



Draft Core Curriculum Statement

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grade 8-12

January 2016

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INTRODUCTION

In August 1997 the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference adopted the policy, *Fostering Hope*, for Religious Education in Catholic schools. The policy was revised in 2006 to bring it in line with developments in National Education.

When referring to curriculum, the policy advocates a number of different dimensions such as classroom programmes (p. 14), school prayer and liturgical worship (p. 10), religious societies and pastoral care programmes (p. 8), the observance of national days, and outreach projects (p. 11).

In most instances broad guidelines are given, and the individual school is encouraged to develop its own policy in the light of these.

It would be helpful to distinguish at this point the difference between the broad curriculum which encompasses all these dimensions, and the more formal aspect of classroom teaching and learning. *Fostering Hope* (p. 15) gives the following guidelines with respect to the formal classroom curriculum:

- *We ensure a well-rounded R.E. curriculum¹, and check that neither the thinking nor the feeling sides of R.E. are neglected.*
- *We put the learners first, rather than any planned programme, but make sure the course that results is a wholesome blend of processes, and that it gives due attention to the different dimensions of learning.*
- *We keep the programme open to respond to the needs of the times, and to the local (South African) Church's current concerns about our country's and our world's needs. We link into suitable local, national, and international efforts.*
- *We agree on common basic reference-points for the planning of each school's R.E. programme so as to facilitate common support and practical co-operation between schools.*
- *We find creative ways of harmonising our Religious Education with the National Curriculum so that neither is compromised.*

In response to the guidelines quoted above, the Catholic Institute of Education developed the CORD Lesson Handbook series for Grades R to 7 to accompany the CORD Curriculum. This programme is optional though some owners, whether dioceses or religious congregations, have written it into policy for the schools in their jurisdiction. In other cases – and they are quite numerous – the formal curriculum is determined locally, often left to the choice of the particular teacher or teachers charged with the delivery of Religious Education in the school.

Since there is no nationally agreed and recognised curriculum to guide schools, CaSPA has mandated the CIE to fashion a core curriculum through a consultative process which will help us to “agree on common basic reference-points for the planning of each school's R.E. programme so as to facilitate common support and practical co-operation between schools” (*Fostering Hope*, p. 15).

Another reality calling for the development of a definitive, core curriculum is the difficulty schools experience in the face of the demands of the CAPS² and the encroachment of Life Orientation on time for RE, that even more than before causes the latter to be squeezed or even side-lined.

¹ An analysis of a well-rounded RE curriculum and its constituent processes and learning dimensions is offered in CORD, a curriculum design for R.E. by brother Michael Burke. CORD is recommended for use in Catholic Schools by the SACBC.'s Department of Christian Education and Liturgy. Although this programme is aimed at High Schools, CORD's analysis of what R.E. involves is equally useful as a reference-point for Primary Schools.

² Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements

THE NATIONAL CORE CURRICULUM

Through an analysis of the CORD Curriculum in conjunction with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements for Life Orientation/Life Skills, we present here as an interim measure – until a new national curriculum statement for Religious Education is developed – a core classroom curriculum consisting of the set of the following processes identified in CORD.

Core Processes

<i>Theological Education</i>	<i>Scriptural Education</i>
<i>Spiritual Education</i>	<i>Personal Moral Education</i>
<i>Prayer Education</i>	<i>Education in Structural Morality</i>
<i>Sacramental-Liturgical Education</i>	<i>Education in Religious Community</i>

However, it should be understood that the core is seen as the minimum, non-negotiable curriculum. Schools are encouraged, where possible, to expand their offering. The following processes should not disappear from the curriculum: rather they should be integrated into the core processes as mediums for experience, reflection and expression.

Integrated Processes

<i>Education by Arts</i>	<i>Education by Models</i>
<i>Education by Story</i>	<i>Philosophical Education</i>

Finally, the classroom process not yet mentioned should be integrated into Life Orientation, the whole of which would be offered from a Catholic perspective.

Life Skills/Life Orientation

Education for Personal Growth and Development

On the basis of the above analysis, and bearing in mind the constraints under which Religious Education is practised in our schools, a draft core curriculum is presented in the following section, based on the original CORD curriculum.

