

Lifebound (Gr R-7) Primary School Curriculum

INTRODUCTION

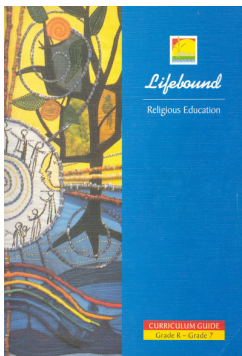
Lifebound responds to the challenges of *Fostering Hope*, the Policy for Religious Education which the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference adopted in August 1997, by embodying the following features that are called for by the policy in its design:

- a full programme of learner- and life-centred lessons
- teacher resources to aid the effective implementation of the programme
- the encouragement of adventurous, creative and stimulating methodology
- suggested activities that are possible to do in rural as well as urban contexts
- a programme in touch with the needs of the local South African Church and with the national curriculum
- a programme which marks the significance of other religious traditions without compromising the Catholic Christian identity of the school
- ideas fostering the practice of evaluation in Religious Education to enable this part of the school curriculum to achieve the respect it deserves
- an acknowledgement of the partnership of parents, teachers and faith communities in Religious Education
- an outward-looking dimension which encourages learners' involvement in their communities in appropriate ways

THE LOGO

Lifebound, suggests a number of meanings. It can mean “on the way to life”, or, more literally, “bound to life”. Both these meanings apply to Religious Education, which aims to point the learner in the direction of life. And in order to do so it must be relevant, and to do with life. The word ‘religion’ itself means re-binding: religion is the means whereby we seek to re-attach ourselves to Life, our source. The idea of ‘binding’ also reflects the need for the seeker or believer to be committed. The central symbol in the logo, the three-eared sheaf of wheat, represents the learner or teacher, developing in the light of Christ, firmly rooted in the soil of God, and drawing sustenance from the waters of the Spirit. The three ears reflect the human person, made in the image of God. It also suggests a rising to life through the cross of suffering.

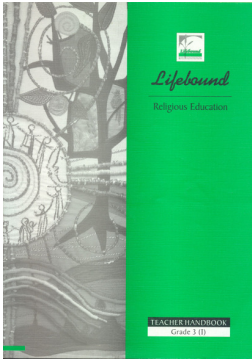
USING THE GUIDE



The *Lifebound Curriculum Guide*, is designed to encourage reflection and discussion and to assist the school and the individual teacher in planning. If the school is to build a wholesome, relevant and solid Religious Education practice, it needs to find ways of developing its practice in communion with all sectors of the school community. Sections of the guide could form useful input at meetings, discussions and workshops that bring teaching staff, parents, pastors, and members of the governing body together.

While *Lifebound* has been developed for the network of Catholic schools in South Africa, it will be useful in public schools as well. Chapter 16 illustrates how the outcomes of this curriculum lend themselves to integration with the 66 specific outcomes in the eight learning areas of Curriculum 2005.

TEACHER HANDBOOKS



Accompanying this guide is a set of Teacher Handbooks for Grade R to Grade 7, each identified by a particular colour. Lessons are worked out in full, and the necessary materials are contained in the handbooks themselves. The handbooks assumes that the teacher has a Bible for his or her own use, and that a photocopier is accessible for reproducing learner worksheets and handouts.

The programmes developed for each Grade assume a minimum of two periods per week over 32 weeks. A total of 64 lessons are therefore developed in the Teacher Handbooks. However a wealth of further ideas are provided with each lesson for the teacher who has more time, or who would like to develop his/her own lesson differently to the way suggested. The Handbooks also contain material for the teacher's own reflection.



A music resource, *Sing for Life*, written in staff notation and tonic solfa is available as a separate resource.