

*Here at Sacred Heart, we firmly believe all students enrolled, and any child visiting, have the right to feel safe and be safe in all school environments and outside of school hours. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.*

## Learning and Teaching Policy

### Identity Statement:

*'An active learning community working in partnership with families, inspiring strength through faith and love'*

### Vision Statements:

At Sacred Heart School we believe:

- In celebrating our Catholic Faith in a life-giving community of witnesses who serve God and society
- In fostering open and supportive relationships with families as the primary educators of their children
- In educating the whole child in a learning environment where teamwork and collaboration are central, so that each child becomes a valuable contributor to society
- In providing a curriculum, which cultivates effective lifelong learners through commitment to inform, current teaching and learning practice
- In building relationships based upon mutual respect, trust and care in an environment of justice, equality, compassion and hope

### Graduate Outcomes:

At Sacred Heart School we seek to educate students to:

- Be inspired by Christ
- Live an active and healthy lifestyle
- Be discerning and adaptable lifelong learners in a contemporary world
- Have a social conscience and respect for life, self, others and the environment
- Be optimistic, resilient and confident to take their own path and reach their potential
- Have the ability to work as an individual, and as part of a team

### Aims:

- To stimulate the engagement of each student, facilitating the development of understanding, skills and capabilities in order to help each one flourish as a person – COSSI
- To ensure that practices and decision-making processes related curriculum, learning and teaching, and academic growth are consistent with Sacred Heart's Vision and Graduate Outcomes. - COSSI

### Beliefs:

Sacred Heart's philosophy reflects the distinctive needs of the learning community and aims to meet the needs of each individual student. The philosophy includes the principals of Spirituality, Personalisation, Authentic Inquiry, Community and Life Long Learners provide a framework to support, improve and enable learning and teaching to flourish in our school.

1. **Spirituality** - Spirituality is based on trusting relationships with ourselves, others and God. It allows us to connect, reflect, respond and contemplate in an environment of integrity and empathy.
2. **Personalisation** - Through open and trusting relationships a deep knowledge of the individual learner is created. This knowledge is used to plan for and support each individual learner's needs. The diversity of each learner's interests, passions, learning, strength and challenges is acknowledged and embraced through contemporary learning and teaching practices. All individuals value themselves and their contribution to the learning community, and are given opportunities to share their gifts as a learner.
3. **Authentic Inquiry** - Authentic inquiry helps learners make sense of the world around them as they wonder, plan, research, explore, analyse create and reflect. This process is driven by passion and a curiosity to learn which is fostered through experiences that are relevant and meaningful to the learner.
4. **Community** - Positive relationships and teamwork involving our school, family, parish and wider communities form the foundations of Learning and Teaching at Sacred Heart. We are committed to

building just, collaborative relationships through sharing responsibility between parents, staff, and students. We acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of our community, our interests, our strengths and challenges and believe that learning is a co-operative, social activity fostered through a welcoming, supportive and open environment.

5. **Life Long Learners** - Lifelong learning creates responsible flexible individuals and problem solvers. Lifelong learning requires individuals to be responsible, respectful, resilient and adaptable through effective problem solving, exploration and intrinsic motivation.

### **Curriculum Organisation:**

At Sacred Heart School we are committed providing a high quality education for our students by focusing strongly on English, Mathematics and Religious Education, complemented by specialist curriculum and other quality programs. See Appendix 1: *Sacred Heart School Tatura Victorian Curriculum Overview* for further information.

### **Data Collection and Analysis:**

At Sacred Heart School we are committed to :

- Assessing school and student performance accurately and comprehensively against Australian, State and Diocesan standards, and
- Improving student learning by accurately determining current performance as well as areas of future need and development.

