Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Scope: This policy applies to all staff employed in Catholic schools, colleges, kindergartens and outside school hours care centres conducted by Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as Catholic Education in the document).

1. POLICY STATEMENT

All Catholic Schools and Colleges within the Diocese of Rockhampton incorporate personal and social development education throughout their curriculum.

2. DESCRIPTION

The personal and social development of the students is an integral component of Catholic schools that are committed to providing a relevant and holistic education. It is not a separate program, nor is it simply a part of the Religion curriculum. To be effective it must be embedded throughout the curriculum. It includes all activities and experiences in a school community that promote a student's learning and development as a whole person.

Catholic schools need to maintain consistency with the teaching of the Catholic Church.

The belief that each person is created in the image and likeness of God is foundational for personal and social development. Catholic Education provides a hopeful vision of life with a focus on the lifelong journey towards wholeness, from self-centredness to self-giving love.

There must be close cooperation between parents and the school to facilitate the personal and social development of students. Schools complement the efforts of parents to help their children develop and make informed decisions about their lives.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. A range of key concepts have been identified relating to personal and social development education.
2. Support from Catholic Education is available to assist schools to implement this policy.
3. Professional development can be provided for teachers to help them implement this policy.
4. Each school needs to find appropriate and effective ways to facilitate the close cooperation and involvement of parents.
5. Resources used for personal and social development education need to be carefully

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selected. Guidelines are available to assist schools.

6. Resources published by external agencies for graduating Year 12 students are checked prior to distribution to ensure they are consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church.

4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- Diocese of Rockhampton (2004) *"An encounter with Christ": Defining Features of Catholic Schools in the 21st Century*

WEBSITES

- Australian Curriculum http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/

RESOURCES

- Archdiocese of Brisbane *Continuing the Journey*.
- Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) *Health and Physical Education Curriculum*
- Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane (2005) *Living Life to the Full – Personal and Social Development Education Guidelines*
- Congregation for Catholic Education (1988) *The Religious Dimension of the Catholic School*. (nn 13,42,64,84)
- Pontifical Council for the Family (1995) *The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality*
- Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education (1983) *Educational Guidance in Human Love*
- Second Vatican Council (1965) *Declaration on Christian Education*

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