



CHRISTIAN SERVICE LEARNING POLICY

First Written	2019
Due for Review	2022

1. 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 para 6 and 22).

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, para 24).

2. PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 Christian Service Learning provides students with opportunities to meet people with needs.
- 2.2 Christian Service Learning challenges students in developmentally appropriate ways to think and act in ways that reflect values that are consistent with the Gospel.
- 2.3 Catholic schools support and challenge students to explore Catholic teaching on social justice including the common good and reflect on why they serve as part of an integrated and articulated school plan which actively seeks to promote justice.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 Students understand the principles of Catholic social teaching and apply them to their own Christian Service Learning experiences.
- 2.6 Students develop a deep understanding of the meaning, practice and value of 'service' from a Catholic Christian faith perspective.
- 2.7 Preparation and reflection are essential elements in Christian Service Learning.
- 2.8 Christian Service Learning is embedded in the curriculum of our school and is flexible enough to be conducted in or out of school time, both on or off school premises.

3. PROCEDURES

- 3.1 Students of Saint Joseph's are encouraged to consider our school's own unique charism, culture and mission and how this calls them to serve others.
- 3.2 Christian Service is not only a key element of the Religious Education curriculum in each class, but is also addressed frequently and organically in other area of school life.
- 3.3 Students are encouraged to be discerning and critical in identifying authentic needs to serve, with a preference for the local community.
- 3.4 Each class plans and implements at least one major Christian Service project each year.
- 3.5 With teacher guidance, students reflect on their Christian Service project upon completion, to identify what has been learnt through the process.

4. REFERENCES

Bishops of Western Australia, Mandate for the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia 2009 - 2015

5. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Christian Service Learning Framework for Catholic Schools

