



CURRICULUM POLICY

CONTEXT

Sacred Heart College is a Catholic school in the Marist tradition, which promotes the spiritual, intellectual, physical and social development of each member of the school community. It aims, in co-operation with parents, to engage students in an educational experience within the context of a Christian community which is fulfilling and rewarding.

Sacred Heart College exists within the context of Catholic Education in Australia, and as such works in partnership with the Church, as well as parents, caregivers and students. In conjunction with the curriculum policies of Catholic Education in South Australia, Sacred Heart recognises its responsibility to conduct and develop curriculum responsive to the needs and realities of:

- Local Community
- Global Community
- Social and Cultural Diversity
- Change
- The Broad Educational Setting of South Australia.

PRINCIPLES

Given the above context, the Curriculum and related policies at Sacred Heart College rest upon the following principles:

- The primacy of God and respect for the teachings of Jesus Christ in the Gospels;
- The pursuit of truth through the complementary functions of faith and intelligence;
- The interplay between study, commitment to excellence and prayer;
- The encouragement to learn individually and collaboratively, to think creatively and critically and communicate effectively;
- A spirit of community, that both contributes to the development of and is enriched by each student;
- An education that meets the specific needs of students while preparing them to participate in an ever changing world;
- An inclusive curriculum, accessible to each student, that allows for different learning styles and abilities, and which is available to and responsive to the needs of the poor and disadvantaged;
- A broad and contemporary curriculum that reflects principles of best practice in design, delivery and evaluation;
- The priority of literacy and numeracy as fundamentals of learning in curriculum delivery

PROCEDURES

Sacred Heart College will:

- Offer a curriculum which at all times acknowledges the primacy of the Gospel as experienced through Catholic tradition, and which acknowledges truth wherever it is found;
- Be aware of and respond to contemporary curriculum theory, SACCS and government policies;
- Ensure that individual needs of students are catered for through a diverse curriculum and through programmes that address the Gifted and Talented and those with Special Learning Needs;
- Have a documented curriculum which is accessible to teachers, parents, students and relevant authorities;
- Promote both individual and collaborative learning, creative and critical thinking and effective communication;
- Provide a learning environment, experiences and classroom facilities which are responsive to range of learning styles and education needs;
- Provide opportunities for students to enhance their vocational awareness through structured vocational and work place training programmes;
- Provide and encourage suitable professional development for staff to assist them to most effectively meet their curriculum responsibilities;
- Provide administrative structures, facilities and resources which accord with the Vision, and strategic plan of the school;
- Provide assessment and reporting procedures that inform teaching practice, encourage student learning and provide information on student progress to parents/caregivers and students;
- Regularly review curriculum offerings, structures, and assessment and reporting procedures;
- Implement and review timetable structures that support the above principles and procedures.

It is the province of the School Council to approve new strategic emphases in curriculum and/or teaching and learning.

POLICY UPDATE

Date passed: MAY 2009

Date for Review: MAY 2012

REFERENCES

A Curriculum Policy for Catholic Schools – South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools, 1998
Sacred Heart College Strategic Plan 2009-2013