



Good Shepherd Catholic School

— Lockridge —

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CURRICULUM POLICY

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.

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.

Principles

1. Good Shepherds 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).
2. Religious Education is the first learning area in our school curriculum.
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. Leaders and educators at Good Shepherd recognise parents as the first and most influential educators of their children.
5. Curriculum delivery shall be characterised by high expectations, engaged learning and focused teaching by all involved in the processes of learning and teaching.
6. Good Shepherd shall consider the needs of students and young children as the starting point for all curriculum decisions.
7. The curriculum shall be inclusive and flexible to respond to the diverse developmental needs, interests and abilities of individuals.
8. The curriculum shall create opportunities for students and young children to learn to critique and respond to change.
9. The curriculum shall be informed by evidence-based educational and pedagogical practices.
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.
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.
12. The curriculum of Good Shepherd shall fulfil the requirements of all relevant Australian and State Government legislation.

13. Good Shepherd shall implement relevant system, state and national documents.
14. The curriculum shall be developed to ensure rigorous, relevant and engaging learning programs drawn from a challenging curriculum that addresses individual learning needs.

Procedures

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.
2. Where appropriate, opportunities shall be provided for parents to meaningfully contribute to and support the curriculum.
3. The curriculum developed by Good Shepherd shall be consistent with system, State and Australian Government legislation and regulations and curriculum bodies.
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. 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.
6. Appropriate subject selection procedures shall be implemented.
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.
8. Regular communication shall occur between the school, parents/guardian, students and young children regarding student progress and the curriculum offered by the school.
9. 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.
10. As per CEWA compliance the school will forward a copy of the School Curriculum Plan to the CEO before the start of each new school year.

For further information on the Curriculum at Good Shepherd refer to the following documents:

- Good Shepherd Curriculum Plan
- Good Shepherd Reporting Schedule