



RETREAT POLICY

Rationale

St Patrick's College is a Catholic school in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice. The retreat programme is provided to support the College's Vision and Mission in

- Making Jesus Christ present through proclaiming, sharing and celebrating our Catholic faith;
- Expressing our faith through service to others; and
- Developing young men in the Spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice who will serve and shape society with compassion and justice.

Scripture

'The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. (Mark 6:30-32)

Policy

Students at each year level will be offered opportunities, at least annually, to reflect on their unique call to live a Christian life.

Guidelines

1. The scope and sequence of the St Patrick's College Retreat Programme will offer students opportunities to reflect on their own sacred story and their call to mission, within the framework of their personal identity and their personal relationship with God, others and creation. These experiences will build on the Church's theology, Christology, scripture and tradition which underpin the College's Religious Education Curriculum.
2. The Retreat Programme will be an expression of the educational philosophy of Edmund Rice Education as expressed in the cultural characteristics of a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition:
 - a. It recognises that faith development experiences and service learning are fundamental components of a holistic education.
 - b. It seeks to nurture and encourage the spirituality of each person.
 - c. It holds as central the call to put faith into action.

- d. It expresses the importance of community in the fostering of positive relationships within the College and the wider earth community.
 - e. It is conscious of the College duty in the pastoral care of the students.
 - f. It has at its heart the call to serve others
 - g. It will provide opportunities for students to become critically aware of social justice issues.
 - h. In the spirit of Edmund Rice who followed Jesus, it will seek out those who are marginalised
 - i. It will endeavour to foster a spirit of compassion.
 - j. It will recognise our responsibility as members of the earth community to use God's gifts justly and wisely.
 - k. It will provide significant opportunity for students to reflect on their personal identity and their relationships with God, others and Creation.
3. The Retreat Programme will offer students the opportunity for prayer, reading, reflection and dialogue related to the cultural characteristics listed above.
- Many of these opportunities will be offered off-site.
 - The Mission Team will comprise the Director of Mission, Head of Religious Education Faculty, the College Chaplain and other members of staff who volunteer their services and are appointed to the Team by the Headmaster.
 - The Mission Team is responsible for preparing a retreat programme plan annually which will outline the logistics for retreats for students in that year.
 - The Retreat Programme will be presented for approval to the Headmaster.
 - Any staff member can provide proposals for change to the retreat programme but they must be presented in writing for approval by the Mission Team.
 - The Director of Mission is responsible for the administration of all retreats but will be supported by the Director of Administration, Heads of School and Year Level Coordinators in this task.

Status of Policy: Ratified by the College Board, 2009

Review: 2014