

# Religious Education

## RE Department

### Rationale

As a Catholic school, founded in the tradition of the Patrician Brothers, Holy Cross College places Religious Education as being of the utmost importance. Religious Education not impacts upon students in the classroom, it permeates the life of College in all respects.

### Curriculum

It is a compulsory subject and is a key learning area in its own right. It follows the Archdiocese of Sydney Religious Education Curriculum in Years 7 to 12.

At a senior level, the College provides students the opportunity to undertake the Board of Studies developed course – Studies of Religion. This course offers both 1 unit and 2 unit options. This course of study is a HSC subject and is calculated for the purposes of the university entrance.

### Religious formation of our students

We are committed to:

- Encouraging students to base their lives on the teaching and example of Christ
- *Enhancing students' understanding and reading of the Scriptures*
- Promoting the value of students spending regular time in personal prayer and reflection
- *Strengthening students' awareness of how religion helps to answer real questions about the meaning of life*
- Strengthening students' knowledge and belief that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man
- *Enriching students' attitudes to Religious Education*
- Nurturing in students a positive attitude to reflection and the value of retreats

### A Partnership

All education is a partnership between the school and the parents for the benefit of the student. Religious education is no different. In this ever-changing world, schools have become more and more important in fulfilling the role of announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ. *At Holy Cross, Religious Education presents in a systematic and genuine way the teaching of the Gospel, the nature of Christianity and ways Christians live their lives. This is done in partnership with the home.*

Parents are encouraged to participate in the Religious Education of their son through discussion of classroom activities and participation in liturgical celebrations at their local parish and at the College itself.

### Social Justice Program

Under the direction of the Social Justice Coordinator, the students participate in a variety of projects that assist those less fortunate than ourselves.

These projects include:

Caritas Australia, World Vision, Patrician Missions, Red Cross, Canteen to name but a few.

Students aid in raising funds for these projects.

### Links with Saint Charles Boremeo Youth Coordinator

In an joint imitative between the Catholic Education Office, the parish of Saint Charles Boremeo, Ryde and the College, a Youth Coordinator has been employed to further develop the relationship between the Parish and the College.

The Youth Coordinator plays an active role in organizing the students' participation in Friday morning mass on a weekly basis. The coordinator is also involved in camps, Retreats, Reflection Days and Social Justice projects.