

## Societal Context



The Catholic and ecumenical schools of the Archdiocese of Brisbane operate in a complex and ever-changing environment. Contemporary students are immersed in a global world and from an early age are exposed to a range of values represented through diverse media. Most students have

some awareness of the diverse cultures, religions and belief systems of the world. In this context, the Catholic Christian tradition may be seen as one option among many. Students in Archdiocesan schools are part of the broader Australian culture that promotes tolerance of, and provides legal protection for, a range of religious beliefs and practices. While the contribution of religious groups in addressing social disadvantage and promoting social welfare is recognised and respected, many Australians are uncertain of and at times, indifferent to, the relevance of beliefs and practices of religion in their daily lives.

Catholic and ecumenical schools embrace families from a wide range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Parents enrol their children in Archdiocesan schools for a variety of reasons. While many parents want their children to experience Catholic Christian values and traditions, some do not fully understand the foundational nature and central importance of the religious and spiritual dimension of Catholic education.

As a consequence, schools are continually challenged to engage families in Religious Education in rich and relevant ways.

*In this way the Catholic school's public role is clearly perceived. It has not come into being as a private initiative, but as an expression of the reality of the Church, having by its nature a public character. It fulfils a service of public usefulness...decidedly configured in the perspective of the Catholic faith (The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, 1997, n.16).*

Therefore, Religious Education in the Archdiocese of Brisbane seeks to reflect a Catholic Christian worldview that integrates faith, life and culture. At the same time it seeks to embrace an ecumenical perspective and reflect the multi-faith context and reality of contemporary schools and colleges.

**St Flannan's School RECOGNISES the Societal Context by:**

- Teaching of Religion at St Flannan's reflects a Catholic Christian world view that integrates different faiths, life and cultures.
- Fee concessions are offered to support families finding it hard to meet financial commitments
- Demonstrate an acceptance of the broader Australian culture
- Promoting St Flannan's as an inclusive school, not a private school
- Keeping The Golden Rule – Treat others the way you wish to be treated – at the centre of our teaching