



Topic: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Policy No: B6

Policy Area: EDUCATION

Originally Released: 2009

Date for Review and Reformatting: 2014

Date for Review: 2016

Principal: MRS KERRIE MERRIT

1. RATIONALE

Catholic schools play a vital part in the life of the Church in Western Australia by contributing to the holistic development of our young through education. Early Childhood Education and Care are integral in laying the foundational blocks on which children 'develop a Gospel vision of themselves and society' (Mandate paragraph 6).¹

All human learning is valued as a gift of God. Assumption Catholic Primary School (ACPS) provides a genuine education and care choice for parents and families. ACPS recognises parents as children's first and most influential educators. Each child 'experiences school as an extension of their own homes, the climate being a humanly and spiritually enriching one' (Mandate paragraph 36).²

2. DEFINITION

Early Childhood Education and Care refers to the education and care of children aged 3 to 8 years.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Early Childhood Education and Care at Assumption Catholic Primary School.

4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 ACPS leaders and educators recognise parents as children's first and most influential educators. They develop collaborative partnerships with families based on understanding one another's expectations, attitudes and strengths.
- 4.2 Each child has individual needs and potential that shall be recognised, valued and responded to within a safe, caring and positive Catholic learning environment that fosters a sense of community.
- 4.3 Early Childhood Education and Care promotes learning as a lifelong process.
- 4.4 The learning environment, curriculum and pedagogy offered shall be inclusive of all children and be developmentally and culturally appropriate.

- 4.5 Early Childhood Education and Care shall be aligned to current research on development, learning and teaching as it applies to children 3-8 years old.
- 4.6 Early Childhood Education and Care at ACPS shall recognise the influence of relevant system, state and national documents.
- 4.7 All children enrolled in Early Childhood Education and Care at Assumption Catholic Primary School shall be the responsibility of the principal and designated staff.

5. PROCEDURES

- 5.1 Procedures for enrolment shall be in accord with the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) and Government policy statements.
- 5.2 Early Childhood Education and Care programs shall be appropriately staffed according to the:
- Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy
 - Current early learning and care legislation relevant for Western Australia
- 5.3 Assumption Catholic Primary School will endeavour to make every effort to ensure that Pre-Kindy to Pre-Primary staff hold an early childhood qualification in accordance with the Australia Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) approved list. It is desirable that Years 1-3 staff hold an Early Childhood Education Qualification.
- 5.4 All educators at Assumption Catholic Primary School in the early years shall implement evidence based early childhood pedagogy and be engaged in appropriate ongoing professional development.
- 5.5 Period of attendance:
- 5.2.1 Catholic schools providing a three year old program shall offer sessions based on local need.
- 5.2.2 Catholic schools shall provide Kindergarten children with a program of a minimum of fifteen hours per week implemented by 2013 in accordance with the Federal Government's Universal Access program.
- 5.2.3 Catholic schools shall provide Pre-Primary children with five full day sessions from the commencement of the school year.
- 5.2.5 Catholic Schools providing before and after school care shall operate that service on each day of the school year.

6. REFERENCES

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

Department of Education (formerly Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations), *Child Care Services Handbook*, 2012-2013

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2012 (Cth)

Department of Education (formerly Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations), *National Quality Framework for early childhood education and care*, 2012
Department of Education (formerly Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations), *Early Years Learning Framework*, 2009
Early Childhood Australia, *Early Years Positional Statement*, 2009

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia policy statement 2-C6 Appointment of Staff in Catholic Schools
Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia policy statement 2-D6 Student Enrolment

8. REVIEW HISTORY

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

9. NEXT REVIEW

2016