



Good Shepherd
Lutheran School
ANGASTON

Christian Studies Policy

Last Reviewed 2008

Preface

At Good Shepherd, Christian Studies is a program of study about the Christian faith. Like all forms of academic learning, its purpose is to inform the students and to help them to develop their understanding of life and the world in which they live. The basis of Christian Studies is the Word of God as revealed in the Old and New Testaments, informed by the Lutheran Confessions and with the Gospel as its focus.

The LIFE curriculum of Christian Studies provides opportunities for students to hear, explore and reflect on a series of key faith statements. The faith statements are: God creates; God saves; God helps; God calls; and God gathers.

1. Aims

2. Principles for Effective Teaching of Christian Studies

3. Content

4. Assessment

Assessment in Christian Studies has a number of purposes. These include providing information to:

- Students about their progress and achievements
- Teachers to inform planning and programming
- Parents and caregivers about their children's learning

Judgments' about the student's achievements will be based on clear and explicit criteria.

Assessments draw on a comprehensive range of strategies including anecdotal records based on observations, work samples, portfolios, self assessment tasks, checklists, teacher made lists, standardized tests, audio tapes, video tapes and interviews.

Students are encouraged to monitor and reflect on their progress.

Student development will be mapped across year levels.

5. Teacher's Professional Development

Teachers keep themselves well informed both with content knowledge and teaching strategies and practices. This is achieved through;

- Professional reading
- Sharing of best practice e.g. at staff meetings, hub groups
- Attendance at advertised conferences, workshops, seminars, etc
- Related and relevant association memberships.

6. Timetable

It is expected the time allocation for Christian Studies will be a minimum of 2 hours per week. Where possible, teachers need to explore opportunities for integration with other curriculum areas.

7. Resources

Effective resourcing relies on:

- An annual meeting of the Principal, the Christian Studies Key Teacher and Business Manager to review spending of the current year's budget and to determine proposed budget for the next year.
- The administration of adequate budgetary commitments for the provision of teacher and student equipment, materials including library resources and software programs, access to the internet and related technology
- A key teacher accepting responsibility for coordinating the selection and purchase of equipment and materials to support the program
- Adequate budgetary commitment to ongoing professional development for teachers.

8. Parents

At enrolment interviews, caregivers are informed about curriculum areas making up the school program and studies in which their students will participate.

Both new and existing caregivers of students of the school are given the ongoing opportunity to learn about the key learning area.

This information may be provided:

- Parent information nights
- In printed form, through class and school newsletters
- By teachers according to individual need
- Internet access to SACSA and LEA website.

9. Scope and Sequence - Science

The Lutheran Curriculum Framework has been developed for use in all Lutheran Schools to support teachers in their planning and programming. The Christian Studies Scope and Sequence is used by Good Shepherd to allow for a consistent approach across every year level.

Attached is the Lutheran Curriculum Framework Christian Studies Scope and Sequence.