

Rationale

At St Mary's Catholic Primary 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.

We acknowledge that parents have a right and responsibility to educate their children in human sexuality and that it is the role of the school to support parents in this area. We highly value our partnerships with parents and are committed to strengthening and enriching these partnerships.

The Programme

Made in the Image of God is the official programme for sexuality education in Northern Territory Catholic Schools. This programme is endorsed and supported by the Bishop. It incorporates a sequential curriculum firmly based on Catholic moral teaching. The curriculum is organised into four strands which explore essential aspects of the human person.

Programme Structure

At each year level, the programme is divided into the following sections:

- 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 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 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 Moral - This strand aims to develop an understanding of what it is to be moral and to encourage responsible decision making by exploring the processes of Christian decision making

The strands of Being Human, Being Connected and Being Moral are integrated within the Religious Education programme, Journey in Faith. The Being Sexual strand is taught as a "stand alone" unit.

As students' progress, they are presented with an integrated course that gives emphasis to age appropriate issues and information.

Ongoing professional development will be provided to teachers.

Being Sexual Component content being taught across the Year levels:

Year	"Being Sexual" Content
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The story of their birth • A sense of awe and wonder for the gift of new life • Love and life are nurtured within a family unit
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different families and different people • The difference between boys and girls • Body as a special gift
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life is special • The miracle of new life
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we grow and change? • How does a baby grow before birth?
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are we special; what is our special purpose? • Reproduction System; body parts • An appreciation of the Catholic understanding of the purpose of sexual intercourse
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How am I changing; how am I special? • Puberty • What does sexuality mean and how do we respect it? • Menstrual cycle; sperm production

Parents in Partnership

The Made in the Image of God programme recognises the role of parents as primary educators. Parents are encouraged to be involved in discussions with their children.

Copies of the Made in the Image of God programme are available on request.

We Pray Together

Dear Jesus,

We pray that we may be more understanding towards those that we live, work and play with.

Help us to see others for their gifts and talents, rather than their faults and imperfections.

May we always value the unique qualities of every person and strive to see the good in others.

"I have called you by name, you are mine. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you."

Isaiah 43: 1-4

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy will be published on the St Mary's Catholic Primary School website.

Review/Ratification

Year of review	SIRF Committee Responsible	Ratified By / Date (Month/Year)
2016	Leadership	School Board – Jun 2016
2019	Catholic Identity	

Next Review: 2019