

Religious instruction

Queensland state schools embrace a multitude of cultural, religious and non-religious beliefs. Under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, schools are to provide Religious Instruction (RI) if approached by a faith group seeking to provide RI and students of that faith attend the school.

RI informs students about the beliefs and values of a particular religion. It is delivered by volunteers of a faith group using instructional materials approved by that faith group. RI is required to be consistent with legislation and Department of Education policies and procedures.

All RI instructors must hold a blue card and participate in compulsory Student Protection and Code of Conduct training. RI instructors are only entitled to deliver the RI program outlined below. A school staff member will be present during the delivery of RI.

Participation in RI is not compulsory. Any student (except Prep students) may participate in RI if a parent has provided written instructions to the school.

Students are allocated to RI based on information provided by parents on the completed Application for student enrolment unless other written instructions have been provided to the school.

Note: This consent remains in effect unless the parent informs the school otherwise in writing.

A description of the RI options available at this school is provided below.

Christian RI

Title of authorised program:

The providers of Christian RI use authorised program resources and are committed to best-practice programs that have been reviewed by independent curriculum experts. The most popular Christian RI program resources in use in Queensland state schools are: Connect, Beginning with God and Big Questions (all published by Christian Education Publications) and GodSpace (published by Burst Christian Resources).

Beginning with God is a one-year program consisting of 40 lessons that introduces students to the key themes of the Bible and the Christian faith. Children engage with the themes through music, drama, reading and writing, puzzle-solving, drawing and asking questions.

The seven main themes for the lessons are:

God and his world

A troubled world and God's remedy (includes 2 Easter lessons)

Jesus, God's Son, is always with us

Jesus cares for people

Responding to Jesus and God

People in God's unfolding plan

God's plan fulfilled (with 4 lessons for Christmas)

See lesson structure: <https://cepconnect.com.au/images/uploads/BWG-Syllabus-all.pdf>

Big Questions is designed for students in their last year of primary school. Over two consecutive school semesters, the program explores concepts such as 'What is God really like?', 'What's gone wrong with the world?', 'Does God really care about me?', 'What's the purpose of my life?' and 'How will I make choices about my future?'. Lessons include reading and discussion of key Bible verses.

See lesson structure: <https://cepconnect.com.au/images/uploads/Big-Questions-Syllabus.pdf>

Connect is a three-year program presented across three levels of schooling – infants, lower primary and upper primary. The lessons are Bible based covering Bible history from creation to God's ultimate purpose. Each lesson introduces concepts, themes and major characters from the Old and New Testaments. Lessons also cover key Christian events such as Easter and Christmas. Students engage with the concepts through music, drama, reading and writing, puzzle-solving, drawing and asking questions.

See lesson structure: <https://cepconnect.com.au/images/uploads/Connect-scope-and-sequence-all.pdf>

GodSpace comprises a three year curriculum for children aged 4 to 12 years and is designed to introduce the Bible and the core beliefs common to all mainstream Christian denominations.

GodSpace is presented across four age groups engaging children through games, puzzles, memory verses, use of puppets and singing:

Explorers, for children ages 4-6 years

Adventurers, for children ages 6-8 years

Navigators, for children ages 8-10 years

Voyagers, for children ages 10-12 years.

See lesson structure: <https://godspace.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Purple-Scope-and-Sequence.pdf>

Participating faith groups

Local Christian Churches come together to offer Christian RI on a cooperative and non-denominational basis. These local Churches may, amongst others, include Anglican, Australian Christian Churches, Baptist, Catholic, Churches of Christ, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Salvation Army and Uniting Churches.

Outline of your Faith Group's Aims and Goals

The aim of Christian RI is to inform students about the basic beliefs of the Christian faith from a non-denominational perspective.

Outline of lesson structure

Christian RI may involve a variety of up-to-date teaching methods including storytelling, prayer, music, drama, craft, activity books, games, quizzes, video clips and puppet shows. Program resources are written by professional educators and are age-appropriate.

Amount of time for lesson per week

Typically 30 minutes per week

The information provided above is available from:

General Statement about RI is published on the Department's website at

<https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/school-information/school-operations/policy-statement> then scroll down to the last dot point under "Supporting Documents".

The Christian RI statement was developed in consultation with the Department and can be found at:

<https://multifaithsri.org.au/faith-group-information/>