

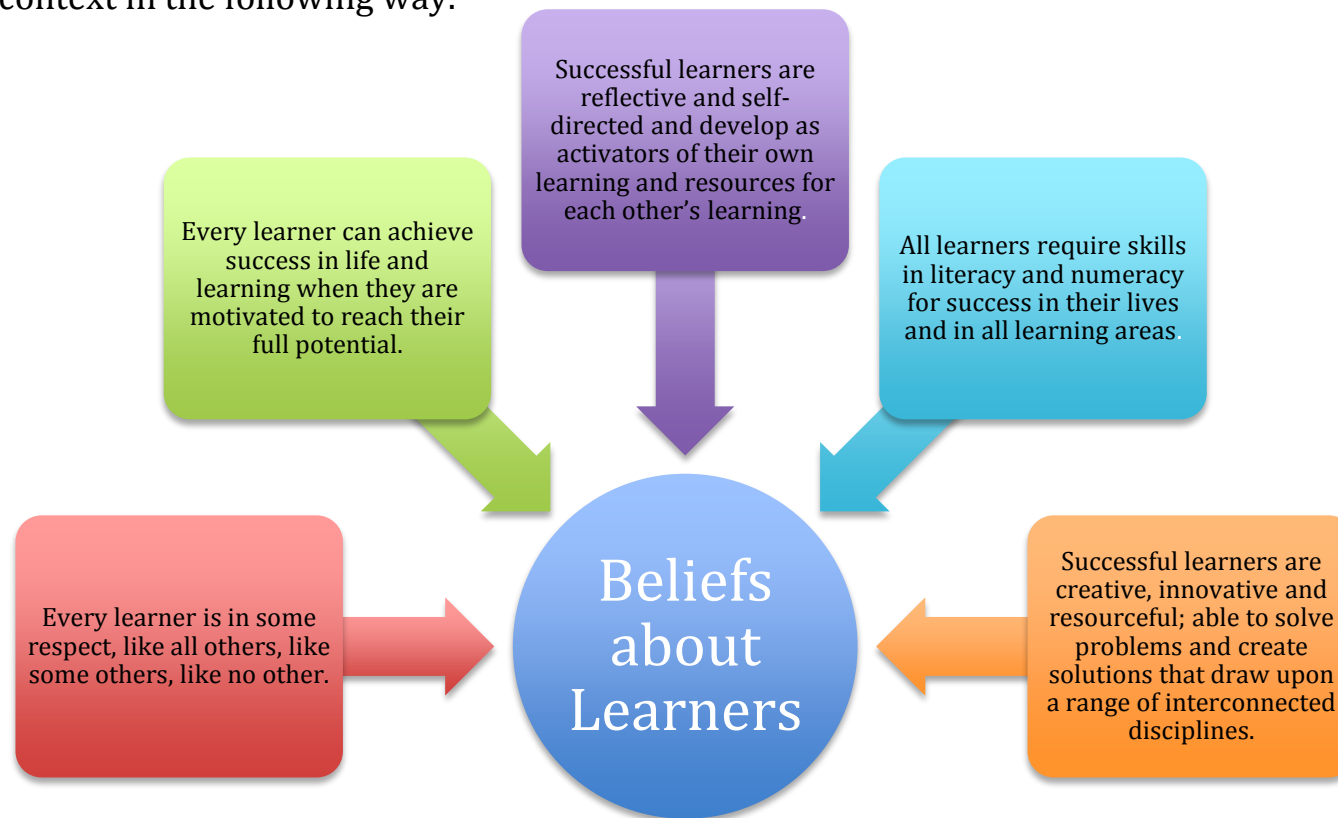
Learners and Learning in the Religion classroom

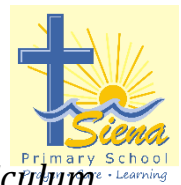
At Siena, we take inspiration from the words of our patron, St Catherine of Siena.

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire”.

We believe that every learner brings to the learning experience their own richly diverse life journey to contribute to our Siena community. We are aware of the religious diversity amongst our students of practice and engagement and therefore foster a critical appreciation of one’s own religious tradition along with an empathetic understanding of the religious beliefs and practices of others. As educators in a Catholic school, we must be committed to understanding the needs of 21st century learners, and we should embrace pedagogy to support quality teaching and learning to enhance the learning experiences of our students.

The BCE *Learning and Teaching Framework* (2012) forms our beliefs about learners at Siena and these beliefs are articulated in our context in the following way.





All students are entitled to rigorous, relevant and engaging learning experiences drawn from the *Religion Curriculum P-12*, that address and cater for individual learning needs.

The three dimensional design of the RE Curriculum comprises:

Curriculum
content

General
capabilities

Cross-curriculum
priorities

and provide teachers with flexibility to cater for diverse needs of all students.

Teachers use the religion curriculum flexibly to meet the differentiated learning needs of students and to personalise their learning by:

When designing the Learning and Teaching in the Religion classroom teachers take into consideration, diverse student backgrounds, differing life experiences and levels of development, as well as the typical characteristics associated with each year level.

Learning and teaching is designed using the following considerations:

Prep to Year 2

- Use simple language with accurate religious terminology
- Relate experiences to students own experiences
- Create opportunities for exploration and creativity
- Learning experiences that are open, flexible and stimulating with open-ended resources



- Use play to explore religious knowledge and develop their understanding
- Include stories and storytelling including sacred text
- Pose questions that encourage children to wonder
- Integrate the Arts in the RE classroom



- Model appropriate and correct religious gestures to reinforce
- Use non-presumptive language
- Explore students prior knowledge
- Include learning centres



Year 3 to Year 6

- Allow opportunities for discussion so students have opportunities to explore 'bigger' questions
- Explore the language and meaning of religious text
- Connect learning to real world experiences



- Focus on exploring three worlds of the text.
- Create opportunities for students to explain their thinking through open learning tasks
- Incorporation of digital tools to enhance learning



- Create opportunities for students to 'live out' their faith experiences through social action

