



ST PIUS X CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ROLE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN SUPPORTING SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

1. Rationale

The parish is the Christian faith community that children and young people need for their religious development. It is where they are inspired and nurtured by other members of the community to experience what is needed to develop their faith (Mandate, para 80).

It is the parish community that invites and welcomes new members; it is where initiation into the faith is celebrated and nurtured, it is where people learn to live as a community of the faithful (Mandate, para 79).

Catholic schools complement parishes and are an important means for evangelising young people today by teaching them how to live as children of God. By the nature of their mission and mandate, they have a direct responsibility to support families and parishes in the preparation of children to receive the sacraments (Mandate, para 79).

The role of the Catholic school in supporting Sacramental programs for young people is to nurture strong partnerships between families and parishes (Mandate, para 80).

2. Definitions

Nil

3. Scope

This policy statement applies to all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Perth, Diocese of Geraldton and Diocese of Bunbury.

4. Principles

4.1 Preparation for sacraments is family-focused, parish-based and Catholic school supported.

4.2 Catholic schools respect the primary role of the family in the faith education of their children and support the family in the sacramental preparation of children.

4.3 Catholic schools will work with the parish in preparing for and celebrating the sacraments.

- 4.4 Young people will receive the sacraments in their local parish church wherever possible.

5. Procedures

- 5.1 Religious Education is a priority in Catholic schools. It provides the knowledge and understandings of the Catholic faith and outlines what is needed to live a Catholic life.
- 5.2 Catholic schools will provide learning and teaching about the sacraments through the Religious Education Program.
- 5.3 Students will be provided with opportunities for catechesis through prayer and personal reflection.
- 5.4 The principal will inform families about the processes available in their relevant parishes for Sacramental preparation.
- 5.5 School leadership will be appropriately represented on and contribute to Parish Sacramental Teams.
- 5.6 The school will work with the parish by providing resources and personnel to support parish based celebrations of the sacraments.
- 5.7 The school will collaborate with the Parish Religious Education Program in preparing young people to receive and celebrate the sacraments.
- 5.8 Students will be provided with opportunities for ritual prayer and sacramental celebrations as part of the life of the school.

6. References

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