

Review of the RE Curriculum for Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne

Terms of Reference

Introduction

Pursuant to Canons §804.1, §804.2 and §806.1, the local Ordinary carries responsibility for the teaching of Religious Education (RE) in all Catholic schools located within his Diocese. He is to be attentive to the needs of students such that they receive formation and education in their Catholic faith, and that RE teachers are afforded every opportunity to be outstanding in their faithful witness as teachers.

The current RE Curriculum in use within the Archdiocese of Melbourne was approved in 2008. Coupled with changes in the governance and structure of Catholic schooling in parts of Melbourne in recent years, it is timely that a review of the RE Curriculum is now undertaken. The Archbishop of Melbourne is therefore commissioning a review of the RE Curriculum at this time.

Governance and support

The 2022 RE Curriculum Review is authorised by the Archbishop of Melbourne for purposes of renewing the Curriculum and refreshing the approach and purpose of RE teaching in Catholic schools within the Archdiocese. The Archbishop will appoint a review panel, comprising Miss Netina Giacco, Professor John Haldane, and Professor Gerard O'Shea. The Archbishop of Melbourne will determine with them the manner and processes by which the review will be conducted, and it will report on its work to the Archbishop.

The reviewers will:

- Enjoy secretariat and project planning support from MACS.
- Conduct a wide review of the RE Curriculum in light of relevant ecclesiastical documents.
- Identify the needs of contemporary primary and secondary Catholic school students in the current learning and cultural environments of RE.
- Identify the needs and opportunities to provide appropriate support for RE teachers, to assist in their mission of Catholic education and the spiritual and academic flourishing of their students.
- Conduct a survey of a representative sample of RE teachers in Melbourne and consider that data in light of the professional hopes and aspirations of those teachers in their classroom context.

- Draw from the experience, advice and wisdom of relevant parties.
- Identify good models outside of Melbourne from which to learn and with which to engage.
- Identify what content and structure would be required for an effective missional approach.
- Produce guidance for a new RE Curriculum grounded in:
 - a Catholic Anthropology
 - a sound, contemporary and developmentally appropriate pedagogy
 - a clear understanding of the needs of students
- Prioritise RE with a view to both faith formation and academic excellence where this is achievable.
- Recommend implementation steps in which changes can be made to build up a culture of RE excellence.
- Develop recommendations regarding the alignment of RE with the MACS statements of Mission, Purpose and Vision, and other strategic documents.
- Engage with RI and MPJP schools to ensure RE approaches are directed towards excellence in our shared faith tradition.

Term

A preliminary report is to be completed before the end of 2022. In consultation with the Archbishop, the final report is to be delivered in a reasonable timeframe thereafter.