

CATHOLIC IDENTITY POLICY

Version: 1.0
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Portfolio: Catholic Identity &
Community

Endorsed by: Board
Next Review: 2023

PURPOSE

St Augustine's College is proud of its Catholic heritage and believes that our Catholic community is called to live out and promote the gospel in our community. The college aims to be an evangelising community motivated by the mission of the Catholic Church to educate the whole person. In our F – 12 setting St Augustine's College needs to be aware of the stages of faith development and be ever mindful of enacting ways to lead students to integrate faith, life and culture relevant to them and in a manner that is true to the message of the Gospels.

St Augustine's will be faithful to the traditions of the Catholic Church while drawing on the richness of contemporary society. We will seek to walk in the footsteps of our patrons, St Augustine, St Brigid and Daniel Delaney. Their commitment to the examples of lived faith will inform the everyday works of the members of our College community.

The College is aware that it exists within a multicultural, multifaith, contemporary, rural community. Our college commits to working with our families to recontextualise the message of the Gospels so that they can be reimagined in our current context.

This policy is informed by the related policies of the Sandhurst Catholic Education Council (SCEC).

VISION, MISSION AND GRADUATE OUTCOMES

We seek to education the whole person as a contributing member of the human community in Christ.

Our mission is to work collaborative with our school community to provide all our students with the opportunity to succeed and to be filled with hope for the future.

Formed by our belief in the dignity and sanctity of each person, we commit to working actively as a community to provide a safe and nurturing environment for all students to feel safe and be safe as part of their educational experience at St Augustine's College.

St Augustine's is a community where individuals are encouraged to have the faith and strength to know and live the gospels in a learning environment where the dignity of each person is valued and personal excellence is celebrated.

The following graduate outcomes connect explicitly with this policy:

- Have a social conscience inspired by gospel values and live justly.
- Have a genuine care and respect for the environment.
- Be full of hope, integrity, dignity and compassion for self and others.

IMPLEMENTATION

Staff

- Staff employed at St Augustine's College will be public witnesses to the beliefs, values and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- All teachers are expected to gain and maintain the appropriate level of Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School. Refer to CECV Policy 1.6 and CECV Policy 1.7 (2020)

- Religious Education Teachers are expected to have sound knowledge of the traditions of the Catholic Church and be skilled in appropriate pedagogy for teaching Religious Education.
- St Augustine's College Leadership will ensure that provision is made for all staff to gain Accreditation and to engage in faith development and professional development opportunities.

Curriculum

- All students are required to attend and participate in Religious Education.
- The College uses the Sandhurst CEO Source of Life Religious Education Curriculum including its Christian Education for Personal Development (CEPD)/
- Students are given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of faith based activities including Retreat Days, Seminar Days, Personal Development Days, Sexuality Education, Youth Ministry activities and a variety of purposeful excursions.

Liturgy

- We believe that liturgy is a coming together of the school community to celebrate our faith in God and each other.
- Our role as a Catholic community is to lead our students and our community through experiences of well prepared and meaningful liturgy celebrating faith and life.
- Liturgical formation is critical to provide active participation. Teacher and students need to be familiar with texts, gestures, symbols, rituals and elements of the Mass in order to have meaningful experiences of liturgy.
- Liturgical celebrations will be an opportunity to engage with the Catholic story, to connect with our College's symbols, to celebrate the school's ongoing story and to reflect on our own personal stories.

Prayer

- At St Augustine's prayer is part of everyday life
- Students will experience, engage in and lead different prayer experiences

Sacraments

- Sacraments are symbolic actions that celebrate our love for God and God's love for us.
- Sacraments encourage children and adults to participate in the celebrations of their church community.
- The Sacramental Program is offered annually in partnership with our Parish.

Social Justice

- We promote Catholic Social Teaching (CST) as a pathway to a just world.
- We are inspired by Catholic Social Teaching to take action in a variety of forms, these include integrating CST across the curriculum.
- We will actively engage in the works of Caritas, the work of Vinnies, the Fire Carriers Program and actions that promote sustainability.
- We will nurture and develop an understanding, sensitivity and acceptance of difference.

Environment

- St Augustine's provides learning spaces that are conducive to sound educational principles and promotes the culture of our Catholic Faith; this will be recognisable by sacred spaces in classrooms, St Augustine's Church, the Memorial Garden and the OLOP Garden.
- St Augustine's is committed to the traditions of the Brigidine and Augustinian Orders being shared in a contemporary manner through the use of building names, design features, artwork and symbolism.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTATION

CECV Accreditation Policy http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/getmedia/50d03d28-ed94-46cd-88d2-23ef0acb908d/CECV-accreditation-policy_January-2020.aspx