



St Columba's School Bayswater

Grow in Faith Seek Wisdom Live in Peace

Curriculum Policy

VISION STATEMENT

St Columba's Primary School aims to foster the total development of each individual, within a loving community, that is totally committed to supporting the Catholic faith, principles and ideals within the framework of the Mercy Values.

Art Lombardi 19 January 2018

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Rationale

Catholic education and care communities recognise Jesus as their ultimate Head. His Gospel will be the basis for a shared outlook on life. The curriculum in a Catholic education and care community is distinctive in the way Gospel values are integrated into all aspects of life (Mandate, 87).

Curriculum is dynamic and includes all the learning experiences, both planned and unplanned. It encompasses the learning environment, teaching methods, the resources, provided by schools and early learning and care centres to facilitate the learning of students and young children, assessment, the school ethos and the ways in which students and young children and staff behave towards one another.

2. Definitions

Curriculum includes all the learning experiences provided for the students and young children, including the planned and unplanned experiences which promote learning and development.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Catholic schools and early learning and care centres in Western Australia.

4. Principles

4.1 The Catholic education curriculum shall help students and young children to discover which values are absolute and deepen their understanding of these values through critical reflection and application (Mandate, 69).

4.2 Religious Education is the first learning area in the Catholic school curriculum.

4.3 A range of fair, valid, educative, explicit and comprehensive assessment processes clearly linking learning, teaching and assessment, shall be used to inform and evaluate the progress of student learning. 4.4 Leaders and educators in Catholic education recognise parents as the first and most influential educators of their children.

4.5 Curriculum delivery shall be characterised by high expectations, engaged learning and focused teaching by all involved in the processes of learning and teaching.

4.6 Catholic schools and early learning and care services shall consider the needs of students and young children as the starting point for all curriculum decisions.

4.7 The curriculum shall be inclusive and flexible to respond to the diverse developmental needs, interests and abilities of individuals.

4.8 The curriculum shall create opportunities for students and young children to learn to critique and respond to change.

4.9 The curriculum shall be informed by evidence-based educational and pedagogical practices.

4.10 Communication, cooperation and partnerships between schools and other education and training stakeholders, where relevant, can help to create a curriculum that caters for the needs of all students and young children.

4.11 The maintenance of standards of educational instruction shall be ensured through the agreement between the State and Commonwealth Ministers for Education and the Executive Director of Catholic Education in Western Australia.

4.12 The curriculum of Catholic schools and early learning and care centres shall fulfil the requirements of all relevant Australian and State Government legislation.

4.13 Catholic schools and early learning and care services shall implement relevant system, state and national documents.

4.14 The curriculum shall be developed to ensure rigorous, relevant and engaging learning programs drawn from a challenging curriculum that addresses individual learning needs.

5. Procedures

5.1 The Religious Education Program, as mandated by the Bishop of the Diocese, shall be implemented with reference to the principles and procedures of the CECWA Religious Education policy.

5.2 Where appropriate, opportunities shall be provided for parents to meaningfully contribute to and support the curriculum.

5.3 The curriculum developed by schools and early learning and care centres shall be consistent with system, State and Australian Government legislation and regulations and curriculum bodies.

5.4 Flexibility in the organisation of learning and teaching shall be demonstrated in order to address the particular developmental needs of students and young children.

5.5 Appropriate support documents shall be used to design and implement a curriculum focused on the individual learning styles and needs of students and young children.

5.6 Appropriate career counselling and subject selection procedures shall be implemented.

5.7 Liaison shall be established with industry, education and relevant community groups to ensure all students and young children are being prepared for the needs of local, national and global contexts.

5.8 Regular communication shall occur between the school, early learning and care services, parents/guardian, students and young children regarding student progress and the curriculum offered by the school and early learning and care centres.

5.9 Data-informed evaluation shall be undertaken to ensure that whole-school and early learning and care centres planning is effective in meeting the learning needs of all students.