



PROVISION OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICES

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

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Catholic Education is committed to achieving the educational vision of the Diocese of Rockhampton through the provision of Catholic schools across the diocese.

The education services provided by Catholic Education will strive to meet the spiritual, pastoral, educational and cultural needs of their communities.

The decision for the provision of Catholic schools shall be determined by the Bishop, following recommendations developed through, and informed by, a collaborative process.

2. DESCRIPTION

Catholic Education has always been an integral part of the mission of the church in the Diocese of Rockhampton. It has had, and continues to have, a significant role in evangelisation and in the development of faith and spirituality.

Catholic Education has to consider regional trends and changing needs of communities to meet the demand for Catholic schools. This results in a need for planning and development of Catholic Education in accordance with the policies authorised by the Bishop, Diocesan Education Council and the Diocesan Finance Council.

The development of Catholic schools over the years has experienced increased requirements for compliance and accountability by Catholic Education. Catholic Education as a system of schools is a ministry of the Church. It seeks to balance changes, needs, wants and aspirations of parishes, communities and diocesan authorities. These changes can be demographic in nature, affected by social, spiritual, political and cultural factors.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

The foundation for discussion and decisions regarding the provision of Catholic schools within the Diocese of Rockhampton shall be based on the following priorities:

- Enhancing Catholic School ethos and identity;
- Monitoring and implementing high quality teaching and learning;
- Building leadership capacity;
- Reviewing processes for improvement, innovation and change;
- Refining management of human, physical and financial resources;
- Engaging and working with the community.

The collaborative processes used to determine the provision or modification of Catholic schools will involve the Bishop, the pastor and local parish community, Diocesan Education Council, Catholic Education Office, any existing or potential school communities and where appropriate, other diocesan authorities and educational providers. The process shall consider the following:

- Needs of children and families;
- Pastoral concerns of the parish and Diocese;
- Quality of education;
- Justice and equity;
- Financial arrangements and sustainability;
- Stewardship of resources;
- Employee-related issues;
- Federal and State government requirements;
- Opportunities for cooperation with other educational providers;
- Residual government financial equity.

At all times the needs of the local community will be paramount in terms of communicating information regarding the provision of Catholic schools.

4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

LEGISLATION

- Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel (Reprinted) Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001. Brisbane, Qld 2004

RESOURCES

- Queensland Catholic Bishops' *Catholic Schools Research Project 2008*
- Congregation of Catholic Education *The Catholic school on the threshold of the third millennium*. St Paul's, NSW 1998
- Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education *The Catholic School* St Paul Publications 1977
- Queensland Government [State Infrastructure Plan](#)