



Policy:	Christian Service Learning in Catholic Schools
Sub-Committee:	Curriculum Sub-Committee
Originally Released:	2010
Date for Review:	2019

1. Rationale

One of the key roles of Catholic schools is to form young people committed to the love, compassion and justice of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Catholic schools foster a Christian attitude in society and encourage the development of the kind of world envisaged by Christ (Mandate, 6 and 22).

Christian Service Learning in Catholic schools enables students to grow from a Catholic faith perspective as people of service and justice. The Catholic school challenges students to grow in their understanding that faith is not just a personal response to God's love but a communal response to love one another as Jesus taught in order *'to make the world a better place for all'*, (Mandate, 24).

2. Definitions

Nil.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Catholic schools in Western Australia.

4. Principles

- 4.1 Christian Service Learning provides students with opportunities to meet people with needs.
- 4.2 Christian Service Learning challenges students in developmentally appropriate ways to think and act in ways that reflect values that are consistent with the Gospel.
- 4.3 Catholic schools support and challenge students to explore Catholic teaching on social justice including the common good and reflect on why they serve as part of an integrated and articulated school plan which actively seeks to promote justice.
- 4.4 Christian Service Learning provides students with the experience of service as a way of learning and living that permeates all aspects of life rather than an activity that is isolated from the rest of their lives.
- 4.5 Students understand the principles of Catholic social teaching and apply them to their own Christian Service Learning experiences.
- 4.6 Students develop a deep understanding of the meaning, practice and value of service from a Catholic Christian faith perspective.
- 4.7 Preparation and reflection are essential elements in Christian Service Learning.

- 4.8 Christian Service Learning is embedded in the curriculum of each Catholic school and is flexible enough to be conducted in or out of school time, both on or off school premises.

5. Procedures

- 5.1 Catholic schools shall establish developmentally appropriate Christian Service Learning programs.
- 5.2 The delivery and structure of Christian Service Learning shall be diverse in order to cater for the differing needs and interests of school communities.
- 5.3 Catholic schools shall provide structured opportunities for students to reflect critically on their service experience.
- 5.4 Catholic schools shall follow the Christian Service Learning Framework for Catholic Schools when planning and delivering Christian Service Learning in schools.
- 5.5 Each school shall implement the Christian Service Learning Framework for Catholic Schools in a manner consistent with its own charism, culture and mission.

6. References

Bishops of Western Australia, *Mandate for the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia 2009 - 2015*

7. Related Documents

Christian Service Learning Framework for Catholic Schools

Vatican City, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1994

Congregation for the Clergy, *The General Directory for Catechesis*, 1997

Congregation for Catholic Education:

- *The Catholic School*, 1977
- *The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School*, 1998
- *The Catholic School in the Third Millennium*, 1997

8. Review History

Year of Review:	Reviewed by:	Amendments/Review
2010	RECC	Originally Released
2010	CEOWA	Reformatted
2014	RECC	Reviewed
2017	CEWA Policy Group	Reformatted

9. Next Review

Year:	Sub-Committee Responsible:
2019	Curriculum Sub-Committee