

Curriculum Review

Love Out Loud Series 1 for Lower Primary

Love Out Loud is a not-for-profit charity established to provide Christian video scripture lessons to children in Australia and New Zealand public schools, and beyond. © 2020 Reviewed September 2023

RI Curricula are referred to by the Department of Education Qld as RI Program Materials

Executive Summary

In 2019, the Multi-Faiths RI Peak Body Network commissioned an independent review of common curriculum materials used by Religious Instructors in Queensland Schools. The focus of the review was to assist Principals to be confident that curriculum materials comply with Department of Education Queensland policy requirements. This report is a review of the Love Out Loud curriculum materials against 15 policy areas of focus. The review purpose and process are outlined in a separate document on the website multifaithsri.org.au.

Outcome:

Love Out Loud is highly compliant with the Queensland Department of Education policy.

There are a total of 33 lessons. Each lesson is a video-based program featuring a host and main character, Adrian who is supported by a puppet character, Reggie, and by some other human and puppet characters. The mode of presentation is highly engaging for lower primary children.

The lessons are organised around the themes from the Bible, commencing with creation. The resources are easy to use. Students are encouraged to think about how to grow in kindness, wisdom, and strength, how to love family, friends and help those in need.

There are some lessons in the online edition where an RI Instructor would need to show consideration.

These aspects of lessons are highlighted in the lesson plan. For example

- a) Lesson 6 focuses on the Power of Jesus by walking on the water. Children will need to be reminded that humans are unable to walk on water.
- b) Lesson 9 introduces the history of Hot Cross Buns. It is important that food is not distributed in class as there is every chance, that a child in the class will have a food allergy to e.g. eggs, milk, or gluten. As per the "Smart choices - healthy food and drink supply strategy for Queensland schools"

A lesson-by-lesson analysis and details about any areas of concern and recommendations are provided in this report to support RI Instructors in complying with Department of Education policy.

Reviewer:

Peter Doyle, Retired Department of Education Principal
September, 2023

Curriculum details

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Love Out Loud

All Love Out Loud lessons are a minimum of 20 minutes in length, with some lessons as long as 30 minutes. Many of the lessons are approximately 25 minutes in length.

There are 33 engaging lessons, with each lesson organised in a similar way.

- Checking the mailbox, where the focus of the lesson is outlined through the letters in the mailbox.
- Song and movement activity.
- Reference to the Bible.
- Song and Movement Activity.
- Bible Story.
- Verbal assessment activity.
- Demonstrated drawing activity.

Each lesson highlights up to 3 values including:

- Authenticity
- Care
- Character
- Faith
- Faith in God
- Hope
- Knowledge
- Trust

In most lessons there is a verbal informal assessment. This assessment activity is led by the puppet character Quiz Monkey. In lesson 2 there are three (3) questions, each requiring a verbal answer. For example, Questions: 1) Who were the first people God created?

In some lessons the RI Instructor is expected to lead the children in prayer, and space is provided during the video, towards the end of the lesson.

Lesson by Lesson Review

- Reviewed as compliant.
- Reviewers noted that while these activities are compliant, RI Instructors would need to take additional care with these activities.
- Reviewers indicated that caution should be exercised and that this lesson or part of the lesson may cause compliance concerns.

- Sections of this lesson were not compliant.
- N/A Not applicable.
- * Updates in new edition have addressed the issues raised.

The codes refer to the Infants manual (i), Lower Primary (LP), and Upper Primary (UP).

