

CENTRAL TO YOUR SCHOOL'S MISSION: THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF STUDENTS



Understand the spiritual beliefs, attitudes and practices of your students and the impact of your school activities on their faith.





Student Spiritual Life Survey

As a faith-based school, the spiritual lives of your students are important.

This survey will help you understand:

- religious or spiritual identity
- spiritual beliefs, experiences and practices
- important role models for faith
- what helps and inhibits faith formation, and
- the role of your school.



Developed by NCLS Research, this survey is based on more than 30 years of experience in world-class research into faith, church life and spirituality.

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As a Christian College we wanted to know whether our programs met the needs of young people and whether we were helping them progress in their Christian walk. We look forward to partnering with NCLS Research to gather important data to inform our next steps in this area which is central to our identity as a Christian school.”

● **Andrew Jones**
Principal, Annandale Christian College

Why a Student Spiritual Life Survey?

The Student Spiritual Life Survey to provide insights into the attitudes and practices of secondary students about spirituality and Christianity and provide an understanding of the role and impact of school activities on faith.

The results of the survey will provide greater understanding to inform the executive leadership, teachers, chaplains and wider school community.

Explore 6 key themes:



Personal wellbeing



Civic action: participation, service and advocacy



Religious or spiritual identity



Spiritual formation: influential people and practices



Spiritual beliefs, experiences and practices



Views of the role of the school

The Survey Project

The Student Spiritual Life Survey is designed to provide an annual snapshot that explores attitudes and practices around spirituality in general, and Christianity in particular. It will be available for secondary school students in 2024, with a possible survey for primary students in the future.

As it is an online survey, each school can choose the best time to run the survey throughout the year.

Findings from the survey will help to:

1.

Measure the faith impact of school programs,

2.

Track cohorts over time throughout their school journey,

3.

Show how different age groups and cohorts respond to a variety of faith education initiatives,

4.

Help to identify activities that support faith formation and inform future activities, and

5.

Assist in planning pastoral care and resources.

Benchmarks and changes over time

Survey reports in 2024 will report the survey responses for individual schools or groups for that year.

In future years reports will be expanded to include changes over time within each school, and where possible, wider benchmarks across groups.

How it works

The project will be led by Dr Ruth Powell, and run by the NCLS Research team.

All questions will be designed by the research team who will add value to the survey and allow for comparison to the spirituality in other groups of Australians where possible.

How the survey works

- An online survey tool.
- Complete within a classroom setting.
- Will take around 10 mins.
- Response are anonymous and confidential.

Support for Coordinators

NCLS Research will:

- Provide a Survey Instructions Kit.
- Provide a school survey code.

The school will :

- Choose the survey period. We recommend a two-week period.
- Promote the survey within the school community.
- Monitor survey completion.

Results Reports and Briefing

Reports

- A whole of school report
- Year Group reports for each school year from Year 7 to Year 12.
- Optional extra reports

Results briefing

A 45 minute results briefing by NCLS Research staff including a 30 minute presentation and 15 minute Q&A session

Investment

\$4,950 per school

Discounts available for small schools and groups of 10+ schools

Interested?

EOI open now, get in touch
schools@ncls.org.au

NCLS Research

NCLS Research is dedicated to research into faith, spirituality and church life and has been conducting world-leading projects to provide insights to denominations and Christian organisations for more than 30 years. Led by Dr Ruth Powell, our research team has decades of experience in the areas of sociology, psychology and religious studies.

Key research projects include:



National Church Life Survey

Held every 5 years, the National Church Life Survey is the largest and longest running survey of local church life in the world. It captures a snapshot of Christian churches in Australia across more than 20 denominations, providing insights into the attitudes and practices of church attenders, the activities of local churches and the wellbeing and effectiveness of church attenders and leaders.

To give a voice to children in church, this project includes the Child Survey for ages 8-14 years.



Australian Community Survey

An annual survey that explores key elements of the Australian spiritual landscape. This survey provides insights into the wider community incorporating feedback from a sample of everyday Australians from varied faith and non-faith backgrounds.



Commissioned research projects

Specialising in the not-for-profit and faith-based sector, the highly skilled research team have delivered a wide range of commissioned research over the years. Styles of research outputs range from academic publications and research reports through to infographics and small research requests.

Clients who have commissioned research include:

- Tearfund Australia
- Bible Society of Australia
- Anglican Church of Australia
- Christian Schools Australia
- Christian SRE
- Australian Baptist Ministries
- National Catholic Education Commission
- Salvation Army
- World Vision



Our longterm investment into understanding the Australian spiritual context and our research experience are the strong foundations to expand our survey offerings to schools, to explore the spiritual lives of students, teachers, families and their communities."

- **Dr Ruth Powell**
Director, NCLS Research
Associate Professor,
Charles Sturt University



As a faith-based school,
the spiritual lives of your
students are *important...*

Developed by NCLS Research, this survey is based on more than **30 years of experience** in world-class research into faith, church life and spirituality.

This survey will help you *understand:*



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Regents Park Christian School is delighted to be working with NCLS Research as part of our Strategic Plan to better know and understand the faith experience of our students and their families. Together we are developing a survey which will help us measure the spiritual life and health of our students. The help and expertise of NCLS Research will ensure we capture relevant, practical and authentic data so that the Christian education we offer at RPCS will respond sensitively not only to the specific faith needs of our community but to the broader cultural issues in our society.”

- **Catherine Bradshaw**
Leader of Christian Development, Regents Park Christian School

Student
Spiritual
Life *Survey*



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