



*Topic:* JUSTICE EDUCATION POLICY

*Policy No:* B7

*Policy Area:* EDUCATION

*Originally Released:* 2009

*Date for Review and Reformatting:* 2014

*Date for Review:* 2016

*Principal:* MRS KERRIE MERRIT

## **1. RATIONALE**

Assumption Catholic Primary School fosters everything good and unifying in society from the perspective of the Gospel. They promote the development of a society which reflects the love and goodness of God, where peace and reconciliation grow along with justice, compassion, mercy and a special commitment to the poor.

In Catholic education it is recognised that all people are created with the same nature and origin and enjoy equal dignity to develop, make amends, reconcile, restore relationships and be welcomed back with love, acceptance, forgiveness and support.

Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to integrating Gospel truths, virtues and values in appropriate ways into all relationships and learning. Members of our school community promote a Gospel vision of society in order to critique social attitudes and values, practices and trends in social, commercial, political and legal structures (Mandate, para 14).

All those involved in Catholic education are called to be the 'face of Christ' within their communities, especially to the most challenging and disengaged learner. Assumption Catholic Primary School gives witness to the importance of offering opportunities for all their members to aspire to and achieve the highest goals. Catholic education is immersed in the Gospel of Jesus and filled with his Spirit, values everyone equally.

## **2. DEFINITION**

Justice Education allows for individual differences in the teaching of ethics and social justice. These differences may take the form of different levels of ability, a variety of background experiences with the subject and/or different ways in which students respond to particular approaches to teaching and learning.

Once the teacher has identified the level of ability and background of particular students, he/she can instigate a variety of teaching practices in an attempt to cater for individual differences.

In Religious education we are faced with a range of areas of learning which are much more difficult to define than those which focus on skills and comprehension. A student's attitude towards God and his/her understanding of morality, empathy for others and responsibility to the people of his/her world are formed by a vast array of past experiences with family, friends and organisations. As teachers we must attempt these differences so that we can

adopt a range of teaching approaches to help our students grow towards a fuller experience of God and neighbour and greater meaning in the way that we relate to others in the world.

### **3. SCOPE**

This policy applies to Assumption Catholic Primary School, Mandurah in Western Australia.

### **4. PRINCIPLES**

- 4.1 Assumption Catholic Primary School values human diversity which is demonstrated by practical responses to diverse learning needs and abilities.
- 4.2 Assumption Catholic Primary School promotes the development of people of Christian conscience, committed to serving God by serving others and working to make the world a better place for all.
- 4.3 The ethos, policies, curriculum, interactions and protocols of Catholic schools emphasise the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the individual.
- 4.4 Assumption Catholic Primary School promotes justice to all, especially those who are culturally, socially, physically, intellectually, financially, emotionally or spiritually disadvantaged.
- 4.5 Assumption Catholic Primary School promotes the Christian belief that the rights and needs of others must always be respected and that individual rights must be balanced with the wider common good.
- 4.6 Members of the school community are concerned with caring for the environment and preserving the necessities of life for future generations.
- 4.7 Assumption Catholic Primary School works in partnership with families and the wider community to provide what students need to realise their potential.
- 4.8 Assumption Catholic Primary School promotes the right of consultation and decision-making at appropriate levels of authority.
- 4.9 Resources shall be shared equitably. All students shall have access to the same opportunities and outcomes in so far as resources permit.
- 4.10 Members of the school community shall have access to all the resources and support they need to participate in decisions which affect their own development and those of their community.

## 5. PROCEDURES

- 5.1 Processes shall be established for ongoing evaluation and renewal of all aspects of school life to ensure they reflect Gospel values, particularly in respect to social justice. Assumption Catholic Primary School has a strong focus on providing good educational opportunities for students with specific learning needs.
- 5.2 members of the Assumption staff shall undertake the necessary formation in order to deepen their understanding and commitment to the Catholic vision of living out the Gospel and the mission of the Church to transform society. All staff members are either Accredited to Teach Religious Education in a Catholic School or are working towards attaining the appropriate accreditation. In addition, multiculturalism is promoted through daily activities and the celebration of special multicultural days: for example: Harmony Day and NAIDOC Week.
- 5.3 Strategies and programs shall be established to help members of the school community demonstrate commitment to Jesus Christ in the service of others. For example; our Caritas Leadership Day (Just Leadership) and our Minnie Vinnie's Group provide an opportunity for students to support their community and those less fortunate. Making Jesus Real is strongly promoted and demonstrated by all members of Assumption Catholic Primary School.
- 5.4 The curricula developed by schools shall integrate Catholic social teaching into all areas of learning.
- 5.5 Gospel values shall be embedded in the curriculum in educationally appropriate ways to enable students to discover and integrate these values into their lives. The Religious Education program at Assumption supports students through their sacramental preparation.
- 5.6 Opportunities shall be provided to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to discern the signs of the times, particularly with respect to issues of social justice. To support this Assumption Catholic Primary School has a detailed Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Management Policy and comprehensive ICT Use by Students and Staff Policies.
- 5.7 Assumption Catholic Primary School provides opportunities for school community members to learn how to critique social attitudes, values, practices and trends as well as influential political, legal, commercial and other structures in light of Catholic social teaching. The school's Harassment and Discrimination Policy provides a structure for dealing with staff concerns.
- 5.8 Curriculum decisions shall challenge students to develop a sense of God's original justice in order to transform the world by developing a sense of active social responsibility. environmental Studies is incorporated in to all levels of the school curriculum.
- 5.9 As a prophetic community, Assumption Catholic Primary School models to students the value and purpose of Christian commitment to social justice. We do this through providing and modelling good pastoral care to students and their families. In addition, Assumption Catholic Primary School provides counselling services, the Rainbows program to aid students and families in times of crises and we are a Kidsmatter school.
- 5.10 Decision making processes at all levels at Assumption Catholic Primary School give witness to the Gospel spirit of simplicity and poverty, while providing what is necessary for an effective education.

## 6. REFERENCES

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

## 7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Vatican City, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1994

Congregation for the Clergy, *The General Directory for Catechesis*, 1997

Congregation for Catholic Education, *Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith*, 1982

Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School*, 1988

Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium*, 1997

## 8. REVIEW HISTORY

<b>Year Of Review</b>	<b>Reviewed by:</b>	<b>Amendments/ review</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>ACPS Staff</b>	<b>Review</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>ACPS Staff</b>	<b>Review</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>ACPS Staff</b>	<b>Review and Reformatted</b>
<b>Next Review 2016</b>		