



ST JAMES SCHOOL MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD PROGRAMME POLICY

DEFINITION

Sexuality is a mode through which humans, as male and female engage with the world and explore the Christian vocation to love. Sexuality education is an essential aspect of any Christian education.

RATIONALE

At St. James School, we believe that humans are made in the image of God and are deserving of the utmost dignity and honour. We uphold the belief that human sexuality, integral to the human person, is a gift from God, through which we can live out our vocation to love.

We acknowledge that the beliefs, values and insights of the Christian tradition and Catholic moral teaching enrich our lives.

PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

We value our partnerships with parents and actively explore ways in which to strengthen the partnerships between school and families.

Parent communication is vital, to ensure that classroom learning always recognises the key role parents play in the education of their children. The parent community has opportunities to hear about the program and its content through various means, including newsletters, information session, viewing and sharing children's work and class handouts.

Each year parents are provided with specific information about what is taking place in the Being Sexual Strand. At the end of the program there will be opportunities for parent feedback about the program.

Parents with any questions or concerns about the program are encouraged to discuss with the class teacher, designated school leadership personnel or parent representatives on P & F or School Board.

SCHOOL SCOPE AND SEQUENCE PLAN

At St. James School, staff have developed a scope and sequence plan in order to establish the learning outcomes at each year level (Appendix 1). This will be communicated to parents and adhered to by the teaching staff. The scope and sequence plan will be reviewed at the completion of the Made in the Image of God program each year as a part of the evaluation process of the program.

OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

An overview committee can be called on a needs basis to evaluate and maintain the program on an ongoing basis to meet the needs of the school community. This committee consists of Made in the Image

of God key teacher (usually the REC) and representatives from the school leadership, school staff and parent community.

CONTENT

Made in the Image of God is the official program for sexuality education in South Australian Catholic Schools. It incorporates a sequential curriculum firmly based on Catholic moral teaching. The curriculum is organized into four strands which explore essential aspects of the human person.

- **Being Human**
This strand aims to affirm the value and dignity of human life and to promote reverence for self, others and the whole of creation.
- **Being Sexual**
This strand aims to explore the spiritual, physical, moral and psychological dimensions of human sexuality and to develop an appreciation of Catholic Church teaching regarding sexuality.
- **Being Connected**
This strand aims to explore the human vocation to love God and neighbour and to develop an appreciation of the interdependence of humanity.
- **Being Moral**
This strand aims to develop an understanding of what it is to be moral and to encourage responsible decision making by exploring the process of Christian decision-making

ASSESSMENT

Assessment should be an integral part of the curriculum. Its functions are to inform teachers about the performance of students and, more particularly, to assist students with their learning.

Assessment practices should both help students achieve curriculum outcomes and provide evidence of how well they have achieved them. Records of achievement spanning a diverse range of student work should be available to students, teachers and parents or guardians and provide a focus for discussion about future learning.

There are three main ways of gathering assessment information. These are:

- Observation of students at work
- Conferencing or talking to students
- Analysis of students' products / presentations of oral or written texts.

Assessment information can be recorded in a variety of ways including:

- Anecdotal records
- Observation grids
- Features lists
- Checklists
- Portfolios
- Audio and video recordings
- Student self assessment notes
- Marked books
- Collections of work samples.

During the Made in the Image of God program, all written tasks will be collected in a folder or book and this will be available for parents to see and discuss what has been taught during the Being Sexual strand.

RESOURCES

Resources used to support the program are carefully monitored to ensure they are suited to the program. Resources are also made available to support parents in sexuality education at home.

The Made in the Image of God curriculum folders and CDs are kept in the Religious Education office and can also be found online at the CESA website – <http://onlinecesanet.adl.catholic.edu.au>

POLICY RATIFIED BY ST JAMES SCHOOL BOARD 08-08-17

POLICY TO BE REVIEWED 2021