

POLICY ON THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Archdiocese of Perth, Western Australia



PREAMBLE

Following extensive consultation among clergy and educators, the following Policy has now been drawn up and is hereby promulgated as the official policy for the Archdiocese of Perth for the Confirmation of minors. (Code of Canon Law No 97).

POLICY

1. Parents have the obligation and right to present their children for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
2. As Confirmation normally takes place in the parish, parents are urged to cooperate with the Parish-based preparation. Canon Law requires the parish priest to ensure "an adequate catechesis is given for the celebration of the sacraments" (Code of Canon Law No 777)

In order to ensure that the preparation of Confirmation is to truly bear fruit into the future, the parish priest will call parents, school and catechists to work harmoniously together.
3. Preparation for school aged children is therefore to be PARISH BASED, FAMILY FOCUSSED and SCHOOL SUPPORTED.
4. Confirmation is generally to be offered in the last year of Primary School, whether Year 7 or Year 6.
5. In cases where Year 7 has been transferred to the secondary school level, Confirmation is still to be offered to students in Year 7 at the secondary school if they were for some reason, not confirmed in Year 6 in the primary school. The mandated RE materials for Catholic Schools and Parish Catechists for Confirmation are suitable for Year 6 or for Year 7.
6. It is strongly recommended, wherever possible, that the parish form a Sacramental Team representative of parish clergy, Catholic school RE teachers, parish catechists and parents, under a Parish Sacramental Coordinator. This Team will ensure that all concerned will work together in regard to the teaching of candidates, the involvement of parents and sponsors and the preparation of the Confirmation Liturgy.
7. It is important that Confirmation is celebrated in the Parish Church. Exceptions for valid reasons will be considered by the Ordinary.
8. The Liturgical Guidelines of Confirmation contained in the publication of the Perth Centre for Liturgy "Celebrating the Gift of the Spirit" are to be followed.
9. Adults may be prepared and included in Parish Confirmations or referred to the periodical adult confirmation celebrated at the Cathedral/Pro-Cathedral.
10. This Policy does not address the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) nor the question of the Order of the Sacraments of Initiation. The current practice is to be followed while these issues are studied further.

Most Rev B J Hickey
Archbishop of Perth

