

	Topic:	Christian Service Learning in Catholic Schools
	Policy No:	2-A2
	Policy Area:	Catholic Identity
	Standing Committee:	Religious Education and Curriculum Committee
	Date Promulgated:	2008
	Date for Review:	2020

Originally Released: 2008
Reformatted: 2010
Reviewed: 2016

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 paragraph 6, 22).¹

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 paragraph 24).

PRINCIPLES

1. Christian Service Learning provides students with opportunities to acquire the knowledge and understandings of love, compassion, justice and service as articulated in the Gospels and to apply their knowledge and skills to real situations in society.
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.
3. Catholic schools support and challenge students to explore and reflect on justice issues as part of an integrated and articulated school plan which actively seeks to promote justice and has a commitment to the common good.
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.

5. Students understand the principles of Catholic social teaching and apply them to their own Christian Service Learning experiences.
6. Students develop a deep understanding of the meaning, practice and value of 'service' from a Catholic Christian faith perspective.
7. Preparation and reflection are essential elements in Christian Service Learning.

PROCEDURES

1. Christian Service Learning programs at St Mary's School shall be developmentally appropriate.
2. The delivery and structure of Christian Service Learning at St Mary's School shall be diverse in order to cater for the differing needs and interests of the school community.
3. Students at St Mary's School shall be provided with structured opportunities to reflect critically on their service experience.
4. St Mary's School will follow the Christian Service Learning Framework for Catholic schools when planning and delivering Christian Service Learning in schools.
5. St Mary's School will implement the Christian Service Learning Framework for Catholic Schools in a manner consistent with the Presentation charism, culture and mission.
6. Masses, Liturgies and Prayer Services are a conduit in educating children to the principles of Christian Service.
7. St Mary's School will celebrate and remember the events of Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and Australia Day, sending students as representatives of our school to local celebrations, where appropriate and possible. School based celebrations may consist of Masses, Liturgies, Prayer Services, classed based activities.
8. St Mary's School Community will provide pastoral care for community members who require help with personal or family trauma.
9. St Mary's School will fundraise, learn about and pray for Caritas Australia and its global justice programs through Project Compassion and World Mission Month.
10. St Mary's School will fundraise, learn about and pray for all involved in Communio, an initiative of Bishop Justin Bianchini for schools in the Diocese of Geraldton.
11. Students in Year 5/6 will take part in Meals on Wheels, in the Northampton Community on a rostered basis.
12. Students to visit the 'Never Too Old' Group at least once a term to perform a song, play games, socialise, share in afternoon tea etc
13. St Mary's School Community donates food items to the local Northampton charity group or St Vincent de Paul for Christmas food hampers.

14. Students in Year 3/4 participate in annual tree planting within the local community, assisting the Northampton Environmental Group.