Curriculum Policy
Our Lady of Mount Carmel 2-B2 EDUCATION

1. Rationale

Curriculum is dynamic and includes all the learning experiences provided for the student. It encompasses the learning environment, teaching methods, the resources, the planned experiences provided by schools to facilitate students’ learning, the systems of assessment, the school ethos and the ways in which students and staff behave towards one another.¹

Catholic school communities recognise Jesus as their ultimate Head. His gospel will be the basis for the school’s shared outlook on life. The curriculum in a Catholic School is distinctive in the way Gospel values are integrated into all aspects of school life (Mandate letter, 45, 67).²

2. Definitions

Nil

3. Principles

4.1 The Catholic School curriculum shall help students to discover which values are absolute and deepen their understanding of these values through critical reflection and application (Mandate letter, 49).

4.2 Parents are the prime educators of their children and where appropriate, opportunities shall be provided for them to contribute to the school curriculum.

4.3 Curriculum delivery shall be characterised by high expectations, engaged learning and focused teaching by all involved in the processes of learning and teaching.

4.4 Catholic schools shall take students and their needs as the starting point for all curriculum decisions.

4.5 The curriculum shall be inclusive and flexible to respond to the particular developmental needs, interests and abilities of individuals.

4.6 The curriculum shall create opportunities for students to critique and respond to change.

4.7 The curriculum shall be informed by evidence-based educational and pedagogical practices.
4.8 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.

4.9 The maintenance of standards of educational instruction shall be ensured through the enactment of the System Agreement with the Minister for Education.

4.10 The curriculum of Catholic schools shall fulfil the requirements of all relevant Australian and State Government legislation.

5. Procedure

5.1 The Religious Education Program as mandated by the Bishop of the Diocese shall be implemented.

5.2 The curriculum developed by schools shall be consistent with the Curriculum Framework, the senior secondary courses and policy directions in Vocational Education and Training.

5.3 Particular attention shall be given to transition periods to ensure that students’ learning is on-going and sequential.

5.4 Flexibility in the organisation of learning and teaching shall be demonstrated in order to address the particular developmental needs of students.

5.5 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.

5.6 Appropriate support documents shall be used to design and implement a curriculum focused on the individual learning styles and needs of all students.

5.7 Appropriate career counselling and subject selection procedures shall be developed.

5.8 Liaison shall be established with industry, education and relevant community groups to ensure all students are being prepared for the needs of local, national and global contexts, especially in senior secondary education.

5.9 Regular communication shall occur between the school, parents/guardians and students regarding student progress and the curriculum offered by the school.

5.10 Data-informed evaluation shall be undertaken to ensure that whole-school planning is effective in meeting all students’ learning needs.
6. References

¹Curriculum Framework for Kindergarten to Year 12 Education in Western Australia page 16
²Mandate Letter, Terms of Reference and Membership of the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia 2001 – 2007, 45, 49, 67

7. Related Documents

Justice Education (2-C11)
Aboriginal Education (2-C1)
Early Childhood Education (2-C4)
Religious Education (2-A5)
Accreditation (2B-1)
Curriculum Framework Mandate

Reviewed: 2008  Due for review: 2013