St Francis Xavier College

'Truth and Courage'

Inspired by the legacy of our Patron St Francis Xavier captured in the words *"What more can I be or do for Christ",* the Vision of the College is to provide our staff, students and their families with a rich experience of a Catholic learning community and encounter with Jesus. It is this encounter with Jesus that calls us to a spirit of evangelisation through education.

Curriculum and Programming

St Francis Xavier College adheres to the attached CACG Curriculum Policy which can be accessed via the following link.

Curriculum Policy

The implementation of **CACG Curriculum Policy** at College level is contained within our **Statement of Practice** which has been endorsed by the Executive and Community Council of the College.

Philosophy

St Francis Xavier College is committed to excellence and innovation in teaching and learning. College curriculum is delivered in an environment where each person is valued and respected as an individual whose personal growth is of paramount importance.

The curriculum provides excellence and innovation in education by:

- Teaching and fostering Christian ideals and a Catholic World view
- Ensuring that learning is relevant, rigorous, inclusive, and accessible for all
- Developing the skills and desire for individual life-long learning
- Empowering students to take responsibility for their decisions
- Building students' self-confidence and self-esteem through success
- Encouraging critical thinking, innovation and challenging assumptions
- Enabling students to understand how they learn
- Emphasising the development of spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical, and creative capacities
- Encouraging students to value themselves as agents of positive change in the global world

St Francis Xavier College seeks to have high expectations for student achievement and is the key driver for curriculum development and delivery. At the same time, the curriculum is made equitable and accessible to all students. The College continues to review and refine its differentiation practices, with ongoing support from the Inclusive Education team, through professional learning and classroom assistance in lesson planning and resource and assessment development.

Curriculum and Programming Development

St Francis Xavier uses Understanding by Design (Wiggins and McTighe, 2012) as the organising tool for curriculum development and the framework for curriculum unit design. Teachers work collaboratively to plan units of work to develop big ideas, essential questions and reportable outcomes. The content is generated from the Australian Curriculum, BSSS Frameworks and CACG Religious Education Guidelines.

Programmes of Learning (or "UbDs") are developed across all curriculum areas to ensure consistency and accountability of teachers across classes. Heads of Department and teachers also use the cyclic evaluation process to review and update curriculum and UbDs. Teachers use a variety of evaluation tools to gather data to make informed decisions about student engagement, learning outcomes and resources.

Assessment is a significant aspect of curriculum, to both provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning and to create valuable data for feedback to students and teachers. Assessment design follows the same Understanding by Design principles, in that teams use the reportable outcomes generated from big ideas and essential questions to focus the development of assessment tasks. The correlation between the timing of tasks and unit content delivered is also an important consideration for what student knowledge teachers are assessing and what skills they are asking students to demonstrate. This also provides a basis for the specific task type, which should be multi-modal across a semester, for students to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in a variety of ways.

 For further details regarding SFX philosophy, principles and processes for assessment, refer to *Statements of Practice Assessment and Agreed Practices and Protocols: Teaching and Learning "Assessment at St Francis Xavier College"*

St Francis Xavier College is working to improve its low variance curriculum, through scoping and sequencing and through ongoing collaboration in the development of high quality lessons and resource material. As a result, knowledge rich curriculum can be built over time, which strengthens the knowledge and skills of students; to be remembered, not just encountered.

Time is allocated to teaching teams to write and collaborate on new courses as the College continues to review and expand what is offered to students in all curriculum areas.

Catalyst practices are implemented across the College and are a regular fixture for Department meetings and Professional Learning days. Teachers collaborate both within and beyond their faculties to review and refine HITP in classrooms. Twice a year lesson observations occur between colleagues followed by professional conversations, as an evidence based approach to improve HITP and curriculum delivery.

REFERENCES:

CACG Curriculum Policy
The Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration
McTighe, J and Wiggins G (2012) *Understanding by Design Framework.* Alexandria, VA: ASCD.
CACG Assessment Policy
ACT Directorate Teachers Guide to Assessment
BSSS Policy and Procedures Manual

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