



### **Value Of Catholic Education**

The value that we as Island Catholic Schools place on Catholic education is not new. The faces of our institutions change as the years pass but we value them in the same way.

We believe that academic formation is a right that belongs to all persons. We believe that a superior form of education is one in which our faith and values are being taught in an atmosphere of charity. Hence, we believe that when students are challenged to achieve to their full potential in a faith setting, they are being exposed to a total education.

### **Three-Fold Task**

The education we offer must strive to full-fill a three-fold task: to help students all age levels to know the faith, to have it grow and deepen in them, and to help them **practise** it daily. Catholic education then, takes that task which is assigned to all Christians and creates a milieu in which to foster its development.

### **Content Of Catholic Education**

The content of education within this milieu should be marked by excellence, for any human activity or area of learning graced by the Gospel could hardly **be, much less** appear, inferior to other forms of education.

Each subject of the curriculum is taught in a Christian context, approached by Christians from perspectives of faith. This does not mean reducing everything to religion but, rather, endeavouring to create a single living synthesis between life-long learning and Christ-centred values.

### **Role Of The Teacher**

In order that the faith be taught in **an** atmosphere of charity, and all fields of education be presented in a faith context, it is essential that those who teach portray in their own lives the Christian values they present. The criterion then, for those who teach in Catholic institutions, is not scholarly excellence alone — though such excellence must **be rigorously sought. The pursuit of academic achievement for students must be infused with a** living faith in Christ which is witnessed in **teachers'** lives. If the spirit of the true Teacher is not manifest in Catholic institutions by the witness of the teachers, who will follow?

Each school depends upon many people and a large community to be effective.



However, no school can be effective if the teaching staff is not enlivened and unified by love and a sense of service which is in accord with Christian tradition and teaching.

**Role Of Parents**

The original right and responsibility of education belongs with parents. The sharing of faith begins and continues in the home and parents must never expect or be expected to relinquish their role in the school. A unified, cooperative approach is required, with parents and teachers enhancing and complementing each other. Since parents entrust a share of the Catholic education of their children to teachers in the school, they should be the first to offer generous support of every kind to the school.

**Evangelizing Role Of The Church**

Finally, Catholic educational institutions take their place among the many programs of education in the Catholic Church. Under the supervision and vigilance of the authentic teacher in each Diocese, the Bishop, all means of education are used in the work of evangelization. No agency or means of education is separate, but each is a part of the whole community of teaching under the care of the Bishop, spreading the word of God and building up the community of believers.

Reference:	Approved: September 1991; <b>Revised: November 2000;</b> <b>Revised: November 24, 2009, 2011</b>
	Date Approved: September 1991
Cross-reference:	Date(s) Revised: November 2000; <b>September 2009,2011</b>