POLICY: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1 Rationale
Principal, teacher and student work in partnership with parent and pastor to form the school faith community at St Michael’s. Religious Education is at the heart of the Catholic School. As such it is essential that a formal Religious Education program based on the Parramatta Diocese ‘Sharing Our Story’, and which informs and influences all learning, be provided at St Michael’s School.

2 Aims
2.1 To provide a Religious Education program drawn from ‘Sharing Our Story’ which builds upon the life experiences of the students, and links them to the Scriptures and the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church, thereby giving the students the opportunity to build a relationship with God.
2.2 To develop a personal and communal prayer life in the school faith community.
2.3 To develop the concepts and skills necessary for reflecting upon what it means to be a Christian in a secular society, and so be able to reflect upon life experiences in the context of Gospel values.
2.4 To explore and interpret Scripture, Church teachings and traditions.
2.5 To celebrate life as a Christian through liturgy in a school faith community.

3 Implementation
3.1 The principal is ultimately responsible for Religious Education in the school part of which is the content of ‘Sharing Our Story’.
3.2 The REC is responsible for monitoring the program and for introducing its content to parents and co-ordinating the liturgical life of the school.
3.3 Teachers are responsible for ensuring that they follow the guidelines set out in ‘Sharing Our Story’.
3.4 Religious Education will impact on the integrated curriculum.
3.5 The parish personnel are involved in the Religious life of the school through liturgy, through staff development and through regular contact with staff.
3.6 Parents are encouraged to participate in school and parish based RE programs.
3.7 The prayer life of the school will be enriched through Staff and classroom prayer and other liturgical celebrations.
3.8 Students will be encouraged to show their love for God through kindness to others and through participation in liturgy and in the RE program.
3.9 Students are encouraged to seek an understanding of the traditions of the church.

4 Budget
A budget will be established by the REC in consultation with staff.

5 Evaluation
The REC will provide feedback to the community on RE within the school.