LESSON RESOURCES

For schools and teachers who would like to offer the core through the CORD resources, the final section presents a list of 32 lessons for each grade (8-12) from the CORD Lesson Handbooks. These lessons correspond to the core as set out, and their delivery will thus satisfy this core curriculum in its entirety.

Paul Faller & John McCormick
CATHOLIC INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

CORE PROCESSES

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Grade 8

Revelation and Scripture

God seeks us out
The whole Bible tells a single story
The Bible is inspired literature
The books of the Bible were written in another time and another culture
The Bible originates within the Church
The key to the whole story is Jesus, the Wisdom and the Word of God in person

Creation

Creation is from God
The creation accounts of Science and Religion can be reconciled
Creatures are both visible and invisible
Human beings are an integral part of creation
Human beings, men and women, are made in the image of God
There may be other conscious beings we are not aware of
Everything that God creates is good
Creation is a sacrament of God's Presence
The Creator is a loving God
The existence of evil and suffering does not limit the goodness of God

God the Creator

There is a God
God is one single being
God is a Trinity
In Jesus, we experience God, and God experiences humanity

The Origin of Sin

Original sin opposes the fulfilment of human nature
Original sin is an event at the dawn of human self-consciousness
Original sin is a condition which every human being is born into
Original sin inclines us to actual sin
Actual sin hardens into shared sinful ways

Salvation

God's creative plan breaks the cycle of sin
Salvation is a gift and a task

Jesus of Nazareth

The pattern of Jesus' life reveals God's plan
God's Word came to live in the world as a human being

Grade 9

The Risen Christ

The Spirit of Jesus formed his disciples into a body
Jesus returned to his Father

The Body of Christ

As Christ's Body, the Church continues his role in the world
The Church is a communion of saints
The final stage of God's Plan has already begun in Christ
The Church is a Sacrament of God's Reign

Temples of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit animates Christians
The Spirit forms Christians into the Body of Christ
The Spirit constantly gives life to the Church
The Church continues the biblical tradition of a People of God

Liturgy

The source and summit of Jesus' life is worship
The source and summit of the Church's life is liturgy
In liturgy, the Spirit forms, conforms, and transforms
The Church follows the rhythm of the Paschal Mystery

Prayer

The Prayer of the Church is an extension of the liturgy
Informal prayer enriches life and liturgy

Grade 10

Christian Life

Jesus is a model for humanity
The holiness of Jesus challenges us

Following Jesus

To follow Jesus, we need faith, hope, and love
Faith, hope and love are gifts from God
Faith, hope and love transform our capabilities
The Works of Mercy spell out faith, hope, and love

Missing the Mark

We sometimes fail to be fully human
Our failure harms all our relationships

Faith

Faith is the ability to believe
Faith focuses on God and what God reveals
Faith is something active
The Creed spells out the Christian faith

Hope

Hope is the ability to trust
Hope focuses on God and what God has promised
Hope is something confident
The 'Our Father' spells out the hope of the followers of Jesus

Charity

Charity is the ability to love
Charity focuses on God and the people God gives us to love
Charity is something God-like
The Ten Commandments spell out our love

Grade 11

The Church's Mission

The Church's life follows the pattern of Christ's life
The Body of Christ continues to bring God's Good News to all
Dialogue is an essential dimension of the Church's evangelising mission

The Paschal Mystery

Doing the Father's will involves self-sacrifice
The Father continues to renew all things in Christ
Through the Spirit Christ continues to lead Creation to its fulfilment

The Church in the World

The Church is a servant to humanity

Grade 12

Christian Paths

All members of the Church are called to the same journey
While the journey is the same, paths differ

The Laity

The laity are the Church.
The laity are called to ministry in the Church
The laity are called to mission in the world

SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

Grade 8

Introduction to Meditation

Basic understanding of meditation – its nature, importance & benefits
Simple practical exercises, e.g. imaginative prayer

