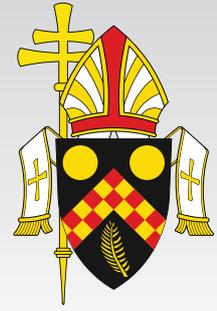


Policy Statement



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE
Catholic Education Council

RESOURCING OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Brisbane Catholic Education is committed to achieving the educational vision of the Archdiocese through appropriate, equitable, sustainable and accountable resourcing.

INTRODUCTION

Fulfillment of the mission of Catholic Education requires active partnerships among families, parish, school, local community and the Brisbane Catholic Education Office as part of the living church within the Archdiocese of Brisbane. This policy seeks to provide direction on the stewardship and equitable distribution of resources within Brisbane Catholic Education.

RATIONALE

Brisbane Catholic Education provides a range of resources to ensure the sustainability of high quality Catholic schooling. Resourcing is allocated with a commitment to responsible stewardship and to supporting the holistic development of the human person.

The implementation of the *Vision Statement for Catholic Education in the Archdiocese* requires the appropriate level of resourcing to support authentic, inclusive and contemporary Catholic schooling to:

- Enable all students to reach their full potential as compassionate, contributing, life giving members of their communities.
- Support the spiritual formation of staff and develop them as pastoral, creative and visionary members of their communities.
- Ensure all parents and families are supported in their choice of a Catholic education.
- Provide the necessary facilities for the provision of authentic inclusive contemporary Catholic schooling.
- Implement principles and practices of environmental sustainability.
- Facilitate partnerships across Catholic school communities.

Brisbane Catholic Education acknowledges the importance of parent and community funding at the local school level. Government contributions for the capital and recurrent needs of schools ensure the sustainability of Catholic education. Relationships with government are informed by the policies and procedures of the National Catholic Education Commission and the Queensland Catholic Education Commission.

Proactive, collaborative and sustainable practices are in place to ensure equitable distribution of available resources. To achieve this equitable distribution, processes have been developed which recognise both the diversity of our schools and the individual needs of all students in these schools.

The implementation of these processes is to ensure support for all, inclusive of families who are experiencing economic disadvantage and hardship. Available resources are distributed in both an effective and timely manner.

Appropriate financial stewardship and accountability to the providers of funds resides first and foremost with those responsible for the leadership and management at all levels of the Archdiocesan community of schools. Fundamental to this stewardship is a commitment to resourcing sustainably. This commitment requires that sustainable practice is embedded in the process of the designing of facilities and resource acquisition. The application of these principles ensures that integrity of resourcing prevails. Accountability requires effective consultative processes be undertaken on the allocation of resources, including funds, and the transparent reporting on use.

The future needs of church and education may require development of new models of financial responsibility, sustainability and accountability for schools within the Archdiocese.

CONSEQUENCES

Priority:

Brisbane Catholic Education will:

- After appropriate consultation, allocate funding from system resources, to allow maximum flexibility for decision-making at a local school community level.
- Budget annually to address both the mission and goals of the local school communities and Brisbane Catholic Education.
- Prioritise the equitable and sustainable resource distribution
- Support efforts at state and national levels to ensure adequate and equitable financial support by government in accordance with National Catholic Education Commission and Queensland Catholic Education Commission policies.

Accountability:

Brisbane Catholic Education will:

- Expend, allocate and account for resources, according to the intent for which they are provided.
- Comply with the reporting and procedural requirements of government agencies and church governance.
- Develop policies and procedures which articulate the equitable, effective and accountable use of resources in local school communities
- Observe the policies and procedures in relation to Archdiocesan schools and parish schools as articulated in the *Administration of Parish School Funds* document.
- Observe the policies and procedures in relation to parish schools as articulated in the *Collaborating for Mission: The Parish and the Catholic School* document.
- Develop reporting processes to enable clear reporting by schools and colleges to families, parish and local communities.
- Ensure transparent reporting by Brisbane Catholic Education Office, Schools and Archdiocesan authorities.
- Provide support to school communities to assist them in implementing contemporary shared wisdom governance practices.
- Resource in a manner that observes the principles of sustainability.

Equity:

Brisbane Catholic Education will:

- Apply an Archdiocesan Education Levy on all school communities in accordance with agreed processes and redistribute this equitably based on assessed needs.
- Continually review funding allocations to ensure equitable provision of resources to schools.

The Future:

Brisbane Catholic Education will:

- Formulate models of school financial administration to address the changing and developing needs of the Archdiocese and its schools.
- Engage in annual and longer term financial planning in order to adequately resource annual, master and strategic plans.

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