



## Catholic school renewal in Queensland

### A policy statement of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission

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#### 1. Policy Statement

Each Catholic school authority in Queensland will ensure that each of its Catholic schools engage in systematic renewal processes that strengthen the capacity of Catholic schools to address effectively their purposes and mission.

#### 2. Rationale

In 1986 formal structured processes of school renewal were introduced across all Queensland Catholic schools with the introduction of the state wide policy statement *Self Renewing Catholic Schools in Queensland*. The Bishops of Queensland have affirmed that the Catholic school community *will engage in renewal processes that facilitate the development of shared understandings and maintain an alignment between Christian values and the purposes and practices of the Catholic school.*<sup>1</sup>

To engage in purposeful school renewal the Catholic school will need to discern critically the signs of the times. Such engagement gives witness to the world that the Catholic school is educating young people and their families in harmony with the mission of Jesus Christ. There is considerable evidence which confirms that, operating in constructive partnerships, a transparent Catholic school's renewal process assists the school to address its vision, mission and operational practices.

Renewal processes and practices will provide opportunities for the involvement and informing of the total school community and are an integral part of the broader quality improvement programs of Catholic School Authorities.

A healthy and developing organisation is committed to and involved in renewing itself

#### 3. Consequences

When considering school renewal policy implementation within its schools each Catholic School Authority may consider the following;

- a) The *defining features* of a Catholic school, together with appropriate documents and policies approved by the relevant Catholic School Authorities, to address the renewal process.
- b) Systematic validation of the renewal process in schools is the responsibility of the relevant Catholic School Authority.
- c) Renewal of all aspects of a Catholic school is a continuous, cyclical process which is integral to its mission and which at all stages invites the participation of the whole school community.
- d) The term *renewal* includes such notions as reflection on purpose, evaluation and validation of the authenticity of practice and the seeking of continuous improvement.

- e) Renewal processes in Queensland Catholic Schools will meet their responsibilities under the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001 incorporating the *Improvement Processes* requirement of the legislation and a cyclical review at least once every five years as per the Cyclical Review Program Guidelines.

#### 4. References

1. A Report to the Queensland Bishops, *The Queensland Bishops' Project – Catholic Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, August 2001 (Page 10)
2. Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulations 2001 - Division 5: Improvement Processes Criterion  
*A school must have a demonstrable systematic approach about improvement processes for the school dealing with the following:*
  - a) *deciding strategies relevant to the processes and setting priorities for achieving;*
  - b) *how the strategies are to be achieved;*
  - c) *regular monitoring of the achievement of the strategies;*
  - d) *annual reporting to the school community, including the school's staff and students and the parents of the students about the achievement of the strategies.*
3. Non-State schools Accreditation Board: Cyclical Review Program:  
<http://www.nssab.qld.edu.au/Schools/CyclicalReview.php>

Date of Publication: October 2014

Date of review: October 2019