

Navigating the Intersections

**Making Connections between
Faith and Life**

DREAM...

AS LUIGI AND ESMERALDA WALK OUT OF THE SCHOOL GATES ON THE LAST DAY OF YEAR 6, THEY WILL USE THE COMPASS THEY RECEIVED TO GUIDE THEIR JOURNEY FORWARD. WHAT WILL THIS COMPASS LOOK LIKE? WHAT WILL IT POINT TO? WHAT REFERENCE POINTS WILL BE ON IT?
DREAM BIG- ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE



School context

St Paul's Kealba Catholic School, was established in 1978. The school is situated on the same site as its church. St Paul's is in the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption together with its sister school, St Mary MacKillop, Keilor Downs. The school population consists of families from a variety of cultural backgrounds and therefore has a large cohort of students with an EAL background. The cultural groups represented in the school population include Vietnamese and South American. There are also some Sudanese, Filipino, Croatian, Maltese and Italian families. Whilst most of the families in the school community are Catholic, the Orthodox and Buddhist religions are also represented in the population.

The goal- link between faith and life- 2013/2014

From the SIP:

Goal of Education in Faith Sphere- *being a dynamic community where our faith is the cornerstone of all that we do.*

Intended Outcome: *That students' actions will reflect their understanding of the relationship between faith and life*

Insight SRC: Responses to survey questions reflect a disconnect between learning in religious education and social justice action/ life choices

ECSI Data: Indicates that students have a very literal interpretation of their faith.

Pedagogical Survey in RE: Responses from students indicated that there was no perceived link between their experiences in Religious Education and the decisions they make daily. It also indicated that students did not feel challenged in their learning about their faith.

NAPLAN- Comprehension results indicated that whilst students' literal comprehension was very strong, deeper and more critical levels of comprehension needed developing

Broad Goal	Intended outcomes	Setting targets	Key Strategies for this Sphere	Examples of actions
<p>We aim to be a dynamic community where our faith is the cornerstone of all that we do</p>	<p>That students' actions will reflect their understanding of the relationship between faith and life</p>	<p><i>It is suggested that the school construct a Catholic Culture index</i></p> <p>by averaging the scores of staff, students, and parents in 2013 and setting a higher overall level to be achieved by 2018 in:</p> <p>Opportunity Behaviour of Staff Behaviour of Students Compassion Social Justice</p> <p>Suggested targets are:</p> <p>Staff: 80 (now 76.4) Students: 85 (now 81.7) Parents 85 (now 83.97)</p>	<p>Support our learners to engage in a faith interpretation of their world</p>	<p>investigate & implement 'best practice' pedagogy in RE</p> <p>Implement RE into all domains</p> <p>Strengthen feedback to students and assessment in RE</p> <p>Strengthens teachers understanding of assessment and reporting in RE</p> <p>Provide parent-child faith development sessions across the school</p> <p>Provide PD and training to staff on Catholic interpretation of Scripture and traditions</p> <p>Unpack the gospels in light of Catholic social teaching</p> <p>Provide ongoing reflection with staff on development of our scriptural and biblical text readings (Scripture images)</p> <p>Use the above reflections as a cornerstone for interactions within St Paul's and in how we form and maintain relationships</p> <p>Provide opportunities for adult formation in RE and our community members alike</p> <p>Provide ongoing opportunities for staff to engage in ECSIP PCSIP work</p> <p>Implement ECSIP recommendations with a focus on : 3.1 and 3.8</p>

Challenge and opportunity

The challenge-

How do we make genuine links between RE and Inquiry to support our learners to engage in a faith based interpretation of their world?

The Opportunity-



NAVIGATING THE INTERSECTIONS

PROJECT 2014 - 2015

Whole School Commitment

Commitment by Leadership

Risk taking and building of trust

Check ins and feedback

Timetabling

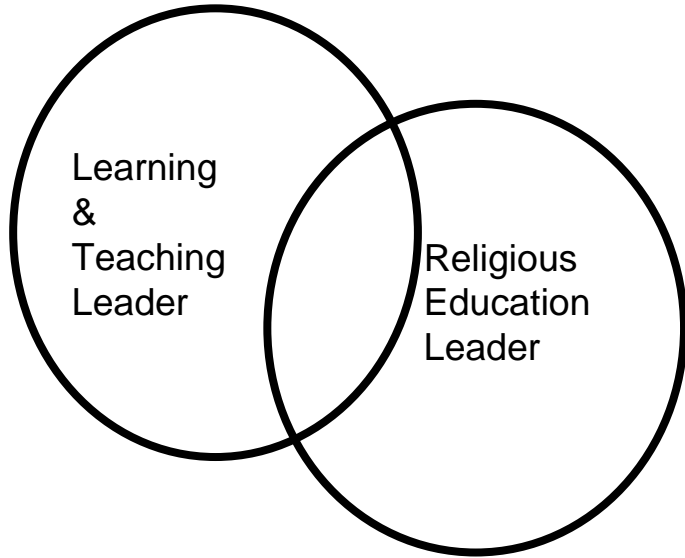
Gauging staff culture and tone

Setting a small realistic goal

Commitment of allocated time

A CHANGE IN THINKING WAS NEEDED

CREATIVE THINKING WAS NEEDED...





