Policy Statement
for Brisbane Catholic Education Schools

JUNE 2008

For more information please contact the
Catholic Education Council
G.P.O. Box 1201 Brisbane 4001
Telephone (07) 3033 7400
Fax (07) 3844 5101

• the needs and the aspirations of students,
  their families and the local community
• the knowledge and skills of teachers and
  others
• the requirements of Government educational
  policies and directions.

CONSEQUENCES
In enacting this policy our community of
schools in partnership with families and others
will promote:

LEARNING characterised by
• active engagement of teachers and
  students
• students demonstrating what they know and
  can do
• frequent and explicit feedback on progress
• high aspirations, personal discipline and
  intellectual rigor
• individual and collaborative activities
• reflection and self direction.

TEACHING characterised by
• a response to the diverse range of learners
  and learning styles
• practice that is contemporary, innovative
  and well informed

• respect for the Catholic Christian tradition
• catering for diverse range of learners and
  learning
• explicit, focused instruction
• collaborative professional learning.

CONSEQUENCES
In enacting this policy our community of
schools in partnership with families and others
will promote:

LEARNING characterised by
• active engagement of teachers and
  students
• students demonstrating what they know and
  can do
• frequent and explicit feedback on progress
• high aspirations, personal discipline and
  intellectual rigor
• individual and collaborative activities
• reflection and self direction.

TEACHING characterised by
• a response to the diverse range of learners
  and learning styles
• practice that is contemporary, innovative
  and well informed

• respect for the Catholic Christian tradition
• catering for diverse range of learners and
  learning
• explicit, focused instruction
• collaborative professional learning.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS characterised by
• the Catholic Christian identity of the school
• quality facilities and resources
• aesthetics that encourage prayer, reflection
  and creativity
• responsiveness to the needs of students and
  teachers
• a safe, supporting and nurturing educational
  environment.

COLLABORATION characterised by
• strong partnerships between parents,
  teachers and students
• key partnerships both within and beyond the
  school
• interactive and quality engagement with the
  local church and wider community
• quality interactive processes.

GLOSSARY
Pedagogy
Pedagogy is the reciprocal, interactive, and dynamic process between teaching and
learning. It is what goes on everyday in great classrooms.


REFERENCES
Learning and teaching in Catholic schools empowers all learners in our community to understand, shape and enrich our changing world, by living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION
All in Catholic schools are invited to engage in the mission of the Church in the world through daily active living of the Gospel. This encourages learning that is transformative, within personal, communal and societal contexts.

Learners bring with them rich life experiences and diverse religious, social and cultural backgrounds. Our schools offer a vibrant and relevant curriculum which respects this life experience and diversity, recognising that “every learner is in some respect like all others, like some others and like no other”. Schools assist learners to make meaning of their world.

Teachers assist students to learn by providing creative and engaging opportunities for all. They nurture constructive partnerships with parents and others to provide high quality learning within a safe and supportive educational environment.

RATIONALE
Church documentation reminds us that the Catholic school’s task is fundamentally a synthesis of culture and faith, and a synthesis of faith and life: the first is reached by integrating all the different aspects of human knowledge through the subjects taught, in the light of the Gospel; the second in the growth of the virtues characteristic of the Christian. (CS n 37)

Within a Catholic school the cultural and religious dimensions of learning are interrelated. This relationship between contemporary culture and the Catholic Christian tradition can be both harmonious and in productive tension. Collectively they promote in students the bringing together of culture, faith and life.

This approach to learning and teaching fosters coherence and a connected, meaningful understanding of reality. Students are formed and informed in the light of the Catholic Christian tradition. They will be taught by knowledgeable, skilful and caring teachers who facilitate quality learning. Students are challenged to become lifelong learners and active, engaged and ethical citizens.

Learning and teaching in Catholic schools relies on teachers who are:
• well formed in their vocation as a Christian and in their ministry of teaching
• growing and maturing, personally, professionally and religiously
• positive in their disposition towards young people and their families
• continually reflecting upon and enhancing their pedagogy.

Learning and teaching in Catholic schools is informed by:
• the educational vision, mission and policies of the Archdiocese and of the school
• contemporary educational research and practices

1. The term Catholic in this policy is also inclusive of the three Ecumenical schools supported and administered through Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Brisbane to which this policy also applies.
2. Adapted from the Overarching Goal for Learning, Brisbane Catholic Education Learning Framework, Brisbane 2002.
4. The term others is inclusive of support staff within the school, community agencies and other educational providers which support the student.