



St Peter's Primary School
103 Wood Street, Inglewood

Policy: **EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION AND CARE**

Policy Area: EDUCATION

Originally Released: 2007

Date for Review: 2018

This policy has been developed with reference to the
Catholic Education Policy Number 2-B6 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

RATIONALE:

Each child is a precious and sacred gift from God created as an individual with their own unique talents and abilities. Catholic education seeks to create environments that nurture this individuality while enhancing learning and empowering young people to live the Catholic faith in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Childhood as “a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world” and recognise that quality service provision in the early years provides an opportunity to foster the development of the whole child (Early Childhood Australia, 2009).

St Peter's Primary School Early Years philosophy is based on the Early Years Learning Framework 'Belonging, Being and Becoming', the Australian Curriculum, Western Australian Curriculum, Kindergarten Guidelines and Religious Education Guidelines. We endeavor to reflect the principles of the Early Years Learning Framework and our school values of Trust, Respect, Unity and Excellence (T.R.U.E) in our educational practice.

Our school is staffed by professional Early Childhood Educators who are members of the Teachers Registration Board of Western Australian. As a team, we ensure that children in our school are provided with the highest quality of care and education through the combination of planned programming, staff commitment and continued staff professional development.

Early childhood is a critically important phase in children's learning and development; our focus is to develop the whole child by providing an environment in which children feel they belong through a safe, secure, nurturing and stimulating environment. The Early Years program nurtures the growth and development of each child spiritually, socially, emotionally, cognitively and morally. The program acknowledges the values and beliefs of our children and an awareness of their differences and diversities.

We believe in the importance of 'learning through play', providing play based experiences that enhance and enrich decision making skills, self-esteem and self-confidence, a sense of responsibility, resilience, good citizenship and respect for others.

We celebrate parents as children's first and most influential educators and recognises that strong, collaborative partnerships between parents and educators are essential. Educators and educational leaders work collaboratively with parents to foster children's spiritual, physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning and growth. Catholic schools assist parents who wish to

develop their children as Christian men and women. Also they support parishes with their responsibility of supporting parents as the first educators of their child” (Mandate, para 6)

DEFINITIONS:

Early Childhood Education and Care in the Western Australian Catholic education system refers to all education and care services provided to children from birth to 8 years of age as well as outside school hours care.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Leaders and educators in Catholic education recognise parents as children’s first and most influential educators. They develop collaborative partnerships with families based on understanding one another’s expectations, attitudes and strengths.
2. Each child has individual needs and potential that shall be recognised, valued and responded to within a safe, caring and positive Catholic learning environment that fosters a sense of Policy statement 2-B6 – Early Childhood Education and Care (Version 8 – 2010) Page 2 of 4 community.
3. Early Childhood Education promotes learning as a lifelong process.
4. The learning environment, curriculum and pedagogy offered shall be inclusive of all children and be developmentally and culturally appropriate.
5. Early Childhood Education shall be aligned to current research on development, learning and teaching as it applies to children from Birth - 8 years old.
6. Early Childhood Education at St Peter’s Catholic primary school shall recognise the influence of relevant system, state and national documents. The staff plan and program using the Early Years Learning Framework, Kindergarten Guidelines, Religious Education Guidelines and the Australian Curriculum.
7. All children enrolled in Early Childhood Education at St Peter’s Catholic primary school shall be the responsibility of the principal, centre manager and other designated staff.
8. The early childhood programs at St Peter’s Catholic primary school involve learning that is a balance of intentional teaching and play based learning, that provide children with opportunities to explore, discover, imagine and engage in purposeful and meaningful experiences.

PROCEDURES:

1. St Peter’s procedures for enrolment shall be in accord with the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) policy statement 2-D5 ‘Student Enrolment’ and Government policy.
2. Early Childhood Education programs shall be appropriately staffed according to the: • Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-C6 ‘Appointment of Staff in Catholic Schools’ • Current early learning and care legislation relevant for Western Australia.
3. All educators, educating and caring for children from birth to pre-primary age, shall hold an early childhood qualification in accordance with the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) approved list. It is highly desirable for teachers of Years 1-3 to hold an Early Childhood Education qualification.
4. All educators in the early years and the Principal of St Peter’s shall implement evidence-based early childhood pedagogy and be engaged in appropriate ongoing professional development.

5. St Peter's Early Childhood Education Unit, in conjunction with Catholic Education Office of Western Australia, shall develop and periodically review written policies and procedures as outlined in current legislation relevant for Western Australia.
6. Period of Operation:
 - 6.1 St Peter's shall provide Kindergarten children with a minimum of fifteen hours per week from commencement of the school year.
 - 6.2 St Peter's shall provide Pre-Primary children with five full day sessions from the commencement of the school year.

REFERENCE AND RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- Bishops of Western Australia 2009, Mandate of the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia: 2009-2015
- Department of Education (formerly Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations), Child Care Services Handbook, 2012-2013
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2012 (Cth)
- Department of Education (formerly Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations), National Quality Framework for early childhood education and care, 2012
- Department of Education (formerly Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations), Early Years Learning Framework, 2009
- Early Childhood Australia, Early Years Positional Statement, 2009
- Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia policy statement 2-C6 Appointment of Staff in Catholic Schools
- Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia policy statement 2-D5 Student Enrolment