At Sacred Heart School we are committed to:

- Engaging in ongoing systems of assessment outlined in the Assessment and Reporting Policy
- Implementing individual testing programs outlined in the Assessment and Reporting Policy according to the relevant procedures and protocols
- Engaging in ongoing collaborative processes where formative data is analysed within Professional Learning Teams with the intention of directly informing learning and teaching practice
- Engaging in timely collaborative data analysis of summative data sets including NAPLAN, PAT and F-2 Literacy through whole-staff Professional Learning Community meetings

### **Goal Setting:**

At Sacred Heart School we are committed to :

- Providing students with the opportunity to set, target, review and evaluate learning goals which are communicated and further developed through Student Led Conferences
- Working in partnership with students and parents in identifying specific goals related to student learning and wellbeing, and providing clear opportunities for reviewing and modifying set goals eg. Personal Learning Plans through termly Parents Support Group meetings
- Setting school-wide Learning and Teaching goals and focus areas related to the outcomes of timely whole-staff data analysis processes

### **Teaching Practice Review Process**

At Sacred Heart School we are committed to reviewing our teaching practice individually by:

- Reflecting on our own teaching practice through the setting of goals according to the AITSL Standards for Teachers
- Engaging in professional discourse related to the Professional Knowledge, Professional Practice and Professional Engagement AITSL standards with the principal as part of the Annual Review Meeting program

At Sacred Heart School we are committed to reviewing our teaching practice in collaborative teams by:

- Engaging in weekly Team Planning meetings
- Engaging in weekly Professional Learning meetings linked to team and whole school focus areas
- Providing Planning Folders including weekly, unit and overview planning documents for review by the Learning and Teaching Leader throughout the year

## **Appendix 1.**

### **Sacred Heart School Tatura Victorian Curriculum Overview**

At Sacred Heart we are committed to providing a high quality education for our students by focussing strongly on English, Mathematics and Religious Education, complemented by specialist curriculum and other quality programs.

Our engaging curriculum is guided the Victorian Curriculum. The Victorian Curriculum F-10 sets out what every Victorian student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling. The Victorian Curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship. We use the Victorian Curriculum to plan student learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents.

Our Religious Education is based on the Source of Life core documents which have been set for all schools in the Sandhurst Diocese. In Religious Education we believe in and develop the knowledge that every child is important, valued and that all students have something special to contribute to life. Each child has the right to live happily and achieve fullness of life with God – and to grow and learn in a community where Christian values are taught and modelled daily.

The social and emotional wellbeing of all students is central to all that we do at Sacred Heart. Students develop a deep understanding of how to recognise, understand and manage a range of emotions and the importance of maintaining respectful relationships through the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program implemented at all year levels.

In addition to the eight learning areas, the four key capabilities of Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical, Intercultural, and Personal and Social permeate all areas of the curriculum. These key capabilities aim to foster the development of students who are critical and creative thinkers, confident and innovative, informed participants in their local and regional communities and who value their own culture and values, as well as those of others.

In English, the students focus on the three strands of Reading, Writing and Oral Language. This is done in a variety of ways, including planned small group and whole group learning tasks as well as individual and partner activities. Sacred Heart aims to cater for all students in their English journey in a supportive yet challenging environment.

In Mathematics, the students learn within three strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. In order for the students to acquire the skills needed in Mathematics, our classes are structured so that both whole and focus group teaching processes form the basis of our daily learning and teaching practice. Skills are taught to target groups within the class so the learning needs of individual students are met.

Students at Sacred Heart engage in specialist Art, Music and Italian programs. The Health and Physical Education program offered at Sacred Heart incorporates both individual and team based learning and participation opportunities. Athletics, Cross Country, Winter Team Sports and Swimming programs take place annually and classes participate in Health and Physical Education lessons individually and in units.

Learning in the area of Digital Technologies is applied across all curriculum areas and focusses on enabling students to confidently use digital platforms and applications to design, create and communicate intended outcomes. Students learn about and are expected to consistently apply safe, ethical and respectful communications when working with ICT.

Our Integrated Curriculum, comprising of The Humanities, Technology and Science, is based around the concept of Inquiry Learning. This process relies heavily on the students' own insights into what the topic is, and allows them to nominate what they want to learn about a given topic. Students progressively develop an understanding of thinking processes that enable them to be logical, strategic, flexible and adventurous thinkers.