

# POLICY

## RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Responsibility of: School Support Services  
Effective Date: April 2017  
Next Review Date: April 2020  
Target Audience: School Staff/Parents/Community

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This document should be read in conjunction with the **Religious Instruction guidelines**.

### 1 POLICY

Section 86 of the [Education Act](#) (the Act) enables the Chief Executive of the department to make general provision for Religious Instruction under certain conditions. The Chief Executive has delegated the approval, or otherwise, of Religious Instruction in schools to the principal.

Religious Instruction is not part of the curriculum for Northern Territory government schools but, if requested in writing by a parent, may be delivered at the discretion of the principal.

The decision-making process undertaken by the principal when determining the practicability of delivering Religious Instruction must include engagement with the School Representative Body, where one functions within a school community.

Religious instructors must, at no cost to the department, obtain a valid Working with Children Clearance Notice (Ochre Card). The principal must sight and retain a copy of the clearance prior to the instructor engaging with students.

All teaching and learning programs and resources, including for Religious Instruction, delivered at Northern Territory government schools must be age appropriate and consistent with the developmental expectations of the targeted student group.

Where a principal decides to proceed with delivery of Religious Instruction, it will be timetabled for a minimum of half an hour per session in every school week. The total time allocated for religious instruction in a school shall not exceed five hours per term.

Where a school already provides Religious Instruction, students enrolled in the school may participate in a specific Religious Instruction program if a parent has provided written advice and has been fully informed:

- of the program and its content
- that the program is not part of the school curriculum
- of appropriate alternative activities available if the student does not participate.

## 2 BUSINESS NEED

This policy will ensure a clear and consistent approach for the provision of Religious Instruction in Northern Territory government schools in line with section 86 of the Act.

## 3 SCOPE

This policy applies to all Northern Territory government schools and early childhood settings, from preschool to Year 12.

## 4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Refer to the Religious Instruction guidelines.

## 5 RELATED POLICY, LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

<b>Departmental</b>	<a href="#">Chaplaincy Services in Schools policy and guidelines</a> <a href="#">Mandatory Reporting of Harm and Exploitation of Children guidelines</a> <a href="#">Working with Children Clearance Notices policy and procedures (Ochre Card)</a> <a href="#">Complaints policy and guidelines</a>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<a href="#">Anti-Discrimination Act</a> <a href="#">Care and Protection of Children Act</a> <a href="#">Education and Care Services National Regulations</a> <a href="#">NTPS Principles and Code of Conduct</a>
<b>Australian Government</b>	<a href="#">Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG), 1996</a>