Simple Personal Checkups

Simple practical exercises addressing aspects of life e.g. spending time

Catholic Spiritual Tradition

Special places & pilgrimage, e.g. Lourdes, Taize, Nongoma

Grade 9

Fantasy Meditation

Chosen exercises

Spiritual Reading

Introduction to the practice
Suggested reading & reading time

Discernment

Chosen personal exercises to identify the action of God in one's life

Nature

Indoor – bringing nature to students

Grade 10

Object Meditation

Chosen exercises

Journalling

Introduction to the practice
Journalling practice

Awareness

Chosen exercises, e.g. exploring the senses, spiritual autobiography

Grade 11

Healing Meditation

Working through hurts and painful memories
Healing stages

Advanced Spiritual Checkups

The examen
Journalling
Spiritual Direction

Awareness

Zen drawing

Grade 12

Meditation

Contemplative Breathing

Spiritual Network

A contemporary writer, e.g. Henri Nouwen, Sarah Maitland, Thomas Merton, Joan Chittister, Ron Rolheiser, Joyce Rupp

PRAYER EDUCATION

Grade 8

About Prayer

Definition of prayer
Traditional kinds of prayer: Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)
Prayer formulae, e.g. Our Father

Grade 9

About Prayer

Scripture teaching on prayer

Prayer Exercises/Experiences

Paraphrase of well-known prayers
Responding to scripture passages

Grade 10

About Prayer

Prayer is also listening

Prayer Exercises/Experiences

How to pray - developing a personal practice (time, place, posture, method)
Chosen exercises, e.g. centering prayer, body prayer

Grade 11

About Prayer

Meditation as prayer
A step model for prayer

Prayer Exercises/Experiences

Mantra-based Meditation
Psalms & Canticles

Grade 12

About Prayer

A more advanced definition of prayer
Prayer of the church

Prayer Exercises/Experiences

The Prayer of the Church

Personal Prayer Life

Looking at the journey ahead

LITURGICAL EDUCATION

Grade 8

Sacrament

Concepts – liturgy, signs, symbols, sacraments

Eucharist

Scriptural texts
Liturgical texts
Signs and symbols

Reconciliation

Scriptural texts
Liturgical texts
Signs and symbols

Grade 9

Baptism

Scriptural texts
Liturgical texts
Signs and symbols

Confirmation

Scriptural texts
Liturgical texts
Signs and symbols
Seven Gifts of the Spirit

Grade 10

Anointing of the Sick

Scriptural texts
Liturgical texts
Signs and symbols

Grade 11

The Liturgical Year

The pattern and outline
Colours as symbols
Marian feasts
Holy Week
Preparation for Lent
Reflection after Easter

Grade 12

Sacrament

Deeper definition of sacrament

Matrimony

Scriptural texts
Development and history
Liturgical texts
Signs and symbols
Readiness for marriage

Orders

Scriptural texts
Development and history
Liturgical texts
Signs and symbols

SCRIPTURAL EDUCATION

Grade 8

Correct Orientation

Kinds of truth
Inspiration
Inappropriate questions

Bible as Literature

Overview of the content of Old and New Testaments
Literary genres used in the Bible

Grade 9

How to Draw on Scripture

Looking up a reference\finding a passage
How to find background information

What to Draw On

What to do to break open the bible
– See-Judge-Act Method
– Lection Divina

Grade 10

Background Exploration

Relevant geography
Features of the Jewish faith

The Bible among Other Traditions

Creation myths
Creation and Evolution
Scriptures of principal world religions – Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim

Grade 11

Origins of the Gospels

Comparing accounts/transformation in the telling
Composition of the gospels
Synoptic accounts
Overview of other new testament books

Grade 12

Discerning Patterns

A sense of unity and cohesion in the Bible
Difficult texts in the Bible, e.g. Abraham and Isaac, Jacob and Esau, Jephthah's vow
Biblical touchstones – personalising the key message or drift of the Bible
The Psalms

PERSONAL MORAL EDUCATION

Grade 8

Training

MORALITY as true humanness
– IS - OUGHT - CONTROL – FULFILMENT
– moral analysis
– the meaning of morality

Exploring

1st, 2nd, 3rd Commandments (respect for God – false gods, God's name, the Lord's day)
The greatest Commandment

Grade 9

Training

The ability to predict CONSEQUENCES
– predicting and considering consequences
– guiding questions for making decisions

