

# Administration of Christian Studies

## Policy

Each school is required to have a Christian Studies policy that is grounded in the LEA statement Christian Studies in the Lutheran School. The policy describes the purpose and practice of Christian Studies in the school and should be reviewed regularly. It includes statements on the following:

- school's vision for Christian Studies
- statement about the purpose of Christian Studies
- leadership and staffing
- teaching and learning
- timetabling
- resourcing
- assessing and reporting
- parents/caregivers
- role of pastors and supporting congregations
- regular processes to audit and review Christian Studies from students and teacher perspectives

## School-developed programs

It is an expectation of LEA that schools using school-developed programs for Christian Studies can demonstrate equivalence of learning with the Christian Studies Curriculum Framework (CSCF). A school-developed program will need to show what students will know, and be able to do, to achieve the learning statements of the framework.

## Whole-school plan

Each school is required to develop a whole-school plan that maps the strands, key ideas and learning statements covered within each Band. Schools are encouraged to involve teachers in the development of the whole-school plan. Each plan needs to be flexible and dynamic, responsive to the changing needs of the school, its students and its context. Regular review of the whole-school plan is critical.

## Time allocation

The Christ-centred nature of Lutheran schools and early childhood services encompasses devotions, worship and Christian Studies. Christian Studies is a learning area and belongs to 'the formal curricular program of the school and as such should operate within the same parameters as other key learning areas with appropriate timetabling, budget, staffing and resourcing' [BLEA, 2004]. The Board for Lutheran Education Australia (BLEA) policy is that all schools have a **minimum of 90 minutes** of formal Christian Studies per week. This does not include the time allocated to class or school worship. The manner in which the allocated time for Christian Studies (decided on by each school and allowing for BLEA policy requirements) is organised on the weekly timetable, is to reflect the high status of the subject implicit in the CSCF document, as well as the nature of the subject as a legitimate discipline of academic study.

The allocated time in primary schools is to be divided into significant blocks of teaching time. It is imperative that secondary schools allocate sufficient time for teachers and students to complete the course as outlined in the CSCF with academic, theological and pedagogical integrity.

## Early childhood services

The key ideas and principles of the CSCF underpin the programs and daily life provided for and by those involved in Lutheran early childhood services. The CSCF concepts are integrated across the Foundation/Early Learning areas of early childhood education and care. Teaching the key ideas of the CSCF provides focused learning opportunities for the whole class or small groups, planned and facilitated by the teacher/leader. There may be a set time each day, the length of which will depend on the developmental stages of children in general and the specific group of children in particular.