

Identity and Curriculum in Catholic Education: Survey of teachers' opinions regarding certain aspects of Catholic Education



If you already have completed and submitted our survey online, we thank you most sincerely. Since you have already given us your opinions you do not need to complete this survey now.

If you previously attempted to take this survey using the online link and, for whatever reason, did not complete and submit, we ask you to please complete this survey today.

Submission of the completed survey is taken as an indication of consent.

We really appreciate your time today in filling out this survey.

Please note that these pages are printed on both sides.

1. What is your gender?

Male Female

2. Age

< 29 year 30- 39 year 40- 49 years 50- 59 years 60+years

3. What best describes the location of your school?

Greater Capital City (Brisbane only)

Significant Urban Areas (Bundaberg, Cairns, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Hervey Bay, Mackay, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast, Thuringowa, Toowoomba, Townsville)

Other Regional Towns

Remote

4. Is your school under the direction of?

Archdiocese of Brisbane

Diocese of Cairns

Diocese of Rockhampton

Diocese of Toowoomba

Diocese of Townsville

Religious Institution/Public Juridic Person (please specify) _____

5. At what level of education do you mainly work?

Primary Secondary

If secondary, what are your main subjects? _____

Do you teach Religion?

Yes No

Do you have an added responsibility for curriculum management/leadership?

Yes No

If yes, please specify what these responsibilities are: _____

6. How many years have you been teaching?

<5 years 5-10 11-20 21-30 >30

7. How many years teaching experience do you have in Catholic education?

<5 years 5-10 11-20 21-30 > 30

8. Please choose up to three reasons why you are working in a Catholic school from the following list by placing ticks in the boxes alongside your chosen options. **Do not select more than three options. In the right hand column please tick the **one main** reason why you are working in a Catholic school).**

Items	Your reasons (tick no more than three)	Main reason (tick one only)
Convenient location		
Environment of Catholic schools		
It's a secure job		
My commitment to the Catholic faith		
The job came up when I needed it		
Other		

If you selected other, please specify:

9. Which of the following describes your role in your current school?

- Principal
- Deputy Principal
- Assistant Principal
- APRE
- PAR (Position of Added Responsibility)
- Teacher
- Other (please specify)_____

10. What is your religion? (Please select one)

- Anglican Buddhism Roman Catholic Hinduism Islam
- Judaism Other Christian (please specify)_____ No religion
- Other (please specify)_____

11. How important is your religion to the way you live your life?

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Unimportant
- Very unimportant
- Not Applicable

12. Please locate your beliefs and values about the fundamental aims of education by shading in one 'radio button' on each line, where the mid-point (0) means that you regard both statements as equally important.

	5	0	5	
The primary purpose of schools is to educate the whole child	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>			The primary purpose of schools is to help students get high grades and good jobs
The primary purpose of education is to promote economic growth	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>			The primary purpose of education is to facilitate personal wellbeing and promote active citizenship

13. Please locate your beliefs about student learning by shading in one 'radio button' on each line, where the mid-point (0) means that you regard both statements as equally valid.

	5	0	5	
Students learn best by collaborating with other students	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>			Competition is necessary to bring out the best in students
Only a few students are capable of high academic achievement	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>			All students are capable of high academic achievement
Students are best served by streaming according to ability	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>			Students are best served by mixed ability grouping
My role as a teacher is to facilitate students' own inquiry	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>			Effective/good teachers demonstrate correct ways to solve problems

Purposes and Characteristics of Catholic Schools

14. What do you understand as the main purposes of Catholic schools? (Please rank the following items in order of importance. You are asked to select at least three and to rank them 1, 2, 3, etc. **in order of importance).**

Item	Ranking (1, 2, 3...) (Please rank at least 3 items)
Develop active and informed citizens	
Education in the Catholic faith and tradition	
Promote academic achievement	
Provide an authentic experience of a Catholic community	
Provide a safe and nurturing environment	
Teach Christian values	
Other	

If you selected other, please explain _____

15. How well does your school achieve each of these purposes?

	Very Well	Well	Fairly well	Poorly	Very Poorly
Develop active and informed citizens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education in the Catholic faith and tradition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote academic achievement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide an authentic experience of a Catholic community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide a safe and nurturing environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teach Christian values	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. Please indicate your position on Catholic schools using the following ‘radio buttons’, where the mid-point (0) means that you regard both statements as equally true.

