

The Contemporary Contexts Religious Education

The Siena Catholic Primary School Religious Education Program identifies and articulates that the four contemporary contexts of Religious Education are identified as having a significant impact on Religious Education in our contemporary Catholic school.

They are: *Societal Context, Ecclesial Context, Educational Context and Digital Context* (Religious Education 2013, p.12).

At Siena Catholic Primary School, we have developed school-wide expectations, in which these contexts are embedded and underpinned by Gospel values and promoted and voiced throughout the daily life of the school.

Societal Context



Our school Religious Education program seeks to reflect a Catholic Christian worldview that integrates faith, life and culture in a contemporary and multi-faith context. Siena Primary is a place where students and their families encounter the mission and outreach of the Church, especially through pastoral care and the experience of Catholic Christian community grounded in the life and words of St Catherine of Siena and through our school motto of Prayer, Care and Learning.

Ecclesial Context

Siena Primary has a large number of students (93%) who are baptised Catholic. In response to this we aim to support students and their families by connecting them with the Catholic Christian tradition. Our challenge at Siena is to engage students and their families with the tradition, culture and language of Church life. We seek to provide opportunities to support students and their families in connecting them with the Catholic Christian tradition and its spiritual richness.



Educational Context



Siena Catholic Primary School values the academic expectations of Religion in alignment with other Learning Areas. Teachers are expected to follow the mandatory BCE requirements for the planning, teaching, assessment and reporting of Religion, which is collaboratively monitored and supported by the school leadership team. Teachers are encouraged to teach Religion in a way that is inspiring, educational and transformational. As educators in a Catholic School they are expected to recognise and respond to these 21st Century learners and embrace pedagogies that support quality learning and teaching to enhance the learning experiences of our students.

The Religious Life of the school is integral in supporting the formation and skills of students within the school and classroom context.

Digital Context

At Siena Catholic Primary School we seek to promote engagement of students in the creative and purposeful use of digital learning tools, with a particular focus on developing knowledge and skills to become a responsible digital citizen. We recognise that students enter our classrooms with confidence and creativity in using digital technologies, and this impacts on the



types of learning and teaching experiences that can be successfully implemented in our classrooms. Therefore teachers must be committed to developing new ways to meet these needs. Siena Primary supports students and their families in connecting the school and wider community in a global context.