



# TEACHING & LEARNING POLICY

## Scriptural Context

“Teach a child how they should live, and they will remember it all their life,”  
Proverbs 22:6

## Rationale

Learning and teaching at St Patrick’s Primary School, educates each student to live the gospel of Jesus Christ as successful, confident and creative, active and informed learners, empowered to shape and enrich our world.

## Aims

Each learner brings richly diverse life experiences, religious, social and cultural backgrounds. Our schools offer a relevant, contemporary and engaging curriculum which welcomes and builds on this diversity. Teachers create equity and excellence in every classroom to assist students to learn in ways that are personal, relational and communal. They nurture constructive partnerships with parents and others to optimise conditions for learning within a safe and supportive environment.

## Key Learning Areas

Learning and Teaching at St Patrick’s School is informed by:

- NSW Syllabus – NESA <http://syllabus.nesa.nsw.edu.au/>
- Contemporary Learning Framework <http://clf.lism.catholic.edu.au/>
- St Patrick’s Learning Framework
- Foundational Values for Catholic Identity and Mission  
<http://intranet.lism.catholic.edu.au/foundationalvaluesforcatholicidentityandmission/>
- CSO Lismore Religious Education Curriculum  
<http://intranet.lism.catholic.edu.au/religiouseducation/Primary/REPrimaryCurriculum.html>
- Curriculum and Pedagogy Guidelines  
<http://intranet.lism.catholic.edu.au/curriculum/Pages/ProceduresGuidelines.html>

St Patrick’s curriculum is divided into seven key learning areas. Teachers must adhere to the following time allocations for each Curriculum area each week, as required by NESA and the Diocese of Lismore.

Key Learning Area	Percentage of Time	Approximate Time (hours)
Religious Education	10%	2.5
English	25% - 35%	6.25 – 8.75
Maths	25%	6.25
PDHPE	6 -10%	1.5 – 2.5
Science and Technology	6-10%	1.5 – 2.5
HSIE- History & Geography	6-10%	1.5 – 2.5
Creative Arts	6-10%	1.5 – 2.5

The following Key Learning Areas will be taught in either Year Levels or Stage Levels. Scope and sequences are developed for each Key Learning Area and are revised on an annual basis.

<b>Year Level Specific</b>	Religious Education & Mathematics
<b>Stage or Year Level</b>	English, Science & Technology, HSIE, PDHPE, Creative Arts

### **Approaches to Teaching & Learning**

Parents and teachers will be recognised and affirmed as partners in education, exercising different roles and responsibilities in pursuit of a common vision.

### **RELATIONSHIPS**

*Teachers will:*

- ◆ Develop caring relationships with all students by valuing their contributions, gifts and abilities.
- ◆ Interact with Christian integrity in the ways they speak, act and make decisions.
- ◆ Maintain a positive environment where students feel valued and feel a sense of belonging.
- ◆ Acknowledge and encourage positive support and involvement between peers, teachers, families, parish and the wider community.
- ◆ Recognise that parents are the primary educators of their children and will be expected to support teachers in the education of their child/ren.
- ◆ Communicate with parents about the learning of their children. Parents are encouraged to initiate communication with their child/ren's teacher.

### **CURRICULUM & PEDAGOGY**

*Teachers will:*

- ◆ Use the NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority) Syllabus and Contemporary Learning Framework (CLF) as a basis for planning the teaching and learning experiences in all key learning areas.
- ◆ Plan in advance using term planners and day books. Programs will be checked by the Principal or delegate once a term.
- ◆ Plan teaching and learning experiences that reflect the Catholic Worldview Permeation process.
- ◆ Plan learning experiences that will enable students to work individually, in small groups or as a large group.
- ◆ Implement the School Wide Pedagogy and whole school beliefs and practices. These will be developed and reviewed as required.
- ◆ Develop programs utilising a variety of teaching and learning approaches to cater for individual differences of students.
- ◆ Use approaches that foster development of critical thinking and creativity.
- ◆ Build upon prior experiences of students to provide relevance and meaning.
- ◆ Encourage and allow students to be risk takers and encourage them to see mistakes as a valuable part of learning.
- ◆ Provide students with the opportunity to be involved in their learning and to take responsibility for it.
- ◆ Provide opportunities to utilise technology to enhance the learning in all Key Learning Areas.
- ◆ Provide learning experiences to allow students to develop collaborative skills.
- ◆ Assess students' progress in an ongoing manner, using the whole school Assessment Plan and a variety of assessments as, of and for student learning.
- ◆ Set appropriate homework tasks which are designed to reinforce concepts taught at school.

## PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

*Teachers will:*

- ◆ Maintain their accreditation with the NESAs.
- ◆ Participate in the Diocesan goal setting and feedback process.
- ◆ Participate in professional development, both school and personal identified.
- ◆ Actively participate in Professional Learning Teams and plan collaboratively.
- ◆ Develop an assessment plan indicating how student's performance in each KLA is assessed, monitored and recorded. Samples of student work that relate to the teaching program of the year are to be stored by the school.
- ◆ Monitor and record student progress in the Key Learning Areas of English and Mathematics on the whole school tracking documents.
- ◆ Analyse student data to inform teaching and learning.
- ◆ Identify vulnerable students and adjust teaching and learning practices to meet student needs.
- ◆ Develop Personalised Plans to meet the needs of students requiring adjustments to access the curriculum.

### Reflective Materials

- Religious Education Curriculum, Catholic Schools Office, Lismore
- Vision Statement, St. Patrick's Primary School
- Homework Policy, St Patrick's Primary School
- Assessment Policy, St Patrick's Primary School
- Behaviour Management Policy, St Patrick's Primary School
- Assessment and Reporting Policy, St Patrick's Primary School
- Learning Framework, St Patrick's Primary School
- Curriculum and Pedagogy Guidelines, Catholic Schools Office, Lismore

**This policy was originally recommended for approval by the  
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