

## 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 societal values and well-being courses by emphasising and practicing the skills of tolerance, co-operation and non-violence. Simple meditation instruction would also be given.
- Everything instructed in classes is based on the teaching of the Buddha, without adhering to one particular tradition or culture.
- As well as learning about the life of the Buddha, lessons are taken from the myths and fables of the *Jataka Tales*. These delightful stories impart moral values through the exploits of animals and other legendary characters and are the base of much Asian literature and culture.
- Following contemporary 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 consented that they be made available.

## Further information

If you are interested in having Buddhist RI at your location or in becoming a volunteer instructor, please contact:

Chair: Carey Rohrlach, Tel: 0438 371 488

Email: [bENGAGED@bcv.org.au](mailto:bENGAGED@bcv.org.au)

You can also go to our website at [www.bcv.org.au/bENGAGED](http://www.bcv.org.au/bENGAGED)

Buddhist Religious Instruction (bENGAGED)  
Buddhist Council of Victoria, Inc  
36 McDowall St, Mitcham VIC 3132



BUDDHIST COUNCIL  
OF VICTORIA, INC  
ABN 13 436 635 535



# DISCOVER BUDDHA

Engaging Buddhist  
Religious Instruction  
In Victoria





“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)

## How does Buddhist Religious Instruction fit in?

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 instruction at school. 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 understandings 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 (BCV) represents many Buddhist organizations within Victoria. It liaises with government to create policy inclusive of all traditions in the Buddhist faith. BCV is recognized by Religions for Peace as the accrediting body for Buddhist religious instructors in Victorian primary schools.

BCV’s bENGAGED steering committee is composed of representatives from different Buddhist traditions and cultures, with multi-discipline expertise.

Volunteer instructors 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 leader, have completed the approved instructor training course for volunteer instructors, 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 Training, through the Buddhist Council of Victoria, offers Buddhist teachings for children whose parents voluntarily choose this option.

*Upon request:* Public speakers, panellists, delegations, presenters and other situations upon request.

## Accreditation and registration

The *Discovering Buddha* Resource Manual and the Instructor training program of the Buddhist Religious Instruction program has been fully approved and accredited by the Department of Education and Training 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 instructor of Religious Instruction (Buddhism) in Victorian Schools.

## Ways to participate

### Requesting Buddhist Religious Instruction classes in schools

Speak to the Principal of the school or contact [bENGAGED@bcv.org.au](mailto:bENGAGED@bcv.org.au).

### Requesting Buddhist Religious Instructor in other locations

Contact [bENGAGED@bcv.org.au](mailto:bENGAGED@bcv.org.au)



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