



# St Munchin's Catholic School

## Early Childhood Education and Care Policy

### Rationale

Catholic schools play a vital part in the life of the Church in Western Australia by contributing to the holistic development of our young through education. Early Childhood Education and Care are integral in laying the foundational blocks on which children 'develop a Gospel vision of themselves and society' (Mandate paragraph 6).<sup>1</sup> All human learning is valued as a gift of God. The Catholic education system provides a genuine education and care choice for parents and families. Catholic schools recognise parents as children's first and most influential educators. Each child 'experiences school as an extension of their own homes, the climate being a humanly and spiritually enriching one' (Mandate paragraph 36).<sup>2</sup>

### 2. Definitions

Early Childhood Education and Care in Western Australian Catholic schools refers to the education and care of children aged 0 to 8 years and all children attending outside school hours care services.

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to all Primary and Composite Catholic schools in Western Australia and to Early Childhood Education and Care facilities licensed under the auspices of the CECWA Trustees.

### 4. Principles

- 4.1 Catholic schools recognise parents as children's first and most influential educators.
- 4.2 Each child has individual needs and potential that shall be recognised, valued and responded to within a safe, caring and positive Catholic learning environment that fosters a sense of community.
- 4.3 Early Childhood Education and Care promotes learning as a lifelong process.
- 4.4 The learning environment, curriculum and pedagogy offered shall be inclusive of all children and be developmentally and culturally appropriate.
- 4.5 Early Childhood Education and Care shall be aligned to current research on development, learning and teaching as it applies to children 0-8 years old.
- 4.6 Early Childhood Education and Care in Catholic schools shall recognise the influence of relevant system, state and national documents.
- 4.7 All children enrolled in Early Childhood Education and Care in Catholic schools shall be the responsibility of the principal and designated staff.

### 5. Procedures

- 5.1 Procedures for enrolment at St Munchin's Catholic School are in accord with the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) and Government policy statements.
- 5.2 Period of attendance:
  - 5.2.1 St Munchin's Catholic school provides a three year old program based on local need.
  - 5.2.2 St Munchin's Catholic school provides Kindergarten children with a program of a minimum of fifteen hours per week implemented by 2013 in accordance with the Federal Government's Universal Access program.
  - 5.2.3 St Munchin's Catholic schools provide Pre-Primary children with five full day sessions from the commencement of the school year. Attendance is compulsory from 2013
  - 5.2.4 St Munchin's Catholic School provides Outside School Hour Care which: operates Before or/and After School Care on each day of the school year operates Vacation Care for a minimum of eight hours per day and seven weeks of the school holidays per year

- 5.3 St Munchin's Catholic School Early Childhood Education and Care programs is appropriately staffed according to the: Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-C6 'Appointment of Staff in Catholic Schools' Current early learning and care legislation relevant for Western Australia
- 5.4 St Munchin's Catholic School educators who provide a learning program for the pre-compulsory years shall hold an Early Childhood qualification in accordance with current regulations. St Munchin's strives for teachers of Years 1-3 to hold an Early Childhood Education qualification.
- 5.5 At St Munchin's Catholic School educators in the early years and the principal implement evidence based early childhood pedagogy and are engaged in appropriate ongoing professional development.
- 5.6 St Munchin's Early Childhood Care and Education services, in conjunction with Catholic Education Office of Western Australia, develop and periodically review written policies and procedures as outlined in current legislation relevant for Western Australia.

## **6. References**

<sup>1</sup>Bishops Mandate for the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia 2009 – 2015

## **7. Related Documents**

Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-C6 'Appointment of Staff in Catholic Schools'