Design Principles underpinning BCE approach to Spiritual Formation

The BCE system-wide approach to spiritual formation is outlined in the Framework document, Model and Matrix, and implemented through formation programs, resources and strategies. It is underpinned by the following design principles:

1. **Participatory Culture**
   Formation is fostered through a sustained invitational approach that develops a culture of participation.

2. **Professional Relevance**
   Formation is most effective and sustained when it is contexted in the everyday personal and professional vocational reality of the participant.

3. **Holistic Design**
   Formation is powerfully facilitated by the experiential dimension of an holistic approach.

4. **Time Factors**
   Spiritual formation requires inclusion of chronological time away from the school environment facilitating a unique qualitative experience of time. This ‘kairos’ time experience is fundamental to growth and sustainability.

5. **Connecting with Tradition**
   In the current context for spiritual formation, the contemporising of key elements of traditional Catholic formation provides a powerful conduit for connection.

6. **Companioni**ng
   Spiritual Formation has greater sustainable influence in community when individual confidence and capacity is supported in partnership by a core group sharing the vision and praxis.

7. **Modelling in Community**
   The authentic modelling of individual learnings and experience in spiritual formation is a transparent and powerful catalyst for change in the community.

8. **Strategic Alignment**
   Spiritual formation has sustained influence when it is connected to the language, structures and processes of mission and vision, annual goal setting and strategic renewal.

9. **School Leadership**
School leadership that reflects an authentic engagement itself in spiritual formation is critical for the effective embedding of staff formation, and the growing of a spiritual ethos and culture in the school community.

10. **Theological Underpinnings**

Spiritual formation that is anchored in a clear theological foundation reflected in the formation process and content, and the key messages around mission and evangelisation, captures a strong alignment in communal meaning-making.

(Gowdie, *Mission and Meaning*, 2012)