

School Philosophy

As a Catholic primary school, Christ the Priest is unequivocal in its commitment to foster the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children by providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching school environment, in which they are able to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

Vision

Inspiring learners to grow, learn and succeed in a dynamic Catholic community.

Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School exists to provide a Catholic education for Catholic families in the Parish of St Catherine of Siena, Caroline Springs. There is a focus on faith formation and development and personal learning programs for students. Case management of each student's pathway throughout their primary school years will be a guiding paradigm for the continued development of the environment, the layout of teaching spaces and meeting rooms, the curriculum and positions of leadership.

Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School aims to promote lifelong learning and active participation as citizens in Australian society. Within the investigations, students will participate in pedagogy based on an Inquiry Approach to Teaching and Learning, providing them with the opportunity to develop as lifelong learners who have the capacity to think and know how to learn.

An important focus of curriculum development and implementation is the focus on Community and Citizenship, which is developed and explored in line with the Victorian Personal and Social Capability and the Civics and Citizen Domain and the vision for Catholic Education that children who attend Catholic schools are "energised to seek meaning and explore questions about the world around them.. in partnership with parents and the broader Church." (CEOM, Horizons of Hope-An Education Framework for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Vision and Context).

Students will be provided with the opportunity to learn how to learn through a range of meta-cognitive strategies which will inform the curriculum at all levels of the child's schooling, with an aim for the student to become an increasingly independent learner. Integrated access to and use of Digital Technologies will underpin communication and will be used as a learning and teaching tool in order to allow for communication with, and learning through, the local, broader and global community contexts.

Education at Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School will endeavour to prepare students for a world in which work, society, community and personal relationships are of equal importance. It is recognized we exist in a world of constant change in which work, ideas and the economy is increasingly influenced by global events and the major impact of technological change.

The programs of Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School and the teaching of those programs support and promote:-

- the principles and practice of Australian democracy;
- the elected government;
- the rule of law;
- equal rights for all before the law;
- freedom of religion;
- freedom of speech and association; and,
- values of openness and tolerance.

This is communicated using a variety of media, through the policies, programs, documentation and practices of the school. This occurs formally at the enrolment interview on application for enrolment to Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School; through newsletter items, at regular school assemblies and weekly singing of the National Anthem.

In bringing this philosophy to life, there is an effort to use the available learning areas as flexibly as possible, thus encouraging shared use of spaces, movement of students within these areas, and so, enabling whole group, small group and individual learning experiences. Outdoor learning forms an integral part of the curriculum and therefore outdoor spaces are utilised as a flexible working space for students.

The use of Digital Technologies as learning and teaching tools is an important part of the skill development of the learner. This form of learning will include, but not be limited to, resources such as computers, iPads, electronic whiteboards and Google classrooms.

Children will be provided with time for outdoor play as part of their learning day, and will be provided with a curriculum which teaches them skills in all areas of the Victorian Curriculum.

There is a focus on the partnership with parents in the education of their children. Parent communication and education is a priority in ensuring that this occurs effectively and for the benefit of students.

Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School staff are committed as a Professional Learning Community, which engages in Professional Development as a whole staff, as well as having a personalised learning plan for themselves, in order to ensure they are providing student focused learning and teaching opportunities to address individual student needs in keeping **with the demands of contemporary learning.**