

# Religious Instruction in Queensland State Schools

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## Fact Sheet 14

### *Guidelines for religious instructors working in Queensland state schools*

All adults working with students need to be aware that there are appropriate and inappropriate ways to behave. The following guidelines have been adapted specifically for approved instructors of religious instruction (RI) from the *Queensland Ready Reader Guidelines for Volunteers*. These were adapted from the original guidelines developed by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian [Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy, Risk Management Toolkit](#) p. 17.

	<b>DO</b> <i>Behave appropriately</i>	<b>DO NOT</b> <i>Behave inappropriately</i>
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use encouraging/positive words</li> <li>• Adopt a pleasant tone of voice</li> <li>• Modify your language to suit the age or developmental ability of the students</li> <li>• Use warm, open body language</li> <li>• Be polite and pleasant to students of all faith and non-faith groups, not just those in your RI classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not make fun of students, put them down or insult them</li> <li>• Do not call students names</li> <li>• Do not swear or raise your voice</li> <li>• Do not intimidate or try to frighten a student</li> <li>• Do not make sexually suggestive comments or jokes</li> <li>• Do not state or imply that students or their parents not of your faith group are inferior or misguided</li> </ul>
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a good role model for your faith group</li> <li>• Demonstrate respect for all faiths in the language that you use</li> <li>• Introduce yourself to classroom visitors such as parents</li> <li>• Respect the background and beliefs of all students</li> <li>• Reinforce positive student behaviour through attention, praise or thanks</li> <li>• Rewards such as certificates, stickers, pencils, pens, erasers or stamps may be used with approval from the supervising teacher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not play favourites</li> <li>• Do not spend time alone with a student where you cannot be observed by others</li> <li>• Do not initiate contact with a student outside of school hours (This does not relate to pre-existing family friendships or faith group relationships)</li> <li>• Do not give lollies or food as prizes or rewards</li> <li>• Do not give students gifts unless previously discussed with the class teacher</li> </ul>

	<b>DO</b> <i>Behave appropriately</i>	<b>DO NOT</b> <i>Behave inappropriately</i>
Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that personal information you have about students or which students share about themselves or their families is kept confidential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not share personal information you have about students or their families with others outside the classroom environment</li> <li>• Do not give personal contact details to students, for example, your phone number</li> </ul>
Delivery of RI Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the program authorised by your religious leader</li> <li>• Follow the advice and directives of relevant coordinators for the delivery of the RI program</li> <li>• Ensure faith group publications are only accessible to students of your RI classes and are stored in a secure location at the end of lessons</li> <li>• Obtain approval from both your religious leader and the principal before distributing any additional materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not develop or deliver content not approved by your religious leader</li> <li>• Do not leave faith group publications accessible to other students</li> </ul>
Physical Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accept child-initiated contact where appropriate, for example, a child who high-fives you every time they see you</li> <li>• Re-direct child-initiated contact where that contact is inappropriate, for example, a child who wants to cling to your leg as you walk around the room</li> <li>• Discuss any concerns about inappropriate physical contact with the class teacher</li> <li>• Touch a student as necessary to render medical assistance or protect from harm, for example, hold hands with a student who is having difficulty negotiating the stairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not hit, slap, pinch or kick a student</li> <li>• Do not engage in any other form of violent or aggressive behaviour</li> <li>• Do not kiss a student</li> <li>• Do not touch a student in a sexual way</li> <li>• Do not engage in any other inappropriate sexual activity, for example, show a student pornography</li> <li>• Do not do anything that would make other people think you have a sexual interest in a student, for example, pinch a student's bottom</li> <li>• Do not sit or stand too close to a student</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear appropriate clothing for anticipated role and activities</li> <li>• Follow directives of the principal and supervising teachers regarding school protocols and procedures at each school visited</li> <li>• Comply with school policies in respect to school visitors, for example, report to the office on arrival, sign the visitor's sign on book and wear an approved instructor identity card</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not wear clothing that is inappropriate for anticipated role and activities</li> <li>• Do not make or accept mobile phone calls while working with students in the classroom</li> <li>• Do not use alcohol or other substances before coming into the classroom or while at school</li> <li>• Do not smoke on or around school premises or within 10m of any part of children's playground equipment</li> </ul>