CHATTIME

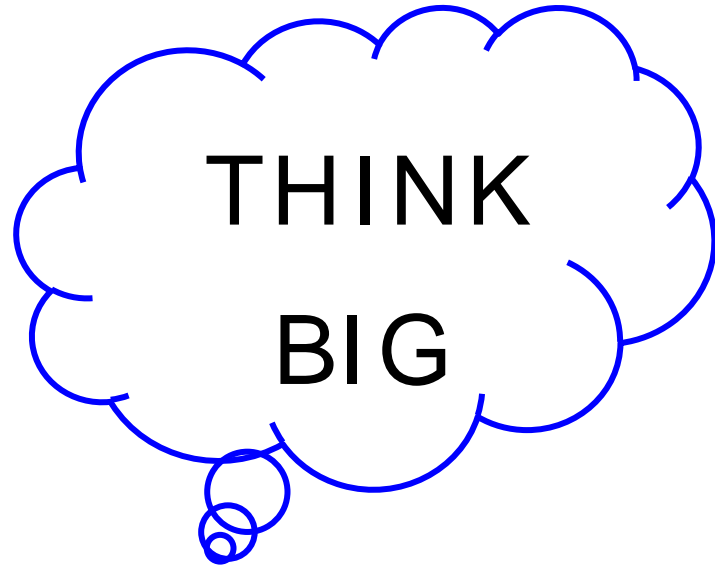
Consider the key concepts in
RE (blue) and those in Science,
History, Civics and Citizenship
(red) Religious Education Units
(black)



LOOK FOR LINKS

2014- 'DREAMING'

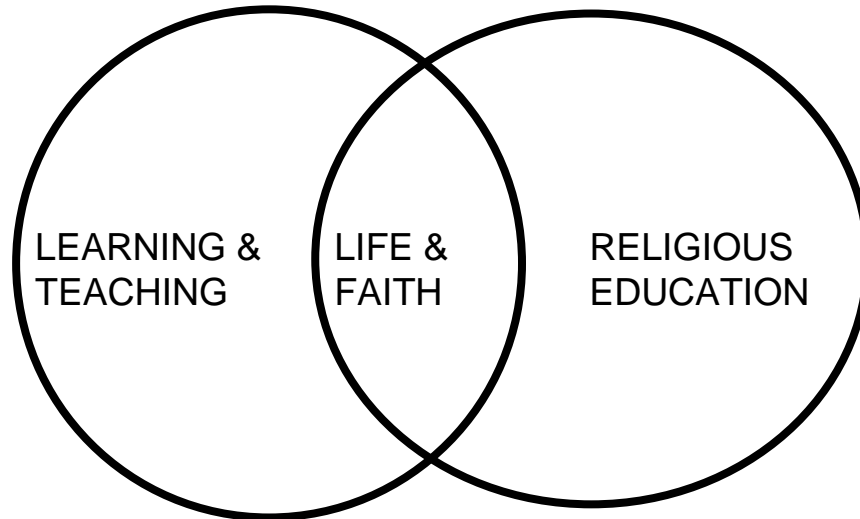
Teachers encouraged to



2015...planning opens up

The planets aligned, the universe conspired and the Holy Spirit even helped out...

REL works with L & T Leader!!



2015 Faith AND Fact

Current Practice

- Provocation
 - Dreaming
- Planning Days- REL & LTL
- Two year cycle RE & INQ
- Whole school scripture & big question
- Trialling new planning doc

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1woXg_dAeHDN7aG2zDRZRVEejEiMpCtjmOL3Q6f0mbWc/edit

Constant process of trial and error:

