



STUDENT LEARNING ENHANCEMENT POLICY

Introduction

In offering a varied curriculum and a holistic education, Penola Catholic College seeks to provide an enhanced learning experience for all students.

As such, education for enhancement is implicit in the Penola Catholic College Mission Statement. The College Mission acknowledges the heterogeneous nature of our student community; we serve individuals with a variety of gifts, which should be nurtured and cultivated.

Since Penola Catholic College values excellence in education and promotes creativity, critical thinking and a spirit of enquiry it is important that we acknowledge the highly gifted and talented students within our community. These students should be encouraged to excel through programs that are both stimulating and challenging.

Definition

Enhancement may be defined as the provision of structures and whole school learning experiences, which allow all students to achieve their full potential regardless of their intellectual capacities or talents.

Whilst whole school structures and programs contribute significantly to enhancement, curriculum plays a special role. The PENG Report (*Public Education the Next Generation: Report of the Ministerial Committee*, Department of Education Employment and Training Victoria 2000) states that the school curriculum should “encourage (students) to extend in areas where they are capable of performance beyond expected levels for their age, and especially where they exhibit particular talents. For all students the curriculum will ensure that they are challenged and extended to achieve the highest standards of which they are capable” p.39

Guidelines

Knowledge of the individual

In order to enhance each individual’s learning experience it is essential to be aware of his / her capacity, level of development and learning style. At Penola Catholic College, knowledge of the individual is obtained by:

- The teacher’s pastoral interest in his/her students.
- The use of a variety of assessment tools and comprehensive classroom assessment.

- Examination results (at Years 9 to 11).
- Progress and semester reports.
- Testing of students in Literacy and Numeracy (at Years 6 and the NAPLAN tests).
- Assessment of some students by Student Services.
- Students' knowledge and reflection on personal learning styles.
- Information from transition records.

Promote Teaching for Effective Learning

Teaching and learning are intimately connected therefore the impact of effective teaching for enhancement and for extending gifted and talented students cannot be understated. At Penola Catholic College teaching for effective learning occurs when:

- Classroom management is disciplined but dynamic.
- Classroom activities are student-centred.
- The teacher is aware and makes provision for multiple intelligences and individuals learning styles in the classroom.
- Teachers provide opportunities for independent decision-making.
- The College environment is open and promotes exploration of knowledge and intellectual risk taking by students.
- Students are encouraged to reflect on their learning.
- Provision is made for diverse ways of experiencing success.
- Students are rewarded for excellence.
- Student achievement is celebrated.
- The College is seen as a community of learners and teachers are committed to ongoing personal and professional development.

Provision of a holistic and dynamic curriculum

Enhanced learning for all students, including those who are gifted and talented, requires a varied and flexible curriculum, which is open to review and change. The Penola Catholic College curriculum offers a variety of ways through which learning may be enhanced for students; these include:

- A range of subjects, courses and elective choices to suit different needs.
- Differentiated content and assessment with modified and extended tasks for students.
- An extensive co curricular program.
- Provision is made for gifted and talented students by offering programs such as VCE Studies at Year 10 (Accelerated Studies).
- Opportunities for experiential learning beyond the classroom such as overseas travel, camps and excursions.

Provision of resources for enhanced student learning

Given that a student and inquiry centred approach to learning is essential for enhancement, Penola Catholic College students need to be provided with a wide range of resources. This is done through:

- Pleasant classroom surroundings and facilities.
- Access to high quality Information and Communication Technologies.
- 1:1 Laptop Program.
- Appropriately resourced libraries that support the curriculum.