



## AS PARENTS

we acknowledge that you...

- ❖ are the first educators of your child
- ❖ support your child's faith journey
- ❖ value the Catholic school's identity and ethos
- ❖ seek educational excellence
- ❖ support the educational process
- ❖ expect what is best for your child
- ❖ expect your child's educational needs to be met
- ❖ expect your child's gifts to be celebrated
- ❖ hope your child makes a valuable contribution to Australian society
- ❖ endorse pastoral care as a priority
- ❖ work at building constructive relationships with the school
- ❖ support the partnership between parish and school
- ❖ are aware that financial grounds should not prevent your child from experiencing a Catholic education

*Catholic Education in Western Australia acknowledges that parents are among the greatest signs of God's presence in the lives of their children.*

*While the school can enrich faith experiences students are receiving in their families, it can never replace them. As Bishops, we thank parents for all that they contribute to Catholic schools.*

Copies of the  
BISHOPS' MANDATE 2009-2015  
FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
are available by downloading a PDF of the Mandate from the  
Catholic Education Office of Western Australia  
website [www.ceo.wa.edu.au/AboutUs/Bishops'Mandate](http://www.ceo.wa.edu.au/AboutUs/Bishops'Mandate)  
or purchasing a hard copy from the Office at a cost of \$10.00.



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

*Welcome to...  
Parents, Carers and Families*

# Mandate

Catholic Education Commission  
of Western Australia  
2009 - 2015



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NOT FOR NEALS



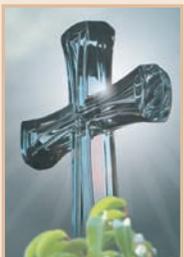
## A DISTINCTIVE ETHOS

The Catholic school has a distinctive ethos. All its members are called to relate personally with Jesus himself. His teachings and Gospel values are the educational norms that permeate Catholic school life.

Each member of the Catholic school community strives to give Christian witness through words, attitudes and actions. The ethos of the Catholic school contributes to students developing a Gospel vision for society as they learn to live a Gospel inspired life.



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS Western Australia



The Catholic Bishops of Western Australia and the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia welcome all families into Catholic schools.

The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide a brief overview of the expectations of the Bishops of Western

Australia and the focus for their Catholic schools as captured in the Mandate 2009–2015.

One of the key roles of Catholic schools is to help parents in the education of their children and especially in their development as young men and women ready to make a contribution to society.

Catholic school communities offer opportunities for students to hear and experience God's Good News and to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Bishops of Western Australia appreciate your decision to choose Catholic Education for your child and will ensure that your child is provided with an excellent education within the context of Catholic teaching and practice.

## OUR SCHOOLS AND THEIR PURPOSE

The Catholic school ...

- ❖ is centred in Jesus
- ❖ embraces the Gospel message and Gospel values
- ❖ provides excellence in education
- ❖ nurtures the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical, emotional, religious and creative development of students
- ❖ communicates the story and tradition of the Catholic Church and celebrates as a Christian community
- ❖ integrates faith, life and culture
- ❖ partners the parish community
- ❖ serves the pastoral needs of its community
- ❖ is 'counter-cultural' where society's values conflict with Gospel values



## CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Have an opportunity to...

- ❖ experience learning as an exciting challenge and a lifelong endeavour
- ❖ develop a sense of the sacred
- ❖ encounter God through prayer, liturgy, sacrament and one another
- ❖ participate in an authentic community
- ❖ discover their role in making a difference to Australian society
- ❖ experience Christian discipline
- ❖ offer service in the Christian context
- ❖ receive Religious Education as the first learning area
- ❖ belong to a school that supports their needs and celebrates their giftedness and values their uniqueness

through a curriculum that ...

- ❖ is student-centred
- ❖ encourages the human quest for truth
- ❖ values all human learning
- ❖ teaches Gospel values such as justice, love, compassion, peace and forgiveness
- ❖ promotes a spirit of service
- ❖ integrates the religious dimension of learning
- ❖ teaches that knowledge brings responsibility