Lesson	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		
1. Appropriate age and lesson time																																			
2. Supporting a cooperative arrangement. No leaving of materials																																			
3. No proselytizing or promotion of outside school activities and publications																																			
4. No activities or content that would cause harm to a child (physical, psychological or emotional well-being)																																			
5. Supports and promotes a safe, supportive and disciplined learning environment																																			
6. Responds to diverse learning needs – level and age																																			
7a. A safe physical and cyber learning environment - supports wellbeing																																			
7b. Fosters behavioural strengths																																			
7c. Builds positive relationships (peers, staff, parents, community) and promotes positive social interactions																																			
7d, e. Encourages inclusivity, diversity																																			
8. Safe supportive environment, free from bullying, discrimination, harassment																																			
9. Responsive to school behaviour plan, safe supportive and disciplined learning environment																																			
10. Smart choices - healthy food and drink																																			
11. Consistent with Code of School Behaviour																																			
12. Risk - suggests undertaking an assessment and identifies where risk assessment is needed																																			
13. Promotes responsible care and use of animals																																			
14. Does not include activities using items that may cause allergic reactions																																			
15. Supports effective communication between students, parents, communities that is inclusive and valued																																			

Review Commentary

Strengths

- **The lessons all have suggestions for learning activities that involve students.**
 - a. Activities are suggested for students to engage in craft activities, songs.
 - b. Little writing is required from students in the optional activities. Most responses required are verbal and auditory.
 - c. Some lessons require the RI Instructor to pause the video and initiate a discussion with children. E.g. lesson 10 *The Good Shepard*, the children are asked to discuss the actions they would take if one of their pets wandered away and became lost.
 - d. No food is shared in the lessons.
 - e. No live animals are required in the presentation of lessons. In lesson 25 the children are advised to seek permission and ask the owner of an animal if it may be patted.
 - f. All lessons are planned for an indoor classroom. It is important that RI Instructors liaise with the class teacher, prior to the lesson, as to any arrangements which need to be made to facilitate the lesson.
 - g. Little organisation is required. RI Instructors will need access to the class overhead projector or a smart screen television to project the video. To reduce the possibility of accidents while the children are engaged in movement activities it will be necessary to ensure that the learning space is clear of furniture and teaching resources e.g. blocks, toys, and books. The usual resources that students would have and regularly use in their classrooms such as glue, scissors, pencils, crayons should be freely available.
- **Lessons support students to grow in faith and social skills:** Students are encouraged to think about how to grow in a manner which encumbrances the Christian principles of Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.

Considerations

- **Lesson Handbook.** While a lesson handbook is not provided for RI Instructors it is important that Instructors view the video presentation prior to the lesson and familiarise themselves with the content, and of any additional preparation required e.g. a prayer. An outline of each lesson can be found on the Love Out Loud website.
- **Lesson Space** As lessons involve songs and dance the learning space should be cleared of furniture and be large enough for the children to move about when singing. E.g. (Episode 10 The Good Shephard.)
- **Ability of Students.** In some lessons the children are asked to write an answer. In lesson 25 the children are asked to write or draw a person they would trust. Not all students will have acquired the same level of drawing, reading, speaking and, writing, skills. Instructors need to be aware of this to cater for individual differences and abilities.
- There are some lessons in the online edition where an RI Instructor would need to show consideration. These aspects of lessons are highlighted in the lesson plan. For example
 - a) Lesson 6 focuses on the Power of Jesus by walking on the water. Children will need to be reminded that humans are unable to walk on water.
 - b) Lesson 9 introduces the history of Hot Cross Buns. It is important that food is not distributed in class as there is every chance, that a child in the class will have a food allergy to e.g. eggs, milk, or gluten. As per the "Smart choices - healthy food and drink supply strategy for Queensland schools"

Policy Compliance

The curriculum materials are compliant with the 15 policy areas of focus identified in collaboration with the Department of Education policy advisors, drawn from:

- The Education (General Provisions) Act 2006.

- The Department of Education’s Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment Procedure
- P-12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework
- Student Learning and Wellbeing Framework
- Inclusive Education Policy
- Statement of expectations for a disciplined school environment
- Smart choices - healthy food and drink supply strategy for Queensland schools
- The Code of School Behaviour
- Managing Risks in School Curriculum Activities
- Animal Use in Queensland state schools
- Smart choices - healthy food and drink supply strategy for Queensland schools
- Parent and Community Engagement framework

Overall Comment from the review team:

“Love Out Loud” is an easy and ready-to-use resource. The lessons are appropriate for short lessons with lower primary-school children. The lessons provide opportunities for children to learn about important bible stories through discussions, reflections, and activities.