

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Scope: This policy applies to all Catholic schools and colleges, conducted by Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as CEDR 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 students is an integral component of Catholic schools committed to providing a relevant and holistic education. Personal and Social Development Education (PSDE) is not a separate program, nor is it simply a part of other curriculum areas or programs. To be effective, PSDE must be embedded throughout the curriculum, including activities and experiences in a school community that promote a student's learning and development as a whole person.

Catholic schools are called to maintain consistency with the teachings of the Catholic Church, whilst considering contemporary cultural contexts and the lived experiences of children and young people

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.

Close cooperation between parents and care givers and the school is vital to facilitate the personal and social development of students. Schools complement the efforts of parents and care givers to help children develop and make informed decisions about their lives.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. *Guidelines for Personal and Social Development Education* are periodically reviewed by the Catholic Education Leadership Team.
2. A range of key concepts has been identified relating to personal and social development education namely the social, emotional, physical, sexual and spiritual aspects that are inherent in each individual.

3. Support from Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) is available to assist schools to implement this policy.
4. Quality professional development is recommended for staff to assist with the implementation of this policy.
5. Each school is encouraged to consider appropriate and effective ways to facilitate the close cooperation, engagement and involvement of parents and care givers.
6. Resources, external providers and guest speakers used for Personal and Social Development Education are to be carefully considered. Guidelines and resources are available to assist schools as per the *Guest Speaker Guidelines*.
7. Resources published by external agencies for students are checked by CEDR prior to distribution to ensure they are consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- Diocese of Rockhampton *'An Encounter with Christ': Defining Features of Catholic Schools in the 21st Century* 2004
- *Guest Speaker Guidelines* Version 1.1 August 2023
- *Guidelines for Personal and Social Development Education*

WEBSITES

- <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>
- [CEDR Personal Social Development Education site](#)

RESOURCES

- Pope Francis *Amoris Laetitia The Joy of Love*, 2016
- Congregation for Catholic Education *The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue*, 2022
- Pontifical Council for the Family *The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality* 1995
- Australian Catholic Bishops Conference *Created and Loved: A Guide for Catholic schools on identity and gender*, 2022