

EARLY YEARS SCHOOLING

Policy

2006

Assisi Catholic College will provide and promote an effective, holistic, inclusive, innovative and valued approach to Early Years schooling. Responsive to each child's diverse and unique needs and circumstances, a quality engaging curriculum will be provided to ensure continuity of learning throughout the year levels and collaborative partnerships will enhance the processes and general experience of Early Years schooling.

Consequences

The College will ensure that:

- teachers (in particular), staff and parents/carers are familiar with the Brisbane Catholic Education Early Years Policy Statement;
- staffing ratios enhance the early years learning experience;
- staff, parents/carers and relevant others work collaboratively to support and enhance learning;
- effective partnerships with children, parents/carers and other professionals are established to enhance learning;
- flexibility of learning possibilities is explored;
- continuity of learning for each child is explored throughout the Early Years;
- a learner-centred curriculum is developed and promoted through the use of the Key Learning Area Syllabuses and the Early Years Guidelines;
- the developmental needs, interests and learning styles of children are negotiated in the formation of the curriculum;
- literacy, numeracy and social education are the priorities of early years learning;
- the learning process is enhanced through processes using information communication learning technologies;
- assessment, profiling and reporting are collaborative processes involving staff, parents/carers and students;
- flexible, stimulating and safe environments are provided for early years children to enhance their experience of schooling; and
- all required resources and facilities are located in close proximity to early years learning contexts/classrooms.

Rationale

A broad, happy, holistic and positive experience of learning in the Early Years phase of learning can provide a strong foundation for successful learning throughout life and this is particularly relevant in terms of the fact that the Gospel message of 'having life to the full' (John 10:10) is embedded in the goals of Catholic schooling. 'Early Years' refers to the years of schooling from Preparatory to Year 3. With parents as the primary educators and collaborative partnerships, a purposeful, activity-based curriculum, characterised by continuity, flexibility and connectedness, is negotiated, experienced and celebrated. Within this context, a child develops their sense of self-concept and engagement in the learning process. The Early Years of schooling is a very significant phase of learning within the schooling process.

Contribution to the Franciscan Ethos

- Developing a healthy sense of awe & wonder among others.
- Encouraging others to grow and develop to their potential.

References

Early Years Policy Statement for Brisbane Catholic Education Schools, November 2001, Catholic Education Council, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Early Years Curriculum Guidelines, Queensland Studies Authority, January 2004.

A Vision for Quality in Early Childhood Education by A.E. Grey Vol 24 No 3 Sept 1999

Developing the Social-Emotional Competence of Young Children by Professor M.E. Bernard, Principal Fellow, Faculty of education, University of Melbourne, Australia, 2004 www.youcandoiteducation.com