



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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| Policy: | Justice Education |
| Sub-Committee: | Curriculum Sub-Committee |
| Originally Released: | 1994 |
| Date for Review: | 2018 |

1. Rationale

Catholic schools foster everything good and unifying in society from the perspective of the Gospel. They promote the development of a society which reflects the love and goodness of God, where peace and reconciliation grow along with justice, compassion, mercy and a special commitment to the poor.

In Catholic education it is recognised that all people are created with the same nature and origin and enjoy equal dignity to develop, make amends, reconcile, restore relationships and be welcomed back with love, acceptance, forgiveness and support.

Catholic education is committed to integrating Gospel truths, virtues and values in appropriate ways into all relationships and learning. Members of Catholic school communities promote a Gospel vision of society in order to critique social attitudes and values, practices and trends in social, commercial, political and legal structures (Mandate, 14).

All those involved in Catholic education are called to be the *'face of Christ'* within their communities, especially to the most challenging and disengaged learner. Catholic schools give witness to the importance of offering opportunities for all their members to aspire to and achieve the highest goals. Catholic education is immersed in the Gospel of Jesus and filled with his Spirit, values everyone equally.

2. Definitions

Nil.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Catholic schools in Western Australia.

4. Principles

- 4.1 Catholic schools value human diversity which is demonstrated by practical responses to diverse learning needs and abilities.
- 4.2 Catholic schools promote the development of people of Christian conscience, committed to serving God by serving others and working to make the world a better place for all.
- 4.3 The ethos, policies, curriculum, interactions and protocols of Catholic schools emphasise the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the individual.
- 4.4 Catholic schools promote justice to all, especially those who are culturally, socially, physically, intellectually, financially, emotionally or spiritually disadvantaged.

- 4.5 Catholic school communities promote the Christian belief that the rights and needs of others must always be respected and that individual rights must be balanced with the wider common good.
- 4.6 Members of school communities are concerned with caring for the environment and preserving the necessities of life for future generations.
- 4.7 Catholic schools work in partnership with families and the wider community to provide what students need to realise their potential.
- 4.8 Catholic schools promote the right of consultation and decision-making at appropriate levels of authority.
- 4.9 Resources shall be shared equitably. All students shall have access to the same opportunities and outcomes in so far as resources permit.
- 4.10 Members of school communities shall have access to all the resources and support they need to participate in decisions which affect their own development and those of their community.

5. Procedures

- 5.1 Processes shall be established for ongoing evaluation and renewal of all aspects of school life to ensure they reflect Gospel values, particularly in respect to social justice.
- 5.2 Staff in Catholic schools shall undertake the necessary formation in order to deepen their understanding and commitment to the Catholic vision of living out the Gospel and the mission of the Church to transform society.
- 5.3 Strategies and programs shall be established to help members of the school community demonstrate commitment to Jesus Christ in the service of others.
- 5.4 The curricula developed by schools shall integrate Catholic social teaching into all areas of learning.
- 5.5 Gospel values shall be embedded in the curriculum in educationally appropriate ways to enable students to discover and integrate these values into their lives.
- 5.6 Opportunities shall be provided to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to discern the signs of the times, particularly with respect to issues of social justice.
- 5.7 The school shall provide opportunities for school community members to learn how to critique social attitudes, values, practices and trends as well as influential political, legal, commercial and other structures in light of Catholic social teaching.
- 5.8 Curriculum decisions shall challenge students to develop a sense of God's original justice in order to transform the world by developing a sense of active social responsibility.
- 5.9 As a prophetic community, Catholic schools shall model to students the value and purpose of Christian commitment to social justice.
- 5.10 Decision making processes at all levels in Catholic education shall give witness to the Gospel spirit of simplicity and poverty, while providing what is necessary for an effective education.

6. References

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

7. Related Documents

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

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

Congregation for Catholic Education:

- *Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith*, 1982
- *The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School*, 1988
- *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium*, 1997

8. Review History

| Year of Review: | Reviewed by: | Amendments/Review |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1994 | RECC | Originally Released |
| 2003 | RECC | Reviewed |
| 2008 | RECC | Reviewed |
| 2010 | CEOWA | Reformatted |
| 2013 | RECC | Reviewed |
| 2017 | CEWA Policy Group | Reformatted |

9. Next Review

| Year: | Sub-Committee Responsible: |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 2018 | Curriculum Sub-Committee |