

Religious Instruction Policy

Rationale

The Board has an obligation to determine annually on behalf of the school community whether to have religious instruction at Winchester School. The Board's actions and decisions will be informed by and adhere to the relevant sections of the Education Act 1964, NZ Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Purpose

- To ensure that the Board has a process for determining whether to allow a religious instruction programme to be run at school.
- To have a clearly timetabled application and review process.
- To ensure that before a religious instruction programme can be offered at the school its contents are checked and the religious instruction volunteers are approved by the Board.

Guidelines

Application Process

1. Organisations that would like to provide a religious instruction programme at Winchester School must submit an application to the Board with an outline of their programme, before the October meeting in the year preceding the year they want to run the programme.
2. All offers of religious instruction will be considered by the Board using the following criteria:
 - (i) The match between the proposed programme and the school's values and community
 - (ii) The length of the proposed programme
 - (iii) The content of the proposed programme
 - (iv) That there is no cost to the school or students
 - (v) That all volunteers in the programme will be police vetted by the school and approved by the Board
3. If any provider meets the criteria above, the Board may consult the community before deciding by December, whether or not to allow a religious instruction programme to run in the school the following year.
4. Parents will be notified through the School Newsletter if the Board has approved a religious instruction programme.

Operational Process if a Programme is Approved

5. The supervisor of a selected religious instruction programme will submit a list of volunteers to the Principal for police vetting and subsequent Board approval before the religious instruction can begin.
6. Religious instruction volunteers will be informed that
 - i) they must not give food, prizes or treats of any kind under any circumstances, nor use the school's Right Choice programme
 - ii) classes will not exceed thirty minutes per week
 - iii) a staff member will be in attendance during Religious Instruction

7. A copy of the approved programme will be put on display, and parents and children will be informed of their right to opt-out of religious instruction.
8. Parents will inform the Principal of their decision to opt-out in writing.
9. Children who opt-out of Religious Instruction classes, and are on the school premises, will be supervised.
10. If the number of students needing supervising get to 55 then a review process will be triggered and may result in some classes not having CRE offered to alleviate the pressure on those being supervised while CRE is in process.

Reviewed 11 December 2017

Ratified 15 December 2017

Chairperson _____