Introduction
This policy seeks to define and give expression to the nature and direction of Mission and Religious Education within the Our Lady of Dolours School Community. It has been developed through a consultative process involving the School Board, staff and parents.

Rationale
Our Lady of Dolours is a Christ centred school that believes in developing the unique faith journey of each individual. We are committed to the spirit of our vision and strive to teach, learn, think and act with the Compassion, Justice and Wisdom of Christ so we can fully live, love and learn in communion with our ever-changing world.

Definitions
Mission is associated with our purpose and the reason we exist. It guides our actions and the framework within which our strategies are developed and implemented.

Religious Education comprises two distinct yet complimentary dimensions - teaching people Religion as an educational activity and teaching people to be religious, which is identified with faith development activities focussed on nurturing the religious and spiritual growth of students.

Policy Statement
The purpose of Mission and Religious Education at Our Lady of Dolours School is to nurture the Catholic faith and its teachings in our children. We seek to help them to live this faith and encourage them to develop a better relationship with God and others around them. Central to our ethos are the opportunities for prayer and worship, which lie at the heart of our faith. We endeavour to promote and encourage these together with the skills and attitudes necessary to live out the Christian message in the modern world.

We believe Religious Education should promote the development of the whole child and prepare them for the opportunities and responsibilities that lie in their future. Religious Education is delivered through the implementation of the curriculum and is also fostered through links with home, Parish Church and the local community. We believe Religious Education should be woven into the fabric of school life.

Consequences
In implementing the Mission component of this policy, Our Lady of Dolours will:
• Acknowledge the family as the first place where faith can be nurtured and support the provision of a variety of situations for education in faith development.
• Mission to one another through our partnership and sense of welcome we provide to all families. They are invited to feel like they can participate in the essence and spirit of the school motto - Living, Loving and Learning with Christ.
• Facilitate the Pastoral Parent Program as a means of creating supportive environment for parents
• Promote the principles of Catholic social teachings across the curriculum and in conjunction with social action initiatives.
  o Solidarity
  o Human Dignity
  o Common Good
  o Subsidiarity
• Provide students with opportunities to reflect on and address contemporary religious and social justice issues
• Support the following Catholic organisations in their on-going causes
  o Caritas
  o Catholic Missions
  o St Vincent de Paul
  o Archdiocesan Catholic Foundation
• Provide opportunities for classes to support these missions through mission stalls and other fundraising initiatives
• Nurture relationships with and provide support to our Sister parish in Timor Leste through the St William’s Parish Timor Leste Group

In implementing the Religious Education component of the policy, Our Lady of Dolours will:
• Provide a means for classroom teachers to develop and teach from an accredited program that is being developed in accordance with the approved Arch Diocesan Religious Education curriculum
• Support the implementation of the Religious Education curriculum through relevant and appropriate resourcing that suit the developmental learning abilities of students.
• Provide appropriate professional development for staff to ensure provision of the complimentary dimensions of Religious Education
• Ensure that teachers of Religious education will be appropriately accredited according to Arch Diocesan requirements
• Allocate two and a half hours each week to implement the Religious Education curriculum

Additionally, Our Lady of Dolours will:
• Encourage the Religious Life of the school through prayer, liturgy and celebration through the following means
  o Whole school morning prayer
  o Daily classroom prayer
  o Weekly prayer assemblies
  o Attendance at Parish Mass each semester
  o Class Reconciliations with support of the Parish Priest
  o Whole school mass celebrations with support of the Parish Priest
  o Staff prayer at staff meetings and on two other occasions each term
  o Participation in children’s masses each term
• Support the Parish Sacramental Program and acknowledge and celebrate the sacramental journey of students
• Give meaning to the School Mission through weekly Kid in the Crest Awards to students

Associated Procedures
• Religious Education Planning Expectations
• Religious Education Accreditation Requirements
• Staff Prayer
• Class Masses and Reconciliation
• Whole School Masses
• Parish Based Children’s Mass
• Prayer Assembly
• Supporting Social Action and Justice Initiatives (Fundraising)
• Kid in the Crest Awards
• Christian Meditation
• Pastoral Parent Program

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