Capella State High School

Religious Instruction in State Schools

Policy:
The Education (General Provisions) Act gives ministers of religion or their accredited representatives the opportunity to provide religious instruction to state school students who are members of their denomination or society.

Under section 26 of the Act, a minister of religion or an accredited representative is granted right of entry to a school if and when parents/carers notify the principal that there are students at the school who are members of that person’s religious denomination or society.

Once right of entry is established, a religious instruction program for member students may be offered. Students who are not members of the denomination or society may participate in the program with the written consent of their parents/carers.

The Act provides for this form of religious instruction to be offered during school hours to students in Years 1-12 at state primary, secondary and special schools.

At present there are no religious instruction classes being offered at Capella SHS.

Guidelines:

• Principals must permit entry to a minister of religion (or an accredited representative) when there are students who are members of the religious denomination or society attending the school.

• Each accredited representative must submit a written application to the principal seeking approval to enter the school. The application must contain written accreditation from the minister of religion or the responsible religious authority the person is representing. Ministers of religion do not require written approval, though the principal needs to be satisfied that the person presenting as a minister is a minister.

• A letter of approval is issued by the Principal for each accredited representative to conduct religious instruction at the school.

• The principal is also required to keep a register that outlines the dates that religious instruction occurs; the time when the minister or accredited representative was at the school; the printed name and signature of the minister or accredited representative as well as the religious denomination or society that is represented.

Participation in school-based programs:

In the event that Capella SHS provides a religious program

I give permission for my child/ren _______________________________ to attend the school-based program/s.

I do not give permission for my child/ren _______________________________ to attend the school-based program/s.

Signature: __________________________   Date: __________________

Withdrawal from religious instruction:

I do not wish my child/ren _______________________________ to attend any of the programs provided by a religious denomination or society at Capella SHS.

Signature: __________________________   Date: __________________