



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Topic:	Curriculum
Policy No:	2-B2
Policy Area:	Education
Standing Committee:	Religious Education and Curriculum Committee
Originally Released:	1992
Date for Review:	2018

1. Rationale

Catholic education and care communities recognise Jesus as their ultimate Head. His Gospel will be the basis for a shared outlook on life. The curriculum in a Catholic education and care community is distinctive in the way Gospel values are integrated into all aspects of life (Mandate, para 87).

Curriculum is dynamic and includes all the learning experiences, both planned and unplanned. It encompasses the learning environment, teaching methods, the resources, provided by schools and early learning and care centres to facilitate the learning of students and young children, assessment, the school ethos and the ways in which students and young children and staff behave towards one another.

2. Definitions

Curriculum includes all the learning experiences provided for the students and young children, including the planned and unplanned experiences which promote learning and development.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Catholic schools and early learning and care centres in Western Australia.

4. Principles

- 4.1 The Catholic education curriculum shall help students and young children to discover which values are absolute and deepen their understanding of these values through critical reflection and application (Mandate, para 69).
- 4.2 Religious Education is the first learning area in the Catholic school curriculum.
- 4.3 A range of fair, valid, educative, explicit and comprehensive assessment processes clearly linking learning, teaching and assessment, shall be used to inform and evaluate the progress of student learning.
- 4.4 Leaders and educators in Catholic education recognise parents as the first and most influential educators of their children.

- 4.5 Curriculum delivery shall be characterised by high expectations, engaged learning and focused teaching by all involved in the processes of learning and teaching.
- 4.6 Catholic schools and early learning and care services shall consider the needs of students and young children as the starting point for all curriculum decisions.
- 4.7 The curriculum shall be inclusive and flexible to respond to the diverse developmental needs, interests and abilities of individuals.
- 4.8 The curriculum shall create opportunities for students and young children to learn to critique and respond to change.
- 4.9 The curriculum shall be informed by evidence-based educational and pedagogical practices.
- 4.10 Communication, cooperation and partnerships between schools and other education and training stakeholders, where relevant, can help to create a curriculum that caters for the needs of all students and young children.
- 4.11 The maintenance of standards of educational instruction shall be ensured through the agreement between the State and Commonwealth Ministers for Education and the Executive Director of Catholic Education in Western Australia.
- 4.12 The curriculum of Catholic schools and early learning and care centres shall fulfil the requirements of all relevant Australian and State Government legislation.
- 4.13 Catholic schools and early learning and care services shall implement relevant system, state and national documents.
- 4.14 Student programs for Years 11 and 12 shall comprise Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) courses and/or, vocational education and training (VET) and/or endorsed programs.
- 4.15 The curriculum shall be developed to ensure rigorous, relevant and engaging learning programs drawn from a challenging curriculum that addresses individual learning needs.

5. Procedure

- 5.1 The Religious Education Program as mandated by the Bishop of the Diocese shall be implemented with reference to the principles and procedures of the CECWA policy statement 2-B5 Religious Education.
- 5.2 Where appropriate, opportunities shall be provided for parents to meaningfully contribute to and support the curriculum.
- 5.3 The curriculum developed by schools and early learning and care centres shall be consistent with system, State and Australian Government legislation and regulations and curriculum bodies.
- 5.4 Flexibility in the organisation of learning and teaching shall be demonstrated in order to address the particular developmental needs of students and young children.
- 5.5 Appropriate support documents shall be used to design and implement a curriculum focused on the individual learning styles and needs of students and young children.
- 5.6 Appropriate career counselling and subject selection procedures shall be implemented.
- 5.7 Liaison shall be established with industry, education and relevant community groups to ensure all students and young children are being prepared for the needs of local, national and global contexts.
- 5.9 Regular communication shall occur between the school, early learning and care services, parents/guardian, students and young children regarding student progress and the curriculum offered by the school and early learning and care centres.
- 5.10 Data-informed evaluation shall be undertaken to ensure that whole-school and early learning and care centres planning is effective in meeting the learning needs of all students' and young children.

6. References

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

Department of Education Services Western Australia, *Non-Government Schools in Western Australia Registration Standards*, 2013

Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority, *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline from Kindergarten to Year 10*, 2013

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*, (2009).

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, *My Time. Our Place: The framework for School Age Care*, 2011

School Curriculum and Standards Authority, *The Western Australian Certificate of Education*, Western Australia, 2013

7. Related Documents

CECWA policy statement 2-C11 Justice Education

CECWA policy statement 2-C1 Aboriginal Education

CECWA policy statement 2-C4 Early Childhood Education

CECWA policy statement 2-A5 Religious Education

CECWA policy statement 2-B1 Accreditation

8. Review History

Year of Review:	Reviewed by:	Amendments/Review
1992	RECC	Originally Released
1994	RECC	Reviewed
1999	RECC	Reviewed
2003	RECC	Reviewed
2008	RECC	Reviewed
2010	CEOWA	Reformatted
2013	RECC	Reviewed

9. Next Review

Year:	CEOWA Standing Committee Responsible
2018	Religious Education and Curriculum Committee