A SENSE-OF-SIN
– immorality as sin: its consequences

Exploring

8th Commandment (respect for human truth – forms of lying, control of the tongue, prejudice)
The second-greatest Commandment

Grade 10

Training

The ability to check MORAL VALUES

- identifying personal values
- testing personal values

VALUES CLARIFICATION

- values clarification process

Exploring

7th, 10th Commandments (respect for human material rights – forms of theft, ownership, stewardship, employment)

Grade 11

Training

The ability to weigh up JUDGEMENT

- moral principles
- applying moral principles

CONSCIENCE properly INFORMED

- informing conscience
- mistaken or dulled conscience

Exploring

5th Commandment (respect for the SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE – forms of killing, violence and war)

Controversial issues, e.g. substance abuse, abortion, euthanasia, suicide, capital punishment, genetic engineering, cloning

Grade 12

Training

The ability to DECIDE RESPONSIBLY

- perceiving and considering alternatives
- appreciating limitations to freedom
- decision-making and taking responsibility

FREE CHOICE

- conditions for choice
- blame dependent on choice

Exploring

4th, 6th, 9th Commandments (respect for the HUMANNES OF RELATIONSHIPS – sexual responsibility, marital fidelity, loving responsibly)

EDUCATION IN STRUCTURAL MORALITY

Grade 8

Exposure & Awareness

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE/FUTURE ORIENTATION

Pollution

Depletion of resources

Future scenarios

Development of Critical Thinking

Appreciation of human gifts in their relationship to human needs – the widening gap between rich and poor

Grade 9

Exposure & Awareness

DISCRIMINATION & DISADAVANTAGE/SOCIAL MINORITIES
Discrimination & disadvantage on the grounds of race, gender, religion
Groups on the margins of society – e.g. refugees, trafficking, sweat shops

Grade 10

Exposure & Awareness

ECONOMIC OPPRESSION/COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY
Economic oppression - the poor

Guidance

Scripture on oppression and justice

Development of Critical Thinking

Analysing the causes of poverty

Grade 11

Exposure & Awareness

POLITICAL JUSTICE/HUMAN EQUALITY
Political justice
– the state's obligation to the common good
– the state's role in education
Legitimate processes, e.g. voting in a democracy

Guidance

The Church's focus on social justice – liberation theology

Development of Critical Thinking

False assumptions about politics
Pursuing justice – making just decision

Grade 12

Exposure & Awareness

VISIBLE VIOLENCE/LESS RECOGNISED FORMS OF VIOLENCE
– the roots of violence
– the effects of violence

Guidance

The Church's social teaching (a formal overview)

Development of Critical Thinking

Search for a mature response
– breaking the spiral of violence

EDUCATION FOR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

Grade 8

My School

Its story, its spirit and significance

My Faith Community

Its story, its structures & features

Grade 9

The Church in Africa

The story of Christianity in Africa
Inculturation

The Church in Southern Africa

Involvement of founding orders or congregations

Grade 10

Christianity and Other Religions

Ecumenism and Christian unity
Inter-religious dialogue

Grade 11

The Church of the Future

The ideal church
– popular models
– working with these models
The future church

Grade 12

Personal Vocation

Exercises to develop this perspective

Being Church

Youth movements and groups

Callings within the Faith Community

The vocations crisis – clerical celibacy, ordination of women

INTEGRATED PROCESSES

EDUCATION BY ARTS

Grade 8

Responding to and creating
– Pictures
– Photography
– Instrumental music

Grade 9

- Responding to and creating
- Sculpture
- Dance
- Songs

Grade 10

- Responding to and creating*
- (Visual) art through the ages*
- Poetry*
- Music through the ages

Grade 11

- Responding to and creating
- Religious art
- Quotations & proverbs
- Religious music

Grade 12

- Reflecting on the nature of art
- Responding to and creating
- Cartoons & satire
- Music of various genres

EDUCATION BY STORY

Grade 8

- Short stories
- Films, videos
- Traditional stories (legends, folk tales & myths)
- Personal stories

Grade 9

- Short stories
- Films, videos
- Allegories & fables
- Classical fairy stories revisited

Grade 10

- Short stories
- Films, videos
- Spiritual stories (from the world's various traditions)
- Novels (and extracts)

