



## POLICIES

# Leschenault Catholic Primary School

Topic:	Catholic School Retreats		
Policy No:	2-A1		
Policy Area:	Catholic Identity		
Updated:	2016	Date of Review:	2018

### Rationale

The Catholic school retreat aims to put students in 'communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ'. Through the retreat experience students come to know Christian love and are exposed to a Gospel centred way of life. Students hear the Gospel and are empowered to connect the Gospel message to their lives and to find ways of continuing the Church's mission. They participate in the life of the Christian community through liturgy and through activities which emphasise growth in Christian faith.

### Definitions

The term retreat refers to time away from the normal school program where participants have the opportunity to reflect on their relationship with God. The emphasis is on students' awareness of the presence of God in their lives. Retreats may vary in style and duration. They include experiences of prayer, discussions, reflective silence and quiet time alone.

### Scope

This policy applies to Leschenault Catholic Primary School.

### Principles

- Retreats aim to provide experiences for students to know, contemplate and celebrate Jesus.
- Retreats are an integral part of our Catholic school life. They need to be inclusive, purposeful, meaningful and take into account the culture, developmental needs and experiences of students.
- Retreats complement the catechesis experiences offered by the school.
- Retreat planning needs to take into consideration the charism, ethos and mission of the school.
- Retreats need to be planned in a way that engages students in rich experiences of Catholic symbol and ritual.
- Retreat staff will be committed to the faith formation of young people.

### Procedures

- Planning policy for retreats shall follow relevant components of 'School Camps and Excursions Policies'.
- Parents and students shall be informed about the nature and purpose of the retreat and the level of student involvement required.
- A school retreat program shall consider the religious and cultural backgrounds and the developmental needs of the students.
- A school retreat program shall include appropriate prayer and liturgical experiences.
- A school retreat program shall include creative and engaging activities.
- Staff involved in a school retreat shall be familiar with the retreat programme and its expectations prior to and during the retreat.
- The retreat programme shall include appropriate evaluation procedures, including feedback from students.