



POLICIES

Leschenault Catholic Primary

Topic:	Early Childhood Education and Care		
Policy No:	2-B6		
Policy Area:	Education		
Updated:	2017	Date of Review:	2019

Rationale

Each child is a precious and sacred gift from God created as an individual with their own unique talents and abilities. Leschenault Catholic Primary School seeks to create environments that nurture this individuality while enhancing learning and empowering young people to live the Catholic faith in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Childhood as “a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world” and recognise that quality service provision in the early years provides an opportunity to foster the development of the whole child (Early Childhood Australia, 2009). To facilitate this Leschenault Catholic Primary School has adopted aspects of the Walker Learning Approach (Walker, 2013) which personalises learning and engages students in authentic and meaningful ways by drawing on developmentally and culturally appropriate practices. Teachers provide an intertwined combination of intentionally scaffolded play experiences and explicit instruction of literacy and numeracy.

Leschenault Catholic Primary celebrates parents as children’s first and most influential educators and recognises that strong, collaborative partnerships between parents and educators are essential. Educators and educational leaders work collaboratively with parents to foster children’s spiritual, physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning and growth. Leschenault Catholic Primary School “assist[s] parents who wish to develop their children as Christian men and women. Also they support parishes with their responsibility of supporting parents as the first educators of their child” (Mandate, para 6).

Principles

1. All staff at Leschenault Catholic Primary School recognise parents as children’s first and most influential educators. They develop collaborative partnerships with families based on understanding one another’s expectations, attitudes and strengths.
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.
3. Early Childhood Education and Care promotes learning as a lifelong process.
4. Leschenault Catholic Primary School utilises the Walker Learning Pedagogy which is developmentally appropriate and allows for the individuality of each child.

5. Early Childhood Education and Care staff will attend professional development, keep up to date on relevant pedagogical research and engage in regular professional conversations with colleagues through PLCMs, NQS and Walker meetings
6. Staff at Leschenault Catholic Primary School are guided by the national documents which are inclusive of The National Quality Standards, Early Years Learning Framework, Australia Curriculum.
7. All children enrolled at Leschenault Catholic Primary School are the responsibility of the principal and other staff.
8. The pedagogy (Walker Learning) used at Leschenault Catholic Primary School provides learning that is a balance of intentional teaching and play based learning, that provide children with opportunities to explore, discover, imagine and engage in purposeful and meaningful experiences. It caters for all learning styles and abilities, and is strongly directed by the children's interests. The children are highly motivated to learn through opportunities to make authentic choices.

Procedures

1. Procedures for enrolment shall be in accord with the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) policy statement 2-D5 'Student Enrolment' and Government policy.
2. Early Childhood Education and Care programs shall be appropriately staffed according to the:
 - i. Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-C6 'Appointment of Staff in Catholic Schools'
 - ii. Current early learning and care legislation relevant for Western Australia
3. All educators, educating and caring for children from Pre-Kindy to pre-primary age, shall hold an early childhood qualification in accordance with the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) approved list. Leschenault Catholic Primary School aims to have all Educators (Years 1-2) qualified in Early Childhood Education or working towards this qualification.
4. All educators in the early years at Leschenault Catholic Primary School will implement evidence based early childhood pedagogy, be engaged in appropriate ongoing professional development and weekly professional conversations.
5. Leschenault Catholic Primary School, in conjunction with Catholic Education Office of Western Australia, shall develop and periodically review written policies and procedures as outlined in current legislation relevant for Western Australia.

Period of Operation

Leschenault Catholic Primary School provides:

1. A 3-year old program based on local need.
2. Kindergarten children with a minimum of 15 hours per week from the commencement of the school year.
3. Pre-Primary children with five full day sessions from the commencement of the school year.

References

Bishops of Western Australia 2009, Mandate of the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia: 2009-2015

Department of Education (formerly Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations), Child Care Services Handbook, 2012-2013

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2012 (Cth)

Department of Education (formerly Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations), National Quality Framework for early childhood education and care, 2012

Department of Education (formerly Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations), Early Years Learning Framework, 2009 Early Childhood Australia, Early Years Positional Statement, 2009

Walker, K. (2013) Play Matters: Investigative Learning for Pre School to Grade 2 (2nd Ed). Camberwell: ACER Press.