



A brief presentation of the only school subject on
which students have freedom of choice.
To understand what it is,
to choose consciously.

*Religion is a very real subject: it is the very expression
of a society, and no society exists that does not have
some kind of religion.*

E. Durkheim

iRc

THE TEACHING OF THE CATHOLIC RELIGION

AUTONOME
PROVINZ
BOZEN
SÜDTIROL



PROVINCIA
AUTONOMA
DI BOLZANO
ALTO ADIGE



Realizzazione artistica di Monika Stoffner

THE TEACHING OF THE CATHOLIC RELIGION

Religion is a universal and complex human experience. It consists of practices and beliefs that - in different forms and cultures - men have always used to express their need to find an answer to the utmost questions about existence. The study of religion helps to understand the values of a civilization, its social organization, and its cultural, artistic and political traditions.

A good knowledge of religions, and of Christianity in particular as far as our culture is concerned, provides a chance of better understanding the environment in which we live and of the reality around us

- **What is it?**

It is an opportunity of cultural analysis and free discussion about religion and the big ethical and existential issues. It is a subject offered to all learners – believers and non-believers, Christians and followers of other Faiths - that contributes to the overall development of the person, within the frame of the school's mission.

- **What is it not?**

It is not catechesis, it is not religious indoctrination, and it is not reserved to Catholic students

- **What is it for?**

It is an opportunity to link many school subjects, as many subjects are interrelated with religion: art, history, literature, geography, music, philosophy, etc. It improves the learners' human and social growth. It supports dialogue and coexistence among different cultures, among different spiritual principles and ways of living.

- **What do we do?**

The hour of religion deals mainly with the historical and cultural value of Christianity; it also offers the opportunity to learn and investigate the other great world religions. The participation of students who identify with other religions or other outlooks on life, including non-believers, makes it possible for this hour to become a genuine time for debate and mutual understanding, in respect and dialogue.

The teaching of religion also aims at investigating the meaning and the origin of values that we consider universal, such as tolerance, equality and friendship, and offers a concrete opportunity to practice them.

- **About us**

The religion teacher is a specialist of the subject, and has both didactic and pedagogical competences. He/she owns the cultural tools needed to connect the areas of knowledge that in different ways contribute to the study of religion in its various expressions