

St Andrew's Catholic Primary School Clarkson: Policy Statement

CHRISTIAN SERVICE LEARNING

Written: 2012
Due for Review: 2015

The Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Mandate 2009 – 2015 calls us to Christian witness, evangelisation, gospel values, justice, participation and helping the poor.

The School Evangelisation Plan provides the overall direction that the school takes in terms of the spiritual and religious development of students, families and staff. Christian Service is focused on as part of this document. This plan is reviewed periodically.

The Religious Education Guidelines for Catholic schools in Western Australia – are the curriculum document for each year level. Additionally, the Religious Education (R.E.) Guidelines are supplemented by the 'services' of the R.E. consultants provided as advisors and mentors by the Catholic Education Office of Western Australia. Christian Service is taught through the usage of biblical texts and direct teaching so that it directly relates to the teachings of Jesus.

Making Jesus Real (MJR) - is used as a Catholic values education program. It is supplementary to the usage of the RE units of work in each classroom. All teaching staff are trained in the program. It is centred on the belief that we are the image of Jesus to all those around us. We are His representatives and actions should reflect values. Christian service is integral to this program. Jesus made the comment that we are part of his family and that the ways we treat others should be reflective of the way we would treat Jesus. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25: 40.

During the MJR Program Christian service is covered in the teaching of topics such as:

- Being West – welcoming, encouraging, sorry and thankful.
- Being Walking God Moments
- Being a giver not a taker
- Giving of ourselves – generosity
- Team work makes the dream work
- Are we Gospel people?
- Go into your Heart room
- Presenting Jesus to all we meet
- Making Jesus Real now and in the future

Examples of Christian Service vehicles are –

1. Christian service is taught through RE lessons in all classrooms
2. Class liturgies (Eucharist or Word) are a conduit in educating children to the principles of Christian Service
3. Celebrations that involve mission work- Ash Wednesday- Caritas Australia's Project Compassion during Lent
4. Religious and lay visitors educate the children and staff as to the need for Christian service – both in Australian territories and overseas

5. Contributions to overseas Catholic facilities that are struggling for basic materials i.e. St Augustine's school / church Mtwara, Tanzania has continued to intermittently receive writing tools and art supplies since August 2011
6. Contributions to Caritas ventures during the year – especially to Global causes
7. School wide and class specific Catholic Church mission work – The Archbishops Life Link fundraising for diocesan charities
8. Teaching children to donate time and skills in aid of the needy through the establishment of a Young Vinnie's Group and leadership attaching two teachers in a supervisory role
9. Raising funds for secular charities and causes – Cystic Fibrosis Fun Run / Walk, Cancer Foundation – Daffodil Day, Heart Foundation – Jump Rope for Heart, MS Readathon, Leukaemia Foundation – Biggest Morning Tea and City of Wanneroo Lord Mayor's Christmas Appeal.
10. Mission days for specifically nominated global disaster recovery either guided by the CEOWA or a school based leadership decision e.g. Tsunami – money donations, East Timor – educational resources such as books and desks as well as money
11. Celebration of Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and Australia Day and sending senior students as representatives of our school to local celebrations
12. Annual staff collection donated to Sister Wendy Lailey, Parish Pastoral Assistant for her to use when she receives enquiries from refugees and Australia's poor.
13. Staff showing care and love for work colleagues and their families who suffer family or personal health crises – food donation, cooked meals, respite, shopping and home or hospital visitation
14. Children sing in the parish choir
15. Staff assist in fundraising for sick parents who are in dire financial situations
16. Provide pastoral care for students who require help with personal/ family trauma – Seasons for Growth program
17. Provide one on one pastoral care for students who require assistance with personal issues
18. Complete tasks that require Christian service using the BUDDY SYSTEM which has been established
19. Christian service as exemplified in the Confirmation program
20. Year 6 students complete Christian service tasks as part of their education