



# Emmanuel Catholic College

Policy Document: **Christian Service Learning Policy**

CECWA Reference: **Christian Service Learning in Catholic Schools**  
SCSA Reference: **ADCS-Community Service Endorsed Program**  
Date Released: **2017**  
Due next for Revision: **2022**

## Rationale

One of the key roles of Catholic schools is to form young people committed to the love, compassion and justice of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Catholic schools foster a Christian attitude in society and encourage the development of the kind of world envisaged by Christ (Mandate paragraph 6, 22).<sup>1</sup>

Christian Service Learning in Catholic schools enables students to grow from a Catholic faith perspective as people of service and justice. The Catholic school challenges students to grow in their understanding that faith is not just a personal response to God's love but a communal response to love one another as Jesus taught in order 'to make the world a better place for all', (Mandate paragraph 24).

Our Core Values underpin who we are as a College community. Our Core Value, "We will show respect, compassion and service to others" challenges us to reach out and to treat everyone with compassion and respecting the dignity of every human person, to reach out in service to those in need. Our Core Value, "We must model Christ in our behaviour" challenges all members of the College community to understand and be the example of Christ. **The College vision "God calls us to be men and women of service to others" is central to all that we do at Emmanuel Catholic College and the Christian Service Learning program** assists in developing the understanding of this **vision**.

## Principles

- Christian Service Learning provides students with opportunities to acquire the knowledge and understandings of love, compassion, justice and service as articulated in the Gospels and to apply their knowledge and skills to real situations in society.
- Christian Service Learning challenges students in developmentally appropriate ways to think and act in ways that reflect values that are consistent with the Gospel.
- Catholic schools support and challenge students to explore and reflect on justice issues as part of an integrated and articulated school plan which actively seeks to promote justice and has a commitment to the common good.
- Christian Service Learning provides students with the experience of 'service' as a way of learning and living that permeates all aspects of life rather than an activity that is isolated from the rest of their lives.
- Students understand the principles of Catholic **Social Teaching** and apply them to their own Christian Service Learning experiences.
- Students develop a deep understanding of the meaning, practice and value of 'service' from a Catholic Christian faith perspective.
- Preparation and reflection are essential elements in Christian Service Learning.
- Christian Service Learning is separate to the conventional school curriculum of the Catholic school and is conducted outside of school time, both on or off school premises.

## A Student-Centred Program

- Christian Service Learning is a flexible student-centred program that provides students with an opportunity to develop empathy, compassion and a sense of justice through meaningful and active citizenship. It will enable students to demonstrate competencies in critical thinking, problem solving, communication, self-

reflection, community and environmental responsibility and cultural awareness. We are all gifted in some way and the challenge for each student is to use their gifts in the service of others.

### **Serving Others**

- Throughout history, serving others has been the mark of a great person. There are everyday examples like Mother Teresa, Mary MacKillop and Oscar Romero and many unnamed people who serve this community and the wider community in so many ways. Think about all the volunteers who assist with Telethon, the Cancer Council, Red Cross, St Vincent De Paul Society, 'Clean up Australia', Lifeguards on our beaches, sports clubs and so the list goes on.
- The Christian Service Learning program will give students the opportunity to explore many ways to serve in the footsteps of so many Christians and will help the individual student discover new talents and interests as they participate.

### **What Learning Happens Through Christian Service?**

- Students participating soon discover that not only the people they are assisting are benefiting, but so are they. It requires the student to be creative, to find things to do that will be fulfilling and helpful and that they will feel rewarded and experience a sense of satisfaction as a result of being involved.
- Christian Service Learning thus enables students to interact with others in the spirit of the Gospel, to live and serve as Jesus commanded. Students identify areas in their communities where they can help develop a Gospel vision of society.

### **Definition**

Christian Service Learning is practical acts of faith in action. Formally and informally recognised by the College and based on the Gospel values handed on by the Catholic Church being put into action through service to others in need. The concept of Christian means that the Gospel informs the service learning. Jesus said 'The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has appointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free.' (Luke 4:18)

The term Service means students undertake actions for the benefit of individuals and/or community groups for no financial reward. Learning occurs through participation and relating to others. As students experience different service activities they are exposed to new experiences and ways of thinking. Reflecting on them makes up the learning component of Christian Service Learning program.

Christian Service is an activity that is completed for no personal gain, outside assisting others. therefore Christian Service at Emmanuel Catholic College, must occur outside school time.

### **Procedure**

- Emmanuel Catholic College will provide developmentally appropriate Christian Service Learning experienced for students and is a core part of the College Evangelisation Program.
- Service Learning is a compulsory part of the curriculum. Students engage in service activities provided by the school and in the community and reflect on their service learning experiences through prayer, journals and through meetings with their **Pastoral Care** Teachers.

