

ENCOUNTER

Catholic Identity Framework

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

Luke 24:32 (NRSV)

Encounter describes the process that enables growth in understanding Catholic Identity, and who we are called to be as Catholic educators in the Diocese of Cairns.

Encounter – Catholic Identity Framework emerged from understanding how First Nations peoples have maintained and sustained their identity since time immemorial, through their ways of valuing, being, knowing and doing. Within the *Encounter* – Catholic Identity Framework, respect, connect, reflect and embrace are the metaphors for the process that we use to capture such profound ways.

The elements of Encounter are the cornerstones of the Emmaus Story in Luke’s Gospel (24:13-35). Here the disciples encounter Jesus and their ‘hearts burned within them.’ Just as the disciples came to respect, connect, embrace and reflect on their encounter with the risen Christ, we too are invited to encounter Christ through the ancient wisdom of this First Nations worldview.

REFLECT

RESPECT

EMBRACE

CONNECT



Catholic Education
Diocese of Cairns
Learning with Faith and Vision

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Catholic Identity Framework

 **RESPECT**
We honour the sacred dignity of each person
appreciating difference and diversity

Living & Serving as Community

We respect the sacred dignity of others relating in a loving and compassionate manner, celebrating our shared humanity grounded in God's grace.

Forming intentionally within Community

We create a culture that honours the spiritual and transformative nature of the journey of each person, created in the image and likeness of God.

Learning & Teaching in Community

We celebrate and educate the whole person – gifts and talents, rights and responsibilities through inclusive and collaborative teaching practices.

Leading Authentically for Community

We engage the gifts of all through transparent and co-responsible decision making.

 **REFLECT**
We are hope-filled searchers of truth

Living & Serving as Community

We engage in prayer and worship to experience the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence as we make choices that witness Gospel values.

Forming intentionally within Community

We engage in dialogue and deep listening with diverse cultures and religious audiences sharing the richness of story.

Learning & Teaching in Community

Informed by conscience, we seek to be creative and critical thinkers who are solution focused for the common good.

Leading Authentically for Community

We seek the truth of Christ's message with courage and openness, to inform personal and communal response in all aspects of school life.

 **CONNECT**
We are people of kinship, earth and Spirit

Living & Serving as Community

We celebrate the First Nations peoples who continue to enrich our Catholic Story across our Diocese and beyond.

Forming intentionally within Community

We are inspired by the ancient wisdom of the land to steward the stories of creation, ourselves and our living faith tradition within community.

Learning & Teaching in Community

We infuse the richness of the Gospel Story and its message for our lives throughout all areas of learning - justice is the guideline in choosing what to teach and how to teach.

Leading Authentically for Community

We ensure our identity is expressed through rituals and practices that enhance relationships with each other and God.

 **EMBRACE**
We engage deeply in life

Living & Serving as Community

We recognise that human frailty, conflict and forgiveness are part of the human journey and that compassion and mercy are central to being Christian.

Forming intentionally within Community

We experience the religious and sacramental life of the school, open to understanding and appreciating the centrality of the Eucharist to the Catholic Story.

Learning & Teaching in Community

We educate students to think for themselves in a community of wisdom and a tradition of faith, mindful of the story of each other, of our place and community.

Leading Authentically for Community

We embrace the privilege of leading with humility and confidence, inspired to serve others.



The human person...is by nature open to relationship. Implanted deep within us is the call to transcend ourselves through an encounter with others. #111 Fratelli Tutti

Encounter - Catholic Identity Framework

Catholic Identity is measured through the way that faith is encountered by students, staff, parents and the broader community. This encounter with faith inspires, animates and permeates all relationships, structures, processes, learning and teaching in the school community.

Encounter – Catholic Identity Framework uses a Matrix to articulate the various ways in which the Cairns Catholic Education Community has encountered and will continue to encounter the Catholic faith. In this way, schools become cognisant that there is not one Catholic Worldview, but rather many ways of being Catholic.

The *Encounter* Matrix invites schools to intentionally integrate Relationally Responsive Pedagogies into our way of being Catholic and then curate evidence of how Catholic Identity is expressed in the particular context of the school through the four ways of being. These ways of being calls on all members of the school community to consider how they:

- **Respect** the culture which makes us who we are
- **Connect** with people, place and Spirit
- **Reflect** on what makes us who we are: people of hope
- **Embrace** this culture beyond the school community by living life deeply

Evidence is collated in each school by the Catholic Identity Team. School Leadership Teams then validates this evidence before it is uploaded into an online Encounter Portal.

The *Encounter* – Catholic Identity Focus Group (made up of members of the Identity and Outreach Directorate, CES and School staff) can affirm or question the evidence of each school as part of their annual SAIP or School Review Process. In this way, schools remain aligned to the Cairns Diocesan Catholic context while also engaging in a process of review and renewal of their Catholic Identity.

Particular examples of evidence to collect are provided in the *Encounter* – Catholic Identity Framework Matrix which is found in the School Effectiveness Framework. Additional examples can also be found on the CES Encounter Portal accessed through the Identity and Outreach Portal.

Through the sharing and celebration of our Catholic culture, we are fulfilling the call of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel "to let our light shine, to not hide our light under a bushel basket." (5:13–16). This light is the fullness of our authentic self; this light is our identity!



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