

The Program in action

Classes contribute to the spiritual development of every child who attends, while respecting the on-going programs provided by schools.

- Classes compliment existing values education and well-being courses by emphasising and teaching the skills of tolerance, co-operation and non-violence. Simple meditation instruction would also be given.
- Everything taught in classes is based on the teaching of the Buddha, without adhering to one particular tradition or culture.
- As well as teaching about the life of the Buddha, lessons are taken from the myths and fables of the *Jataka Tales*. These delightful stories teach moral values through the exploits of animals and other legendary characters and are the base of much Asian literature and culture.
- Following contemporary educational approaches, lessons are built around cooperative and active learning, respecting and drawing on the children's own experiences and bridging learning with contemporary everyday life.
- These classes are open to all children, regardless of their cultural and religious backgrounds.
- Classes are only offered where the Principal, School Council and parents have requested that they be made available.

Accreditation and registration

The course curriculum and the teacher training program of the Buddhist Education program has been fully approved and accredited by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development through the auspices of Religions for Peace.

Volunteers who successfully complete our 15 hour training program and satisfy all other prerequisites gain registration with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Religions for Peace Australia and the Buddhist Council of Victoria as a volunteer teacher of Religious Education (Buddhism) in Victorian Primary Schools.

Further information

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer teacher or in having RE in your child's school, please contact:

Education Officer – Helen Ponder
Phone: 0425 494 023,
Email: educationinfo@bcvic.org.au

You can also download a copy of the application form from our website at www.bcvic.org.au

Buddhist Education in Schools Program
P.O. Box 606, North Carlton Post Office
Rathdowne St, North Carlton Vic 3054



BUDDHIST COUNCIL
OF VICTORIA, INC
ABN 13 436 635 535



BUDDHIST EDUCATION IN VICTORIAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

A program of The Buddhist
Council of Victoria Inc.
with support from
Religions For Peace.





“Life in Australia offers a wonderful opportunity to develop and practice our values and traditions in a place where we are able to respect one another and strive toward building a harmonious community.”

(from “A Sense of Place:Victoria’s Multi-Faith Religious Celebration for Federation. 2001)

Why is a Buddhist Education program needed?

Victorians live in a multi-faith community with the opportunity to learn about different philosophies and religious practices, and where the spiritual development of the child is encouraged.

This is fostered in different ways within the government school system. For instance, parents can choose to involve their child in religious education at the primary school stage. As well, classroom teachers often include topics on comparative religion in their lessons on community and society, festivals and so on.

Buddhist teachings have much to contribute to harmony, tolerance and non-violent conflict resolution in our society.

These are skills and values that we all cherish for now and for the future of our world and our children. By making Buddhist teachings available in Victorian schools, not only is greater knowledge and acceptance encouraged, but Buddhist children can feel that their religious and cultural backgrounds are being recognized and respected in mainstream education.

Who are we?

The Buddhist Council of Victoria Inc. represents over 40 Buddhist organizations within Victoria. It liaises with government to create policy inclusive of all traditions in the Buddhist faith.

The Buddhist Education project is auspiced by the Buddhist Council of Victoria Inc. It is recognized by the Religions for Peace as the accrediting body for Buddhist religious educators in Victorian primary schools. The steering committee is composed of representatives from different Buddhist traditions and cultures, with expertise in education and project planning.

Volunteer teachers are drawn from the local Buddhist communities. According to accreditation requirements, they have a sound knowledge of Buddhism and a recommendation from a senior Buddhist teacher, have completed the approved teacher training course for volunteer teachers, and have passed the *Working with Children Check* managed by the Department of Justice.

What can we offer?

Weekly 30 minute classes in primary schools. In keeping with other religious faiths, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, through the Buddhist Council of Victoria, offers Buddhist teachings for children whose parents voluntarily choose this option.

Ways to participate

Volunteer Teaching

Give the gift of your time to bring the Teachings of the Buddha to children. If you regularly have some hours spare a week contact our Education Officer or our website www.bcvic.org.au.

Requesting Buddhist RE classes in schools

Contact our Education Officer or speak to the Principal of the school.

Donations

The Buddhist Council of Victoria is a not-for-profit organisation. So that the program continues and grows, financial support is sought and very appreciated. (Donations over \$2 are tax deductible).

Name:

Address:

Amount donated: \$

Please make out cheques and money orders to the *BCV Religious Instruction Fund* and mail completed form with payment to:

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P.O. Box 606, North Carlton Post Office
Rathdowne St, North Carlton Vic 3054

Your participation supports the giving of the Dhamma to children. The Gift of the Dhamma (Truth) Exceeds All Other Gifts.



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