

LEARNING IN THE PREPARATORY YEAR

Scope: This policy applies to all staff employed in Catholic schools conducted by Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as Catholic Education in the document).

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Catholic Education schools within the Diocese of Rockhampton accept the responsibility to promote learning in the preparatory year that reflects their Catholic ethos and provides flexible learning environments based upon the contexts of learning appropriate to the preparatory year. These contexts for learning are identified as play, real life situations, investigations, routines and transitions, focused teaching and learning, teachable moments.

2. DESCRIPTION

This policy supports decision making to extend and enrich children's learning in the preparatory year. Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton acknowledges the importance of the preparatory year as a significant part of life long and life wide learning. Learning in the early years is the foundation of a child's cognitive, spiritual, emotional, social, creative and physical self. Through nurturing a love of learning and inquiry, children make meaningful relationships and connections with their world. Central to learning in the early years is relationships – relationships with self, with families, with the world and with God.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Preparatory Year teachers will ensure practices are underpinned by the Learning in the Preparatory Year policy.
2. Preparatory Year teachers will engage with a philosophy of learning to ensure alignment with contemporary theory and practice and this policy.
3. Preparatory Year teachers will establish a community of learners where individual, small group and large groups contribute varied knowledge and expertise to solve real life problems.
4. Preparatory Year teachers will foster positive relationships with families.
5. Preparatory Year teachers will provide families with information that supports quality learning in preparatory year.
6. Teachers will reflect critically on teaching practice.



7. School staff will recognise the importance of children learning from adults and from peers in the learning community.
8. The Principal will familiarise all staff with the Learning in the Preparatory Year policy.
9. The Principal will ensure that staff members have access to ongoing professional learning.
10. Catholic Education will provide appropriate staffing in line with the Diocesan values of learning in the preparatory year.

4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (2010) *Learning Framework*
- Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (2012) *Spirituality in the Early Years*

WEBSITES

- <http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au/teaching-learning/preparatory-year/>
- <http://qcec.catholic.edu.au/educational-services/early-childhood-education>
- <http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/>
- <http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/>

RESOURCES

- Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) (2011) *Foundations for learning: Relationships between the Early Years Learning Framework and the Australian Curriculum*
- Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace (2009) *Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being, Becoming*
- Congregation for Catholic Education. (1998). *The Catholic school on the threshold of the third millennium*. Boston: Pauline Books and Media.
- Congregation for Catholic Education. (2007). *Educating together in Catholic schools: a shared mission between consecrated persons and the lay faithful*. Strathfield, NSW: St Pauls.
- Congregation for Catholic Education. (1988). *The religious dimension of education in a Catholic school*. Homebush: St Paul Publications.
- Early Childhood Australia (2006) *Early Years Code of Ethics*
- Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (2008)
- Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) (2010) *Spirituality in the Early Years* Brisbane
- Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) (2006) *Early Years Curriculum Guidelines*