



Policy		Christian Service Learning	
Service/Function Area	School	Created Date	2019
Custodian	Head of Faith & Mission	Reviewed	21/11/2023
Review Period	2 Years	Next Review Date	21/11/2025
Policy Number	Rev1	Final Approver	SLT

Policy Statement

Catholic schools are communities of faith whose main task is evangelisation through education. Catholic schools foster a Christian attitude in society and encourage the development of the kind of world envisaged by Christ (Mandate para 6 and 22). As a Mercy school, we remain true to Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, by living the Good News as revealed by Jesus "...our charity must be in our hearts and from our hearts and a charity such as Jesus Christ practiced while on earth" (Catherine McAuley). Christian Service Learning in Catholic schools enables students to grow from a Catholic faith perspective as people of service and justice. The Catholic school challenges students to grow in their understanding that faith is not just a personal response to God's love, but a communal response to love one another as Jesus taught in order 'to make the world a better place for all' (Mandate para 24).

Scope

The contents of this policy are applicable to all students of St Brigid's College.

Purpose

Christian Service Learning provides students with opportunities to understand how the Gospel promotes a vision of justice through service and love for those in need and the environment. Christian Service Learning challenges students in developmentally appropriate ways to think and act in ways that reflect values that are consistent with the Gospel.

St Brigid's College supports and challenges students to explore Catholic teaching on social justice, including the common good and reflect on why they serve as part of an integrated and articulated school plan which actively seeks to promote justice.

Christian Service Learning provides students with the experience of 'service' as a way of learning and living that permeates all aspects of life, rather than an activity that is isolated from the rest of their lives. All students understand the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and apply them to their own Christian Service Learning experiences. Students develop a deep understanding of the meaning, practice and value of 'service' from a Catholic Christian faith perspective.

Preparation and reflection are essential elements in Christian Service Learning. Christian Service Learning is embedded in the curriculum of St Brigid's College and is flexible enough to be conducted in or out of school time, both on or off school premises.

Students will not receive any financial reward for their Christian Service Learning activities. Christian Service Learning will include a range of activities from home, College, parish and the wider community. Students must complete all requirements of the Year 10 and 11 endorsed program to be eligible to receive an invite to the Year 12 MIA MAD Ball.

Implementation

Procedures

Christian Service Learning opportunities shall provide for the differing needs and interests of the College's community. St Brigid's College shall provide opportunities for students to reflect critically on their Christian Service Learning experience. The Mercy charism, culture and mission of St Brigid's College forms the basis of the Christian Service Learning program.

Primary school students (Kindergarten to Year 6) will examine the six Mercy values that form a part of our Mission Statement. Keeping these values in mind, Kindergarten to Year 4 students will complete individual targets through 'Random Acts of Kindness' to be recorded within their classroom environment. Year 5 and 6 students will complete 2 hours of Christian Service Learning. This service can be acquired at school and at home. They will be required to log their hours and complete an in-class reflection.

Year 7 students will need to complete 5 hours of Christian Service Learning within the College and Home. They will be required to log their hours and complete an in-class reflection.

Years 8 and 9 students will need to complete 10 hours of Christian Service Learning, encouraging them to reach out and to also include activities within the Parish and Community. They will be required to log their hours and complete an in-class reflection.

Years 10, 11 and 12 students will be working towards completing the School Curriculum and Standards Authority developed endorsed program. They are required to complete 50 hours of Christian Service Learning, with an additional 5 hours of induction and reflection. Students will submit a Record of Service validated by an unrelated adult supervisor and a report. These are submitted in Week 1 of Term 4 in Year 11.

Students completing Christian Service Learning in an approved organisation are required to contact the Business Manager if the organisation requires a copy of the College's public liability insurance certificate. The following information must be submitted:

- Student name
- Service position
- Service Organisation contact name
- Service Organisation contact position
- Service Organisation contact email
- Service Organisation contact phone number
- Confirmation from the service organisation that the position being applied for is not covered by their volunteers' insurance (if possible).

Relevant Legislation

Legislation / Compliance

Support Documents

Document Number	Document Description
N/A	Christian Service Learning Guidelines and Framework for CEWA Schools