



RETREAT POLICY

REVIEW HISTORY

Originally Written:	Reviewed by:		Revised:	Next Review:
2016	College Staff			2017

RATIONALE

'Catholic schools need to provide the best apprenticeship that they can in the Christian life.' (Mandate, para 59). School retreats are an integral part of the life-long faith formation of young people. They promote systematic, intentional catechesis as part of the comprehensive evangelisation of students.

Catholic school retreats are relational at heart. To be effective, retreat programs acknowledge the individual's unique reality and bring the power of the Gospel into contemporary culture in a way that engages and empowers young people.

The Catholic school retreat aims to put students in 'communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ' (GDC, 80). Through the retreat experience students come to know Christian love and are exposed to a Gospel centred way of life. Students hear the Gospel and are empowered to connect the Gospel message to their lives and to find ways of continuing the Church's mission. They participate in the life of the Christian community through liturgy and through activities which emphasise growth in Christian faith.

PRINCIPLES

1. Retreats aim to provide experiences for students of St John Bosco College to know, contemplate and celebrate Jesus.
2. Retreats are an integral part of the life of a Catholic College. They need to be inclusive, purposeful, meaningful and take into account the culture, developmental needs and experiences of our students.
3. Retreats complement the catechesis experiences offered by the College.
4. Retreat planning needs to take into consideration the charism, ethos and mission of St John Bosco College.
5. Retreats need to be planned in a way that engages students in rich experiences of Catholic symbol and ritual.
6. St John Bosco College Retreat staff will be committed to the faith formation of our students.

PROCEDURES

1. Parents and students will be informed about the nature and purpose of the Retreat and the level of student involvement required.
2. Our Retreat program will consider the religious and cultural backgrounds and the developmental needs of our students.
3. St John Bosco College Retreat program will include appropriate prayer and liturgical experiences.
4. Our Retreat program will include creative and engaging activities and approaches with young people which connect to systematic catechesis.
5. Staff involved in a Retreat will be familiar with the Retreat program and its expectations prior to and during the Retreat.
6. The roles of Retreat staff shall be clearly defined.
7. The Retreat program shall include appropriate evaluation procedures, including feedback from students.
8. External groups that provide Retreat experiences for St John Bosco College are to be provided with copies of our Retreat policy.

REFERENCES

Bishops of Western Australia, Mandate of the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia: 2009-2015
Congregation for the Clergy, General Directory for Catechesis, 1997