



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

All Trinity College Colac Policies will be read and developed with reference to the Core Values, Vision and Mission of the College as well as any other relevant College policies.

RATIONALE:

To explain the place and role of Religious Education, in all its aspects, at Trinity College. To guide the implementation of Religious Education by all members of Trinity College and ensure that this reflects the standards of the Vision and Mission statements and those mandated by the Church particularly those mandated by the Bishop of the Ballarat Diocese.

As a Catholic school, Trinity College has always seen the education in faith of students as one of its primary reasons for existence.

“ ..every aspect of education in Catholic schools intends to awaken all members of the school community to the religious dimension of their personal and communal lives... (it is) ... at the heart of the curriculum of Catholic schools, strengthening, critiquing and complementing the learning in all curriculum areas”

Bishop Peter Connors, “Awakenings” Core Document, 2005, p.7

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT:

“Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.”
(1 Chronicles 16:8)

POLICY STATEMENT:

Trinity College ensures Religious Education is “an opportunity to enter more deeply into the intellectual, ethical and spiritual riches of the Catholic tradition and to seek ways to make those riches available in a respectful dialogue with the world of students and their families.” (CEO).

POLICY GUIDELINES:

GUIDELINE INDICATORS:

<p>The Religious Education Program at Trinity College will comply with the mandate given by the Bishop of the Ballarat Diocese.</p> <p>All students of Trinity College will complete studies in Religious Education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ‘Awakenings Religious Education Curriculum’ is the foundation and methodology for the Religious Education program at Year 7-10 at Trinity College. • Students in Year 11 and Year 12 will complete Religious Education studies from either the VCAA subjects or from units of work in line with the Awakenings Religious Education Curriculum.
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<p>Trinity College recognizes the place of formal Religious Education as “... a subject in its own right with its own syllabus, approved by those in authority and using the best educational methods” RDEC n.70. Furthermore Trinity College supports the concept that “... Religious Education in schools should appear as a scholastic discipline with the same rigour as other disciplines” GDC, 1997 n.73.. As mandated by Bishop Peter Connors on 15th May, 2005, Trinity College will implement “Awakenings, the Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum Program from 2006.</p> <p>Religious Education should be delivered by appropriately trained staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trinity College should give sufficient weighting in the timetable for the implementation of a full course of Religious Education from Year 7 to 12. • Assessment and reporting of Religious Education should be consistent in style and form to all other academic subjects. • Where possible staff teaching Religious Education should be qualified and accredited to teach Religious Education in Catholic Schools whenever possible. Ref CECV Policy 1.7
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REFLECTIVE MATERIALS:

Trinity College Vision and Mission Statements

Awakenings, Core Document, 2005, Religious Education Curriculum for the Diocese of Ballarat.

The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School: Guidelines for reflection and renewal, 1998. The Congregation for Catholic Education.

General Directory for Catechesis, 1997. Congregation for the Clergy.

Religious Education in Catholic Schools (Draft), (2005). CECV.

Ratified:	11 th November, 2014
Board Chairman	Stephen Ryan
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