



**CATHOLIC EDUCATION**  
COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Topic:	<b>Change of Operation in Catholic Schools</b>
Policy No:	<b>2-C2</b>
Policy Area:	<b>Stewardship</b>
Standing Committee:	<b>School Resources Committee</b>
Originally Released:	<b>2008</b>
Date for Review:	<b>2018</b>

## 1. Rationale

To fulfil their Gospel mandate, Catholic schools need to be open to all parents who seek a Catholic education for their children, as far as resources allow. (Mandate, para 6).

The Province of Bishops of Western Australia and Major Superiors agreed in 1972 that for the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) to be in a position to discharge its responsibilities, 'all proposals affecting extension or reduction or major change of schools are to be referred to the CECWA for consideration before any final decision is implemented.'

This was reaffirmed in the Mandate requiring the CECWA to ensure that any proposals to expand reduce or make major changes to Catholic school communities are referred to the CECWA in good time, to ensure adequate consultation can take place before decisions are made (Mandate Terms of Reference, para 1:14).

## 2. Definitions

Nil

## 3. Scope

This policy applies to all Catholic schools and Early Learning Centres in Western Australia.

## 4. Principles

- 4.1 In the spirit of co responsibility, all sections of the school community have an obligation to consider the needs of others as well as their own in implementing change.
- 4.2 The maintenance and extension of a coordinated and effective Catholic school system requires:
  - the recognition by all members of Catholic school communities of the interdependence of all diocesan and Order accountable Catholic schools in Western Australia
  - the best use of resources available to Catholic education
- 4.3 The CECWA has the responsibility, after appropriate consultation with Religious Orders, parishes and school communities, to make recommendation to the Diocesan Bishop.

- 4.4 Any changes to student enrolment patterns with permanent effect or capital infrastructure require planning and a CECWA approved Capital Development Plan.
- 4.5 Short term or one off extensions typically will not require the building of additional capital facilities.

## 5. Procedures

- 5.1 In all cases, neighbouring schools likely to be impacted by a change of operation to a school will be consulted prior to a decision being made.
- 5.2 Where the Diocesan Bishop, school communities or Religious Orders and/or their governing bodies or the Catholic Education Office propose:
- to open, amalgamate or close schools, including boarding accommodation
  - to change pupil enrolment policies; e.g. change which would affect the Catholicity of a school
  - to make permanent changes to the structure of a school's enrolment e.g. changing from single gender to co-education or from single stream to double stream
  - to undertake a building program

then the proponents shall work with the relevant staff of the Catholic Education Office to develop a submission for the consideration of the CECWA.

- 5.3 Where school communities or Religious Orders and/or their governing bodies or the Catholic Education Office propose:
- to make short term changes to the structure of a school environment e.g. short term "bubble" or one off extensions to enrolments
  - in the case of diocesan accountable schools, to purchase property (land/buildings)

then the proponents shall work with the relevant staff of the Catholic Education Office for a decision.

- 5.4 If the consultation for an item at 5.3 results in an unresolved diversity of opinion then the proposal shall be forwarded to CECWA or their delegated authority for decision.
- 5.5 CECWA may request an item at 5.3 to be presented for CECWA's decision if the circumstances necessitate it.

## 6. References

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

## 7. Related Documents

Nil

## 8. Review History

Year of Review:	Reviewed by:	Amendments/Review
1976	SPC	Originally Released
1998	SPC	Reviewed/Renamed

2003	SPC	Reviewed
2008	SPC	Reviewed
2013	CEOWA	Reformatted
2013	SRC	Reviewed

## 9. Next Review

Year:	CEOWA Standing Committee Responsible
2018	School Resources Committee