



BUNBURY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

CHRISTIAN SERVICE LEARNING POLICY

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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, 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, 24).

DEFINITIONS

Christian Service Learning is practical acts of faith in action. Formally and informally recognised by Bunbury Catholic College and based on the Gospel values handed on by the Catholic Church being put into action through service to others in need.

The concept of 'Christian' means that the Gospel informs the service learning.

The term 'Service' means students undertake actions for the benefit of individuals and/or community groups for no financial reward.

'Learning' occurs through participation and relating to others. As students experience different service activities, they are exposed to new experiences and ways of thinking. These lessons, and reflecting on them, make up the learning component of the Christian Service Learning program.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Catholic schools in Western Australia.

PRINCIPLES

- Christian Service Learning provides students with opportunities to meet people with needs.
- Christian Service Learning challenges students in developmentally appropriate ways to think and act in ways that reflect values that are consistent with the Gospel.

- Bunbury Catholic College supports and challenges 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.
- 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.
- Students understand the principles of Catholic social teaching and apply them to their own Christian Service Learning experiences.
- Students develop a deep understanding of the meaning, practice and value of service from a Catholic Christian faith perspective.
- Preparation and reflection are essential elements in Christian Service Learning.
- Christian Service Learning is embedded in the curriculum at Bunbury Catholic College and is flexible enough to be conducted in or out of school time, both on or off school premises.

PROCEDURES

- Bunbury Catholic College establishes developmentally appropriate Christian Service Learning programs.
- The delivery and structure of Christian Service Learning is diverse in order to cater for the differing needs and interests of students at our College.
- Bunbury Catholic College provides structured opportunities for students to reflect critically on their service experience within the Religious Education classroom and in their Christian Service Journals.
- Bunbury Catholic College follows the Christian Service Learning Framework for Catholic Schools from CEWA when planning and delivering Christian Service Learning programs and initiatives.
- Bunbury Catholic College implements the Christian Service Learning Framework for Catholic Schools from CEWA in a manner consistent with our own charism, culture and mission - both Marist and Mercy traditions.
- The Christian Service Learning programs are incorporated within the Bunbury Catholic College Evangelisation Plan.
- The Bunbury Catholic College Community will be encouraged to actively participate, plan and organise 'service projects'.
- The Bunbury Catholic College Community will undertake Christian Service Learning programs that will benefit the home, College, Parish and wider community.
- Year 7 students at Bunbury Catholic College engage in Christian Service Learning at home. The emphasis is on serving their own families and valuing them for the service they provide for them.
- Year 8 students at Bunbury Catholic College engage in both home-based and community service as part of their Christian Service Learning.
- Year 9 to 12 students at Bunbury Catholic College engage solely in community based service as part of their Christian Service Learning.

- Bunbury Catholic College offers school based Christian Service Learning initiatives for each year group.
- Bunbury Catholic College provides opportunities for students to engage in Mission work as Christian Service Learning (overseas and Local).

REFERENCES

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

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Christian Service Learning Framework for Catholic Schools Vatican City, Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1994 Congregation for the Clergy, The General Directory for Catechesis, 1997 Congregation for Catholic Education: • The Catholic School, 1977 • The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School, 1998 • The Catholic School in the Third Millennium, 1997