



GUIDELINES For Fundraising in Catholic Schools

March 2020

1.0 Vision Statements

- Catholic Education Sandhurst believes that the Spirit is the foundation for discerning issues and challenges in order that we may develop our Catholic identity.
- Catholic Education Sandhurst believes that Catholic leadership respects shared wisdom and engages in collaborative decision-making processes.

2.0 Preamble

Catholic schools are communities whose function is teaching and learning within the values, traditions and contemporary mission and vision of the Church. The Diocesan focus on Social Justice provides an appropriate context to re-examine commitment to the Church's missionary endeavours along with the increasing requests for financial support through fundraising activities from a vast array of organizations. These Guidelines are provided to assist school communities in their discernment.

Education based on Catholic Social Teaching includes the concept of wealth sharing. Acts of solidarity and opportunities for wealth sharing should be tied to attitudinal formation which occurs within the curriculum and the co-curricular program of schools rather than an isolated event or activity.

The application of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and the criteria contained below will assist school communities in discerning their responses to fundraising requests whilst also recognising the need to respond appropriately to local community needs. Sandhurst Diocesan Church and educational resources are available to assist school communities in this discernment.

These Guidelines are also applicable to Parents & Friends' Associations and other fundraising bodies associated with the school.

3.0 Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

The key principles that underpin the contemporary mission and vision of the Church and guide discernment are:

Human Dignity:

All people are created in the image and likeness of God

The Common Good:

The Earth is created for the good of all.

Rights and Responsibilities:

All people have a fundamental right to life, shelter, health care, education and employment.

Subsidiarity and Participation:

All people have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Subsidiarity requires that decisions are made by the people closest to and most affected by the issues and concerns of the community.

Preferential Option for the Poor:

The moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. We are called to look at decisions in terms of how they affect the poor.

Solidarity:

We are one human family. When one suffers we all suffer.

Stewardship of the Earth's Resources:

The goods of the earth are gifts from God. We are called to care for these as stewards and trustees, not consumers and users.

4.0 Criteria

The following criteria are provided to assist in both planning your school's fundraising commitments each year in a systematic way and in assessing new fundraising requests:

1. The activity should prioritise our Catholic fundraising agencies

- (a) Caritas Australia during Lent
- (b) St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) in June (Feast of the Sacred Heart) or in August (National Homelessness Prevention Week / Sandhurst Vinnies Winter Sleepout) or in Advent
- (c) Catholic Mission in October
- (d) As a second priority other Catholic agencies or programs.

One-off responses to an emergency or disaster are encouraged. Look for Caritas (international) or St Vincent de Paul (national) campaigns.

2. The philosophy of the organisation should be in accord with Church Teaching (including the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST))

Some organisations and events do not always align with Church Teaching.

Some organisations do not act in accord with the principles of CST eg child sponsorship does not enhance dignity.

3. The agency should provide educational resources

Such resources should reinforce the principles of CST and attitudinal formation. The following also need to be considered:

- awareness raising is a first priority and fundraising secondary
- the reality and causes of poverty are made explicit
- opportunities for solidarity actions, advocacy campaigns and working towards broader solutions are provided

4. The organization should be accountable and transparent regarding:
1. the percentage of the donated dollar that reaches the project
 2. the percentage that goes to administration and fundraising
 3. the percentage spent on education
5. The activity should be reviewed regularly in light of these guidelines

NOTE:

- (i) Schools may be asked by students or families to support a particular situation or community member, eg World's Greatest Shave. Such situations are outside these guidelines but may be considered as a **one-off**. This would not be considered as a social justice activity.
- (ii) Schools are encouraged to develop an annual fundraising calendar to ensure that the demands on the school community remain balanced.

Caritas Australia is the Agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops providing overseas development and aid.

Catholic Mission is the Universal Pontifical Society supporting pastoral work in impoverished dioceses around the world.

St Vincent de Paul is a worldwide organization supporting the needy within our own communities.

CatholicCare is the official welfare agency of the Australian Catholic Church providing human services for individuals and families that are caring, respectful and responsive to the needs of the community.

Diocesan Relief Fund is a fund established by the Diocese of Sandhurst in 2010 to provide support funds for specific on-off emergencies and events. Donations are called for as required.

5.0 Details of Protocol

Policy first ratified:	March 2012 (SSEB)
Reviewed:	March 2020
Due for Review:	March 2022
Policy owner:	Catholic Identity
Applies to:	Sandhurst Catholic Schools & Catholic Education Sandhurst