriculum is organized into two main sections being Years 7-10 and Senior options. In Years 7 -10 students study term-based units with an integration of strands across Sacred Texts, Beliefs, Church and Christian Life. In Year 11 and 12 students choose from either Religion and Ethics (an approved Applied subject) or Study of Religion (General Subject) and QCAA guidelines are followed. As evident by the timetable the College supports the mandated minimum of 2.5 hours per week of religion teaching from 7-12.

A standards matrix for correction is utilized. At each year level teachers cross mark work and discuss samples to guarantee consistent levels of achievement. Teachers work in small teams to plan and review learning experiences and assessment, share wisdom as well as discuss procedures to ensure consistency of teacher judgement.

At Our Lady's College, peer feedback, self-review, teacher conferencing and criteria matrices and annotations assist students to monitor their own progress and become self-directed learners. The Mentoring Program in Year 10-12 encourages students to use self-data in their own planning.

### Prayer

The teaching of prayer occurs with specific prayers taught and experienced at different levels meeting the mandated requirements of the syllabus. These are complemented by prayer experiences during Holy Week (e.g. stations of the cross, palm crosses), Christmas liturgies (sometimes written by students), and various other practical experiences e.g. rosary bead making. Staff bring a variety of skills and interests in enhancing prayer experiences for students. Students are involved in prayer experience within the College through their delivery of Assembly prayers, Year Level Assembly prayers and prayer in Pastoral Care programs. All teaching staff are responsible for a prayer session at weekly staff briefings. Prayer spaces are in each classroom and reflect key elements and symbols of our traditions. The Prayer Room is utilized for special classroom services. A number of College liturgies are held throughout the year as well as whole school liturgies for Holy Week and JJAMM Day.

Religious Education Validated in 2015  
Reviewed and endorsed 2021.