RELIGION AND VALUES EDUCATION
Head of Department: Carolyn Sharp

Religious and Values Education aims to give students the opportunity to engage together with the deep questions of life in a creative and enjoyable way using the following five interwoven strands.

The Bible and Christian faith.
A central focus is to learn about the Christian faith, based on the life and teaching of Jesus so that you are informed about the most commonly practiced belief system worldwide (over 30% of the current world population).

Values and Ethics
During teenage years you are thinking about your future... study, work, relationships. Your decisions will be based on what matters to you most; your values and ethics. In this course you will learn about how values, information and beliefs affect the decisions people make. You will choose current ethical issues to investigate.

Philosophy of Religion
You are naturally thinking about vital issues of life, thinking and belief. You will be encouraged to engage in these topics and tackle them in relevant, interesting ways.

Major World Religions
To understand today’s world...To be equipped to be a leader, peacemaker, or to interact with people from different backgrounds...never has it been more important to have a good understanding of how the major religions shape today’s world. You will gain an overview of the world religions to prepare you to work and communicate more effectively in our multicultural society and gain a better understanding of world events.

Spirituality and stillness. At times everyone faces inner struggles with competing pressures, stress, uncertainty about the future and the search for meaning. Increasingly, people are open to exploring spirituality, recognizing that each person is on a spiritual journey of some kind. In this course, you will learn about different styles of meditation, prayer and stillness to balance the pressures of school and a busy life.

Assessment is through a variety of assignments, oral presentations and projects where students are given choice and the opportunity to use their creativity.

Success, wisdom, balance
The information below sets out how this is achieved in each year level.

**Year 7 RELIGIOUS AND VALUES EDUCATION - Core Subject – 1/3 of a year**

Students learn about how the Bible began as stories handed down from one generation to the next before it was written down. The course seeks to answer students' questions and give an overview of what is in the Bible and how it relates to our questions and understanding of our world and ourselves.

**Year 8 RELIGIOUS AND VALUES EDUCATION - Core Subject – One Semester**

Students will begin by looking at the question- How did the universe come to exist? Different ways of answering this are explored and students will choose a creative way to present what they have learned. Through the film, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, belief, temptation, betrayal and self-sacrifice are explored by comparing the characters with the lives of Jesus and his disciples. The world religions studied are Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism which is foundational to understanding Christianity and Islam.

**Year 9 RAVE is part of THE RITE JOURNEY - Core subject – Two Semesters**

The Rite Journey is a year-long program which assists students to explore and take the steps of maturity involved in moving from childhood into young adulthood. Each term the course focuses on a question that every human being asks. Who am I really? How do I get along with others? Is there something more? What is my purpose? The classes are single gender which allows a deeper level of trust and discussion. The spiritual aspects to the course are interwoven into the activities and topics.

Students will explore being comfortable with one's self, understanding the character of God, prayer and the choice between being self-centered or self-giving. There are challenges along the way including the Year 9 camp and many opportunities for the students to recognize and develop a network of support.

Success, wisdom, balance
10 RELIGIOUS AND VALUES EDUCATION - Core Subject – One Semester

The course begins with students identifying and writing about their ideals, motivations, hopes and dreams. Are Science and Spirituality complementary or in opposition to one other? This question is examined and evokes stimulating discussion. Through a comparison of the film The Matrix with the Gospel of John, questions of life after death, the concept of Messiah (chosen one) and the nature of reality are explored. The world religion of Islam is studied with a view to gaining an understanding of its origin and current influence in world affairs. The ethics of current events are examined as well as the ethics of relationships and how our values determine our decision making.