Feedback and response

Freedom and possibilities

Year A		TERM ONE		TERM TWO			TERM THREE			TERM FOUR		
F	L E A R N I N G T O L E A R N	God Calls us	Following Jesus	C/C School Community (PLACES)	Belonging to God's People	God's Great Family	PHYS SCI – Movement, shape, size	The World Around Us	Growing in Friendship with God	CHEM SCI- Observable Qualities	Praying to Jesus	A D V E N T A N D C H R I S T M A S
1		Love One Another	Journey Towards the Cross	C/C Care for Place (PLACES HAVE FEATURES)	Celebrating with People of God	Baptism Welcome to God's Family	PHYS SCI – Light & Sound	Creator God	Prayer	CHEM SCI- Materials can be changed	Stories of God's People	
2		God Loves us No Matter What	Lent and Holy Week	C/C Responsible for caring (PEOPLE CONNECT WITH PLACE)	Signs of God's Love	Experiencing God	PHYS SCI – Push and Pull- Movement	Created for Life		CHEM SCI- Combine Materials for purpose	Alive in the Spirit	
3		Choices: Forgiveness and Healing	Lent and Easter	C/C Aust Society Diff/ Sim (PLACES CAN BE DIFF & SIM)	The Eucharist – Celebrate Jesus' presence	Holy Spirit in our Lives	PHYS SCI – Heat Produced & Transferred	We Have Free Will	Prayer Building Friendship with God	CHEM SCI- Changes and states of matter	The Church Lives Word of Lord	
4		Living the Law of Love	Closer to God through Lent and Easter	C/C Contribution of groups (EARTHS ENV. SUSTAINS LIFE)	Initiation- Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation	Parish Community God's Spirit in Action	PHYS SCI – Forces Movement	Mary, Faithful Disciple	Meeting God Through Prayer	CHEM SCI- Natural and Processed Materials	Creation in Harmony	
5		Life is Good	God's Generosity	C/C Democracy & Federation (FACTORS SHAPE ENV.)	7 Sacraments Signs of God's Presence	Gifts and Fruits of HS	PHYS SCI – Light; absorbed, reflected, refracted	Christ Here Among us	Mission Possible	CHEM SCI- Solids, Liquids, Gases	People of God in Aust	
6		Compassion Justice	Lent to Easter: We are Transformed	C/C Democracy & Federation (DIVERSE & CONNECTED)	My Mission in Faith Community- Leader in me	Community of Faith- Called to Serve	PHYS SCI – Electrical Circuits	We Are Many- One Body	Teach us to Pray	CHEM SCI- Changes reversible and irreversible	Sacred Stories Sacred People	

F	HISTORY Personal and family	Belonging to God's People	God Calls us to follow Jesus	BIO SCI Animal needs, habitats	Jesus is Alive Alleluia!	God's Great Family	EARTH SCI- Changes, Seasons	World Around us	Grow in Friendship with God	**	Praying to Jesus	A D V E N T A N D C H R I S T M A S
1	HISTORY Family and Migration	Stories of God's People	Journey to the Cross, Lent and Holy Week	BIO SCI Plants features	Easter: Jesus is Risen	Eucharist Celebrating with God's People	EARTH SCI - Sky Changes	Creator God	Prayer	**	Baptism; Welcome to the family	
2	HISTORY Past in Present- Significant People/places	Alive in the Spirit	Lent and Holy Week	BIO SCI Aust. Animals adaptations	Experiencing God	Created for Life	EARTH SCI Resources- Water	Signs of God's Love	God Loves us no Matter what	**		
3	HISTORY Community and Remembrance	Choices; forgiveness; healing	Lent and Easter	BIO SCI Classification- features and living/ non-living	The Eucharist Celebrating Jesus' Presence	Holy Spirit in our Lives	EARTH SCI – Cause of Day and Night	Prayer: Building Friendship with God	We Have Free Will	**	Church lives the Word of the Lord	
4	HISTORY First Contact Explorers	Mary, Faithful Disciple	Closer to God Through Lent and Easter	BIO SCI Interdependence, Life Cycles	Alleluia! He is Risen	Parish Community- God's Spirit in Action	EARTH SCI- Earth's Surface Changes	Creation Living in Harmony	Meeting with God Through Prayer	**	Living the Law of Love	
5	HISTORY Australian Colonies	People of God in Australia	A Time of God's Generosity	BIO SCI Features Adaptations	Life is Good	7 sacraments- Signs of God's Presence	EARTH SCI- Earth and system of Planets	Mission Possible				
6	HISTORY Migration	Sacred stories, Sacred People	Lent to Easter- Transformed	BIO SCI Growth and survival enviroent.	My Mission in faith community	Community of faith called to serve	EARTH SCI- Geology, Disasters, Change	We Who Are Many, Are One Body	Teach us to Pray		Compassion and Justice	

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18Oo4zEExoKuiAM3A4dKgi1ouVCoL5OFDcWehSGkTavY/edit>

A journey



Positives:

- ❖ Genuine links
- ❖ Uniformity in planning
- ❖ Openness of roles and discussion
- ❖ Whole school culture
- ❖ Student perception- link RE with other learning areas
- ❖ Deepened understanding/

Challenges:

- Staff buy in
- Genuine links
- Allocation of resources
- Maintaining a positive mindset & openness
- Genuine inquiry process
- Breaking down the barriers



Future Directions

Church Doctrine

RE Curriculum Renewal

Catholic Social Teachings

**Learning and Teaching Design Principles/
Elements of curriculum design CEM
document**

Review school policies

Victorian Curriculum

CAPS



**What's on your compass?
Questions, directions,
people to speak to...**