5 0 5

Catholic schools are no different to other schools ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Catholic schools are different to other schools

The Catholic identity of my school is important to me ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ The Catholic identity of my school is not important to me

17. Using this table please

a) rate the importance of each of the following characteristics to the identity of a Catholic school in the A column

b) using these ratings, identify the six most important characteristics of a Catholic school in order of importance in the B column (Please do not choose more than six and rank them 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

Characteristics	A. Ratings				B. Rankings (Rank 6 only)
	Essential	Very Important	Important	Unimportant	
Annual age-appropriate religious retreats are available to students					
Catholic symbols throughout the school					
Caring community					
Prayer is integral to the school's daily life for staff and students					
Religious Education programmes present the teachings of the Catholic Church					
Teachers of religion are Catholic					
The integration of Catholic teachings across ALL learning areas is intentionally planned					
The principal is Catholic					
The school community celebrates school liturgies frequently					
The school engages in outreach and social justice programmes					
The school is a community of faith					
The school has strong links with the wider Church					
The teachers of RE are accredited to teach RE					
The vast majority of students are Catholic					
The vast majority of teachers are Catholic					

Please check that you are happy with your choices.

18. Does your school have a particular charism?

- Yes No Don't know

If you answered yes,

a) what is the charism of your school? _____

b) please indicate your position on the following scale using the 'radio buttons'. The mid-point means you regard both statements as equally true.

	5 0 5	
There is a greater focus on the school's charism than on its broader Catholic identity	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	There is a greater focus on the school's broader Catholic identity than on its charism

19. Please indicate your response to the following statements.

The **planned integration** of a Catholic perspective across the **whole curriculum** should be a key feature of the Catholic school.

- Strongly Agree Agree Unsure Disagree Strongly Disagree

Why did you choose this response? _____

When teaching my subjects I integrate a Catholic perspective.

- Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never

Knowledge of Catholic teaching

20. Please indicate your response to each of the following statements.

Statements	Response				
	(please tick <u>only one</u> response for each statement)				
	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
My knowledge of the key teachings of the Catholic Church is					
My knowledge of Catholic social teaching is					
My knowledge of Catholic moral teaching is					

Confidence with respect to integrating a Catholic perspective

21. Please indicate your response to each of the following statements.

Statements	Response				
	(please tick <u>only one</u> response for each statement)				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I feel confident about integrating a Catholic perspective into <u>my whole curriculum planning.</u>					
I feel confident about integrating a Catholic perspective into <u>my pedagogy in a planned way.</u>					
I feel confident about integrating Catholic social teaching into <u>my whole curriculum planning.</u>					
I feel confident about integrating Catholic social teaching into <u>my pedagogy in a planned way.</u>					
I feel confident about integrating Catholic moral teaching into <u>my whole curriculum planning.</u>					
I feel confident about integrating Catholic moral teaching into <u>my pedagogy in a planned way.</u>					

Willingness to integrate a Catholic perspective

22. Please indicate your response to each of the following statements.

Statements	Response				
	(please tick only one response for each statement)				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I am willing to integrate a Catholic perspective into <u>my whole Curriculum planning.</u>					
I am willing to integrate a Catholic perspective into <u>my pedagogy in a planned way.</u>					
I am willing to integrate Catholic social teaching into <u>my whole curriculum planning.</u>					
I am willing to integrate Catholic social teaching into <u>my pedagogy in a planned way.</u>					
I am willing to integrate Catholic moral teaching into <u>my whole curriculum planning.</u>					
I am willing to integrate Catholic moral teaching into <u>my pedagogy in a planned way.</u>					

23. Please indicate your views about the available Formation/Professional Development in the identity of Catholic schools.

Formation/Professional Development in the **identity of Catholic schools** is given priority in the overall **Formation/Professional Development** available to me.

- Strongly Agree Agree Unsure Disagree Strongly Disagree

I would like to pursue **Formation/Professional Development** about the identity of the Catholic schools.

- Strongly Agree Agree Unsure Disagree Strongly Disagree

Thank you very much for your time.

If you are willing to participate in a 30 minute interview in relation to some of these general issues (not your survey responses which are anonymous) please indicate this by emailing jim.gleeson@acu.edu.au

