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| ELTHAM NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL No 4212POLICY MANUAL |
| **POLICY NO. 5.37** | **TOPIC: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** | **Page 1 of 1** |
| **PURPOSE:**Religious Instruction RE in Government schools is authorised by section 23 on the Education Act 1958. A school principal should make provision for RE where an accredited instructor is available. Attendance at RE classes is not compulsory for students whose parents request that they be excused from attending.POLICY STATEMENT:Religious Education is taught according to the agreed syllabus of the Council for Christian Education in Schools by accredited, approved, trained volunteers drawn from Anglican, Catholic, Protestant and Pentecostal Churches. Religious education build on Humanities and H & PE within the Vic CurriculumParents do have the right to withdraw their children.**GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION:**1.1 Accreditation and approval of instructorsRE may only be delivered by accredited instructors approved by DET. Instructors who deliver the non-denominational agreed syllabus Religion in Life are accredited through the Council for Christian Education in Schools ( and not by the church to which the instructor may belong). In situations where parents request RE in a particular faith and it is not provided at the school, principals should advise the parents that RE can only be scheduled where the particular religious group provides an accredited instructor who is approved by DET1.2 Council for Christian education in SchoolsOnly instructors who are accredited by, and coordinated through the Council for Christian Education in Schools should be permitted to deliver an agreed syllabus. These accredited instructors are drawn from the Anglican, Catholic, Protestant and Pentecostal churches. Instructors have formal identification of their accreditation and should produce this at the request of the principal. At the beginning of the year, the Council for Christian education in Schools forwards to each school the names of the accredited instructors who have been allocated to that school.1.3 Arrangements for instructionThe principal should arrange for religious instruction to be scheduled on the school timetable at lunch times or after school where accredited and approved instructors are available. The usual period of time for religious instruction is 30 minutes per week. Where the agreed syllabus is taught, students are not to be grouped for RE according to denominations but are to be taught in their usual classes. Students may not leave a school during school hours for religious instruction held elsewhere1.4 Parental consent and authorisationAt the commencement of the RE program, principals should ensure that the prescribed form GC56 or at least the precise form of words contained therein is used to obtain parent /guardian consent or refusal to allow a child to take part in RE. It should be noted that failure to return the form within 14 days is taken to be consent to a student receiving RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. Parents/guardians may, by letter, withdraw consent previously given. It is not necessary to obtain consent or refusal each year.1.5 Responsibility of the PrincipalStudents in school are owed a legal duty of care that devolves on the individual teacher, the principal and a qualified teacher is therefore normally required to remain in the classroom with the religious instructor to ensure that the duty of care is met. However where a principal is satisfied that the particular religious instructor is able to fill that duty of care, the principal may agree that the teacher is not required to remain in the classroom continually. Such a decision shall be recorded by the principal and reviewed regularly. **PARENTS ROLE:**Parents will be informed of the policy. It is requested that parents support the policy and ensure that the appropriate consent forms are signed. |
| **Program Leader:**David Foley | **Issued**  | **Updated / Ratified by SC:**June 2022 |