

Beliefs About Learners and Their Learning

At St Thomas More, we believe that every learner is created in the image and likeness of God and, inspired by the Spirit, responds with passion and creativity to life. We follow the vision for Brisbane Catholic Education, which is to Teach, Challenge, Transform. We strive to educate the whole person and through our teaching, promote faith in Jesus Christ, the Gospel and the faith of the Catholic Christian community.

We recognise that people search for and find meaning in lived experience and that learning and living are connected in the curriculum, we are inspired by the Holy Spirit to challenge those we educate to live in communion with God, others and the whole of creation in prayerful, sacramental, just, peaceful, inclusive and reconciling communities.



Learning and teaching at St Thomas More prepares students for global responsibilities to contribute positively to justice, peace and ecological sustainability. We educate students so that they can transform the world in communion, by nurturing the gifts and potential of each person, enacting shared leadership, and exercising a preferential option for the poor and the marginalised.

We believe that all students are entitled to rigorous, relevant and engaging Religious Education Programs, drawn from the BCE Religion Curriculum P-12, that addresses their individual learning needs. As a Marist School the Charism of St Marcellin Champagnat plays an important role in telling the Catholic Christian story. Through the Marist Charism we are challenged to look to Mary as a model of faith and this is reflected in our school practices, celebrations and symbols.

Our school Religious Education Program caters for the diverse needs of our students. Student voice is an important part of our processes for teaching Religious Education and a strong priority has been placed on developing learning opportunities that are inclusive, innovative and challenging to learners.



Learners and Learning in the Religious Education Classroom

At St Thomas More we believe that each learner brings their own richly diverse life journey and story to the life of our community. Although a high percentage of our community are members of the Catholic faith, we are very aware of the religious diversity that exists amongst our students with regard to religious practice and engagement with the Catholic tradition. This presents the challenge to foster a critical appreciation of one's own religious tradition, whilst building an empathetic understanding of the religious beliefs and practices of others.

As educators in a Catholic School, it is imperative that the needs of our learners are understood through a contemporary lens and valued so that pedagogies that support quality teaching and learning in Religious Education will enhance the learning experiences of students within our classrooms.

The BCE Learning and Teaching Framework (2012) informs our beliefs about learners and learning at St Thomas More. Our school beliefs about learners and their learning impact on the teaching of Religious Education and are important considerations in the planning and teaching of Religious Education in the classroom setting.



We acknowledge that all students at St Thomas More are entitled to Religious Education opportunities that are rigorous, relevant and engaging to them as a learner. In order to cater for the diverse needs of all learners it is essential that due consideration is given to the Curriculum content, The Cross-Curricula Priorities and General Capabilities evident in the Religious Education Curriculum. When designing learning and teaching opportunities in the classroom consideration also needs to be given to the diverse student needs, levels of development, previous life experiences and characteristics of learners at each age.