

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL KINGARROY

CHRISTIAN STUDIES IN THE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

What is Christian Studies?

- Christian Studies, in a Lutheran school, is the study of the Christian faith and its relevance for life today.
- Christian Studies is based on the Word of God as revealed in the Old and New Testaments, has the gospel of Jesus Christ as its focus, and is taught in conformity with Lutheran confessions.
- Christian Studies belongs to the formal curriculum of the school. As part of the academic program, it must be educationally sound: stimulating and challenging, relevant to Australian students and inclusive of students with a wide range of backgrounds, needs and skills. It must be accessible for all students, regardless of their experience of the work of God and their stage of faith development.
- Christian Studies does not assume Christian faith. It provides an opportunity for teachers and students to express their faith, but does not overtly or covertly put pressure on students to do so.
- As the formal and intentional study of the Christian faith, Christian Studies plays a major role in Christian education, which is understood as *everything* that happens in a Lutheran school.

What is the purpose of Christian Studies?

- The ultimate aim of all Christian education is that students come to know and have faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This saving faith is entirely a gift of the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of Christian Studies in Christian education is to provide one avenue through which the Holy Spirit can work. We teach in response to God's word:

'How can people have faith in the Lord and ask him to save them if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them?' Romans 10:14 (CEV)

We cannot predict or measure the response of individuals to the word of God. Some students may come to faith, some may grow in faith, others may reject the gift of faith.

- All subjects in the academic curriculum inform students and develop their understanding of life and the world in which they live. Christian Studies within the academic curriculum gives students the opportunity to hear, explore, and reflect on the work of God in an atmosphere of openness, and thus to appreciate the Christian understanding of life and the world in which they live.
- By providing students with a knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, Christian Studies helps them to recognise the ways in which that faith informs what happens in Lutheran schools.