

Challenge Two



A 2020 Lutheran school will be

SPIRIT SENSITIVE

discerning the personal spirituality of students and listening to their inner search for meaning as the work of the Spirit

And be faith informed by

Spiritus sanctus

the mystery that the human spirit deep in the searching mind and searching heart of the child is being moved by the Spirit of God

1. Exploring the Mystery

Explore the mystery! Share aspects of this mystery that stir your imagination. Where have you discerned or experienced the Spirit at work in unexpected contexts, especially school contexts?

2. Facing the Challenge

What features of this challenge confront you? One student spoke about his search for inner meaning as 'the spiritual X factor'. Where and how would you explore this X factor? Is it likely to be a consideration in all curriculum contexts?

Conduct a group audit!

Share examples of how you have been able to connect with the spirituality of a student that is not determined by a church or a traditional religious background.

Is it part of our role as educators to enable students to connect the spiritual X factor in their lives with the potential Christ factor? If young people today do not turn to the church for guidance, do schools have a unique opportunity to sustain the spiritual? If so, how?

3. Planning a Vision and a Strategy

What is your vision of a school that is sensitive to contemporary spirituality? What strategy would you suggest to facilitate this vision and come to terms with the spiritual reality of youth today?

4. Resources

- Daughtry, Phil 2002. *The Christian response to the current spiritual climate*, Keynote address at Partnership Day SA District October 2002
- Engebretson, Kath 2004. *Young People and Spirituality: Directions for Christian School*. ACLE Keynote Address.
- Engebretson, Kath and Rule, Paul 2001. *My Story – Our Stories*. Social Science Press: Katoomba, NSW. 3rd Edition.
- Kaai, Anneke and Peterson, Eugene 2003. *In a Word – What do you Believe?* Piquant: Carlisle UK.
- Kessler, Rachael 2000. *The Soul of Education*. ASCD: Alexandria, Virginia.
- Rossiter, Graham 2002. *Addressing an apparent Crisis for Catholic School Religious Education: The importance of 'relevance' and of the theme 'Search for Meaning'*. Journal of Religious Education Vol 50 (2) 2002
- Schubert, Robert 2000. *Lutheran Schools in a Post Modern Era*, SchoolLink April 2000 Vol 6:1
- Tacey, David 2000. *Reenchantment – The New Australian Spirituality*. Sydney: Harper Collins.
- Tacey, David 2003. *The Spirituality Revolution – the emergence of contemporary spirituality*. Sydney: HarperCollins.