



What is YouthLife?

Brisbane Water Secondary College provides a safe and nurturing environment for students to develop.

In keeping with this, the YouthLife (REM) program has been successfully taught at Brisbane Water College since 1989 as SRE (Special Religious Education).

The program teaches basic Christian values that are shared by all the major denominations.

It supports student self-esteem by emphasizing the value of each individual and provides a grounding in ethical standards for society.

The program stresses our common humanity and encourages tolerance and understanding and responsibility to those less able to care for themselves.

It attempts to develop individual responsibility for one's actions.

It is taught by qualified SRE teachers who are representatives of the majority of the peninsula churches and it presents the approved Department of Education program.

Further Benefits of the YouthLife Program

There are many other reasons why the YouthLife program on Christianity is beneficial for students:

Christianity is the basis of our legal system

It is the bedrock of our social justice system

It is fundamental in understanding a great body of our literature

It encourages students to value one another, to be thoughtful about the life choices they make and to act ethically

Topics included are engaging and relevant



Some of the topics include:

Identity

Ethics

Forgiveness

Keys to a relationship

Social justice

Dealing with pain

Truth and trust

World poverty

Grief and loss

For more detail see below:

The teachers also aim to enrich the school outside of the classes by coaching sporting teams, running the 40 hour famine, helping with film club and various other areas.

The Youthlife program is non-denominational and non-sectarian. It is financially supported by 10 churches on the peninsula: Anglican (2), Baptist, Church of Christ, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Salvation Army, and The Uniting Church of Australia (2).

The program welcomes students from all backgrounds.



Some of the topics taught by Youthlife/SRE:

Identity

How do you view yourself, compared to how others see you? Do we judge others to make ourselves feel better? Is our identity and our self-esteem linked? What would it be like living in a culture where nobody judge each other? How differently would those people behave?

Ethics

What is the right thing to do? Who decides what is right or wrong? Where do some of our ethics come from? When a person does the right thing, how do they feel afterwards? Should we treat others how we would like to be treated?

Keys to a relationship

Who do we have relationships with? Why are these relationships important? What are the keys to a relationship? Could a person have a relationship with God? What would that look like?

Forgiveness

Is forgiveness important? What are the benefits of forgiveness? If you forgive, does that mean you are open to being hurt again? These are all relevant questions to this unit. We look at why forgiveness can help ourselves, and its place in our relationships.

Truth and Trust

What do we wonder? What motivates our decision making? How do we know what is true? What makes us trust this truth? This leads on to, who do we trust? These are all questions that we look at during this unit.

World Poverty and Social Justice

There is so much pain and suffering in the world, from poverty to slavery. We look at the problem and then have discussion on whether it is our place to care. Why should we care? What makes us care? If we do care, then should we act? This unit leads into an option for the students to undertake the 40-hour famine. NO pressure is placed on the students, it's all about perspective.

Grief & Loss and Dealing with Pain

Grief & Loss is a challenging unit, as all students have experienced different levels. We look at this unit at the students' comfort level, placing not pressure on the students. We cover various strategies that can help.