The goals of Religious Education at St. Elizabeth’s School, founded within the school’s Vision Statement and expressed in the current Exemplar Units for Religious Education, Melbourne, are concerned with the development of faith in each individual.

**Rationale**

Religious Education at St. Elizabeth’s School;
- permeates all areas of the curriculum
- is enriched by the cultural and social diversity of our community
- brings together many disciplines and aspects of life, integrating them into a context of faith.

We maintain that Education in Faith happens when;
- we are forming Christian attitudes
- assisting in the development of conscience
- handing on factual knowledge about God and the Church’s teachings
- worshipping and celebrating liturgy
- praying individually and as a faith community
- contributing to and participating in the life of the community
- fostering an enthusiasm for further learning about God

**Goals**

Succinctly our goal is to teach as Jesus did;
- by fostering a Christian environment which permeates all aspects of school life.
- in partnership with parents, the child’s primary educators
- by providing opportunities for spiritual growth and development of each other through commitment to the catholic ethos and the philosophy of catholic education adopted in the Melbourne Archdiocese
- by providing a full curriculum in response to our students needs

These experiences, we believe, lead individuals towards a free commitment to form a personal relationship with God which is expressed through a belonging to the faith community.

The school sees its role to support parents in the education of children in faith. In so doing we acknowledge that it is through their experiences of family that the beginnings of faith development occur for children.
The central focus of the Religious Education program at St. Elizabeth’s is to develop this sense of belonging within the faith community; a belonging which is expressed through participation in the life of the community. Education in Faith, therefore, is not restricted to the four walls of the classroom but spreads far beyond; to the playground, the school community, the Parish and to all who consider themselves members of the St. Elizabeth’s Community. It is this sense of belonging which we value above all else.

The Religious Education Program at St. Elizabeth’s School is a goal based religious education program supported by the Exemplar Units of Religious Education for Primary Students in the Archdiocese of Melbourne and complemented by the religious education texts, To Know Worship and Love.

The Exemplar Units aim to assist the teachers as they guide children to the development of a conscious, loving relationship with God our Father, in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. We achieve this aim by fostering in the child an awareness of:

- Self as loved by God and gifted by Him
- Others in relationship to self and God
- The World, where God shows His love
- The Faith Community and the ways in which it bears witness to and lives out, the message of God.
- Experiences of God, people's faith, life, scripture, prayer, tradition and the world around us provide the matter and support for the educational process.

In conjunction with the Exemplar Units and text books a variety of teaching aids are used including, story books, scripture, audio and visual equipment.

An essential element in the education of Faith is the continuing growth of individuals in the Catholic Community and in the Sacramental life of the Church. Opportunities are provided at regular times during the child's education at St. Elizabeth’s School for the reception of the Sacraments.

Assessment of an individual student’s achievement is only made in the area of their knowledge and understanding of the content of faith. It does not extend to judging the personal faith response of students; we believe that the response to the invitation of Christ is their own personal, free decision.