### **What is Expected?**

#### **YEAR 7**

In Year 7, **Pastoral Care** Teachers will highlight the importance of our Core Values and traditions and how following Christ necessitates our serving others.

In Year 7, service will be directed and monitored by the **Pastoral Care** Teacher during Term 1- Term 3. Students will work with the **Pastoral Care** teacher who will model and provide an experience of Service. Students need

to record hours completed on their digitally provided log sheet, and submit this prior to the conclusion of Term 3.

Students will work with their **Pastoral Care** Teacher to complete Christian Service together. In Term 4, students will be required to complete a reflection on what they gained and experienced while completing service. This is to be submitted by Week 6, Term 4. They will complete a minimum of 10 hours of service.

#### **YEAR 8**

In Year 8, **Pastoral Care** Teachers will highlight the importance of our Core Values and traditions and how following Christ necessitates our serving others. Students will discuss and decide on what could be service at the College and in the wider community. Classes will discuss their planned action and monitor at regular intervals as to how they are going. Teachers may offer advice, encouragement and assistance as necessary, however, it is expected that the students undertake all necessary arrangements. Some examples might be, church activities, visiting and assisting an elderly person, improving the environment through gardening, picking up litter, unpaid babysitting, collecting for charity, coaching or assisting in sporting teams.

In Year 8 their service will be directed and monitored by the **Pastoral Care** Teacher during Term 1- Term 3. Students need to record hours completed on their digitally provided log sheet, and submit this prior to the conclusion of Term 3. In Term 4, students will be required to complete a reflection on what they gained and experienced while completing service. This is to be submitted by Week 6, Term 4. They must complete a minimum of 15 hours of service.

#### **YEAR 9**

In Year 9, **Pastoral Care** Teachers will highlight the importance of our Core Values and traditions and how following Christ necessitates our serving others. Students will discuss and decide on what could be service in the College and in the wider community. Classes will discuss their planned action and monitor at regular intervals as to how they are going. Teachers may offer advice, encouragement and assistance as necessary, however, it is expected that the students undertake all necessary arrangements. Some examples might include Church activities, visiting and assisting an elderly person improving the environment through gardening, picking up litter, unpaid babysitting, collecting for charity, coaching or assisting in sporting teams.

In Year 9 their service will be directed and monitored by the **Pastoral Care** Teacher during Term 1- Term 3. Students need to record hours completed on their digitally provided log sheet, and submit this prior to the conclusion of Term 3. In Term 4, students will be required to complete a reflection on what they gained and experienced while completing service. This is to be submitted by Week 6, Term 4. They are to complete a minimum of 20 Hours of service.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE IN SENIOR SCHOOL (Year 10 - 11)**

The Christian Service Learning program is a crucial way of putting the Gospel into action. Christian Service Learning is a visible demonstration of the Core Values of our school. The College places a great deal of importance on the completion of Christian Service Learning by all Senior School students. Completion of Christian Service Learning is a necessary pre-requisite in order to attend the College Ball in Year 12. Christian Service in Senior School must be completed in the community for a Not-for-Profit Organisation (eg. schools, charity, environmental groups). The College requires that students must complete a minimum of 25 hours Christian Service in Year 10 and further 25 hours in Year 11. This total will equal 50 hours as a senior school requirement. If a student completes 50 hours of Community Service, they may be eligible for an Endorsed Program through SCSA, giving them "C" grade towards their graduation.

Senior School Students service will be monitored by the **Pastoral Care** Teacher during Year 10 and Year 11. Students must submit 25 hours that they have completed in Year 10 by Term 3 for award and monitoring purposes. Students need to record hours completed on their digitally provided log sheet, and submit this prior to the conclusion of Term 3, Year 11. In Term 4, Year 10, students will be required to complete a reflection on what they gained and experienced while completing service. This is to be submitted by Week 3, Term 4.

**COLLEGE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

Students who do not demonstrate a significant commitment to Christian Service Learning are not normally considered for leadership roles at the College.

**SERVICE AWARDS**

These awards are available to all students who have completed above the highest number of hours in each year level. In Year 12, the Award goes to the student who has gone above and beyond in service. (Honours for Christian Service is also available based on hours: see Honours Policy)

**Failure to Complete Christian Service Hours**

Students who do not complete their hours jeopardise their opportunity to be involved in College Tours, events, leadership roles and specialised programs.

**References**

Nil

**Related Documents, Proformas and other Forms**

Nil

**Review History**

Year of Review	Reviewed by	Amendments / Review
2017	Executive	Reviewed
2020	Deputy Principal Ministry	Reviewed

**Next Review**

Year	Responsible
2022	Executive