

Audit of Christian Studies in Lutheran schools

Overview

The ongoing development of Christian Studies is a priority for all Lutheran schools and early childhood services.

As a part of supporting the ongoing reflection, review and planning for Christian Studies in your school, a curriculum audit process has been developed.

The audit process will assist you to ensure that Christian Studies is a legitimate subject in the formal curriculum and promote development and excellence.

Purpose of the audit

The audit will assist principals and key teachers to review the state of Christian Studies in their school and to develop a whole school plan for Christian Studies. This information can be shared with regional and national offices for ongoing growth and development of Christian Studies and its resourcing.

The audit will engage schools in ongoing review, discussion and planning of Christian Studies.

Process for the audit

The curriculum audit is a process of self-assessment for schools in the area of Christian Studies. It involves reflection, review and discussion that lead to the establishment of goals for future development in Christian Studies.

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Guiding questions for your school

1. Christian Studies

Vision

- What is your school's vision for Christian Studies?
- How is your school's vision communicated to school stakeholders?
- To what extent do staff, students and parents accept the school's vision?

Policy and practice

- What is your school's statement about the purpose and practice of Christian Studies?
- What are the strengths of Christian Studies in your school?
- What areas are in need of development?
- To what extent is the school using the Christian Studies Curriculum Framework (CSCF)?
- How does your school regularly map, review and innovate on the Christian Studies units taught across the year levels?
- What is your school's policy about the assessment and reporting of Christian Studies?
- How does the school ensure that appropriate pedagogy is used in Christian Studies? (p 7,8 CSCF)

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2. Teachers of Christian Studies

- How are Christian Studies teachers selected at your school?
- Do you think teaching Christian Studies is highly valued by the staff and students at your school? Why or why not?

Professional development opportunities and priorities

- Describe the professional development you have received in Christian Studies in the last twelve months?
- How aware are you of current issues, research and trends in the area of Christian Studies?
- How has the school grown your understanding of Christianity, theology, world religions?
- What are your professional development needs in the area of Christian Studies that could be provided by the:
 - School
 - System
- To what extent are you encouraged to develop networks to share what is happening in Christian Studies with colleagues within and beyond the Lutheran system?

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3. Timetabling

- How much time is allocated to Christian Studies in the weekly timetable?
- How does the time compare with the time allocated for other areas such as English, Maths, Science etc?
- To what extent are links made between Christian Studies and other parts of the curriculum?

4. Resources

Budget

- Who is responsible for the disbursement of the Christian Studies budget?
- What percentage of the budget for key learning areas was spent on Christian Studies?

Range and Accessibility

- What are your needs in relation to resourcing your Christian Studies program?

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5. Other issues

- In what ways are the local pastors or school pastor encouraged to be a resource for teachers and students?
- What other issues does your school need to address in relation to Christian Studies?
- What support does your school need in relation to Christian Studies?

6. Other Comments

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Glossary

Christian Studies

Christian Studies facilitates student learning about Christianity and is the academic subject programmed into the school curriculum timetable.

Christian Studies Key Teacher

For this document this term relates to the teacher who is responsible for issues relating to Christian Studies. In secondary schools this person may be known as the Head of the Christian Studies Department. In primary schools this person may be known as the Christian Studies Key Teacher.