

QUALITY CATHOLIC EDUCATION

OUR VISION *Catholic Education Western Australia is a Christ-centred and child-focused community of engaged learning environments, inspiring all to actively live the Gospel*



1. CATHOLIC IDENTITY

1.1 Catholic Identity is the lived expression of our Vision and Mission

We commit to:

- a the Catholic Church's objectives for Catholic schools;
- b the integration of faith, life and culture;
- c our Catholic education principles permeating all elements of QCE;
- d providing abundant and meaningful opportunities for catechesis through the Word, worship, prayer, retreats, service and community;
- e recognising, celebrating and leveraging the contributions of the laity and religious orders and their charisms in witnessing to the mission of Catholic Education and its faith story; and
- f displaying meaningful and distinctly Catholic icons and symbols which are visible in both internal and external environments.

1.2 Decision-making and Collaboration

We ensure that:

- a language, discourse and relationships reflect the Catholic social teaching principles of subsidiarity, co-responsibility, common good, participation and equity; and
- b our decisions are Christ-centred, transparent, evidence-based and place the child as the focus.



2. EDUCATION

2.1 Curriculum Inspired by the Principles of Catholic Education

We seek to ensure that the curriculum, delivered through all learning areas, practises effective, contemporary pedagogy and inspires students to become committed to service of the common good and contribute as Christians to society today.

2.2 Religious Education

We commit to provide every student with high quality Religious Education. This requires active promotion and appropriate resourcing of Religious Education as the first learning area in every Catholic school, implementing the program promulgated by the Diocesan Bishop.

2.3 Catholic Vision for Learning

In seeking to develop the whole Christian person, we commit to implementing a Catholic vision for learning, ensuring that along with learning academic skills, young people will be able to collaborate, innovate, create, appreciate, and think critically in order to positively influence as Christians the rapidly changing world.

Our schools are educational communities of excellence in which the culture, pedagogies and practices:

- a foster Christ-like healthy and respectful relationships between students and staff members, enabling all to learn and grow in the image of God;
- b encourage and facilitate student engagement;
- c empower each student to achieve his/her God-given potential through the provision of quality learning experiences;
- d utilise a wide instructional range that reflects contemporary pedagogies that engage, challenge and progress student learning; and
- e ensure all aspects of the learning environment scaffold and accelerate each student's learning.



3. COMMUNITY

3.1 Catholic Pastoral Communities

We commit to Christ-like relationships that accompany students with their development within our school communities including through the following:

- a **Dignity of the Human Person:** through our inclusive practices, we welcome and celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of each person formed in the image of God.
- b **Child-Safety:** we ensure the safety of students is our highest priority and that the voice of each child is heard in all of our undertakings.
- c **Pastoral Care:** we take proactive steps to provide for the pastoral needs of our students and staff. With Christ as our foundation, holistically we place the spiritual, physical and mental wellbeing of each person as a priority.
- d **Transforming Lives:** we recognise Aboriginal people as the custodians of the land and as a priority, commit to providing educational opportunities to Aboriginal children to enable them to reach their full potential with a strong sense of identity and agency. We demonstrate respect for Aboriginal culture and traditions.
- e **Code of Conduct:** we require all members of our school and office communities, staff, religious, clergy, students, parents, caregivers and volunteers to adhere to the CEWA Code of Conduct.

3.2 Parents and Caregivers

We partner with and support parents and caregivers as the first educators of their children.

3.3 Partnerships and Engagement

- a We partner with parishes and their Christian faith communities especially with regard to the celebration of the sacraments.
- b We engage and partner with other Church and community organisations, including other educational providers.



4. STEWARDSHIP

We commit to stewardship as a fundamental dimension of Christianity that implements the social teaching of the Catholic Church.

4.1 Staff

We acknowledge that our staff are our most important and valued resource. We:

- a wherever possible, seek to recruit and appoint practising Catholics to employment positions;
- b provide staff with opportunities to witness their faith, and engage with faith formation, professional learning and development;
- c care for our staff through the provision of quality human resource practices which reflect Catholic social teaching; and
- d advocate for and promote contemporary leadership that reflects Christian service following the principles of participation and subsidiarity.

4.2 Natural Environment

We commit to fulfilling and promoting Christian responsibility for care of the Earth as our common home.

4.3 Finance, Infrastructure and Compliance

We ensure that all Catholic schools and offices:

- a are appropriately resourced, financially sustainable, accessible and affordable, especially for the marginalised and disadvantaged;
- b are constructed and maintained in a manner which gives witness to and reflects genuine Christian simplicity and the spirit of Gospel poverty;
- c operate in a future-focused and strategic manner that embraces good governance and full compliance with regulatory requirements; and
- d commit to procurement practices which reflect Catholic social teaching.

REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT

We use data-rich and evidence-based processes to ensure improvement across our four pillars with the aim of achieving CECWA's Vision and the delivery of its Strategic Directions.

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