

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006

Chapter 5 — Religious Instruction

Section 76: Religious instruction in school hours

Legislative text	Plain English meaning
76(1) Any minister of a religious denomination or society, or an accredited representative approved for the purpose, is entitled during school hours to give religious instruction to students who are members of that denomination or society, for up to 1 hour per week, on a day appointed by the principal.	Approved faith representatives are legally allowed into schools to teach RI during school hours, for up to one hour per week , on a day set by the principal . Instruction may only be given to students who belong to that faith group (i.e. whose parents have opted them in).
76(2) Instruction in accordance with a regulation may be given in State primary and special schools during school hours in selected Bible lessons.	Primary and special schools may offer Bible-based RI lessons , as detailed in the regulations.
76(3) A separate reading book shall be provided for such purpose.	Specialised curriculum materials are to be used for RI — not general classroom textbooks.
76(4) Instruction mentioned in subsection (RI in primary and special schools must be non-denominational . Instructors cannot teach beliefs or practices specific to one Christian denomination.
76(5) A parent may withdraw a student from all religious instruction by written notice to the principal.	Parents always have the right to opt their child out of RI — at any time — by writing to the principal.
76(6) This section does not apply to students enrolled in the preparatory year.	Prep students do not attend RI . Decisions are made at enrolment for participation from Year 1 onwards.

Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006

Part 5 — Religious Instruction

Regulation	Plain English meaning
25 — Application for approval of representative An application for approval as an accredited representative must be in writing.	Faith groups must formally apply in writing for people to be approved to teach RI. Verbal approval is not sufficient.
26 — Approval to be produced If asked, an accredited representative must produce their approval to the principal.	RI instructors must be able to show evidence of their approval if asked by the school.
27 — Authorised religious instruction A minister or accredited representative may give only instruction approved by their religious group.	RI instructors may teach only the authorised curriculum — no extra lessons, materials, or personal doctrines.

<p>28 — Time for religious instruction The principal must fix the day on which religious instruction is given each week.</p>	<p>The principal controls the timetable for RI, not the faith group or coordinator.</p>
<p>29(1) — Students to attend RI The principal must not allow a student to attend RI of another denomination unless the parent has given written consent.</p>	<p>Students attend RI only if their parents have consented to that faith group. No consent = no attendance.</p>
<p>29(2) Students may attend combined classes by agreement of ministers of the denominations concerned.</p>	<p>Co-operative Christian RI is permitted when approved faith groups agree to teach together (common in Queensland).</p>
<p>30(1) — Bringing publications Persons other than ministers or accredited representatives must not bring denominational publications onto school premises.</p>	<p>Only approved RI instructors may bring religious materials into the school for RI purposes.</p>
<p>30(2) — Leaving publications Ministers or representatives must not leave denominational publications on school premises.</p>	<p>Religious materials must not be left behind in classrooms or around the school after RI.</p>
<p>31 — Students withdrawn from RI The principal must arrange other instruction in a separate location during RI time.</p>	<p>Schools must supervise students who do not attend RI in a separate, appropriate activity.</p>
<p>32 — Register of representatives The principal must keep a register of religious instructors and attendance times.</p>	<p>Schools must record who attends, when, and for how long each RI instructor is on site.</p>
<p>33 — Selected Bible lessons The principal may arrange a 30-minute period per week for selected Bible lessons.</p>	<p>In primary and special schools, the principal may choose to schedule 30-minute Bible-based RI lessons weekly.</p>

Key Take-Home Summary

- RI is **legally protected** in Queensland state schools.
 - Only **approved instructors** may teach RI.
 - **Parents control participation** through consent.
 - Instruction must stay **non-denominational** in primary settings.
 - **Principals control timetabling and supervision.**
 - RI resources may be **used for teaching** but **not left on school grounds.**
 - Prep students **do not attend RI**
-