



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Topic:	Christian Service Learning in Catholic Schools
Policy No:	2-A2
Policy Area:	Catholic Identity
Standing Committee:	Religious Education and Curriculum Committee
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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 para 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, para 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

Catechism of the Catholic Church (Vatican City 1994)

The General Directory for Catechesis (Congregation for the Clergy 1997)

The Catholic School (Congregation for Catholic Education 1977)

The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School (Congregation for Catholic Education 1988)

The Catholic School in the Third Millennium (Congregation for Catholic Education 1997)

8. Review History

Year of Review:	Reviewed by:	Amendments/Review
2010	RECC	Originally Released
2010	CEOWA	Reformatted
2014	RECC	Reviewed

9. Next Review

Year:	Standing Committee Responsible
2014	Religious Education and Curriculum Committee