Grade 11

- Short stories
- Films, videos
- Parables of Jesus
- Plays

Grade 12

- Short stories
- Films, videos
- Bible stories revisited
- Consideration of the role of stories

EDUCATION BY MODELS

Grade 8

Models in our lives

Saints : canonised and others

Stories of great models

- Jesus, Mary & the Church's greats
- other great Christians & non-Christians
- patron saints and founders

Private reading of the Lives of the Saints and devotion to the Saints

Old Testament Faith Heroes e.g. Abraham, Moses, David, Jeremiah, Gideon, Nehemiah

Grade 9

Jesus as a human person: his story

Reflecting on aspects of Jesus' life

The classical saints - chosen examples

Grade 10

Mary, a model Christian

- Mary in Scripture
- Mary in Doctrine and Theology
- Mary in liturgy & popular devotion
- Mary in our time\ Mary in controversy
- Mary in our lives

Recent saints and other greats - chosen examples

Grade 11

Special Models - choose 2 or 3, e.g. school patron, school founder, personal patrons

Contemporary Models - chosen examples

Grade 12

The Risen Christ - Exploring our vision of and relationship with Christ

PHILOSOPHICAL EDUCATION

Grade 8

Emphasis – Asking questions

Themes – God, Providence, The Human Being, Life

Grade 9

Emphasis – Learning by reflecting on experience

Themes – Freedom; Suffering, evil & sin; Community; Fear & courage; Waiting

Grade 10

Emphasis – Living reflectively & meaningfully

Themes – Materialism & possessions; Work, leisure & talents; Security & comfort; Being & doing;
Truth, beauty & dignity; Appearance vs reality; Light & darkness

Grade 11

Emphasis – Preparing for doubt-times

Themes – Faith, Love, Hope, Journeys, Healing

Grade 12

Emphasis – Keeping the questions alive

Themes – The meaning of life, Death, Happiness, Success, Change, Education, Barriers, Growth & renewal

LIFE ORIENTATION

EDUCATION FOR PERSONAL GROWTH AND RELATIONSHIPS

Grade 8

I-AND-THOU
Self-discovery
Good manners
Home & school relationships
Feelings & emotions
Approach to daily life

Grade 9

TEENAGE LIFE
Self-image
Personal identity
General qualities in relating
Friendship
Boy-girl relationships
Expressing oneself
Coping with pressures

Grade 10

BENEATH-SURFACE
Masks & defence-mechanisms
Self-discovery
Transactional analysis (TA)
Human sex
Listening
Personal management

Grade 11

TEAMWORK
Personality types
Personal identity
Cooperation & conflict
Leadership
Feedback & affirmation
Thinking things out (problems, planning, decisions, evaluating)

Grade 12

ADULT LIFE
Vision
Future projection
Vital skills in relating
Close relationships
Effective communication
Handling challenge

CORE PROGRAMMES

Grade 8

Theological Education

2. Revelation and Scripture
3. Creation
4. God the Creator
5. The Origin of Sin
6. Salvation
8. Jesus of Nazareth

Spiritual Education

1. Personal Check-Up
2. The Importance of Meditation
3. Imaginative Prayer
6. Special Places

Prayer Education

1. What is Prayer?
2. Kinds of Prayer
3. The Lord's Prayer

Worship Education

2. Signs, Symbols and Sacraments
4. The Eucharist in Scripture
6. The Eucharistic Celebration
9. The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Scriptural Education

1. Why Study the Bible?
2. Finding Our Way
3. The Christian Scripture
4. Is the Bible True?
5. Inspiration and Scripture
7. The Bible as Literature

Personal Moral Education

4. The Basis and Meaning of Morality
5. Moral Analysis
6. Respect for God
8. The Greatest Commandment

Education in Structural Morality

2. A World Degraded
5. A Simple Lifestyle
7. Environment and Faith Traditions

Education for Religious Community

1. Our School
2. Me and My Parish

Grade 9

Theological Education

1. The Risen Christ
3. The Body of Christ
4. Temples of the Spirit
6. Liturgy
7. Prayer

Spiritual Education

1. There and Here
3. Spiritual Reading
4. Discernment
6. Bringing Nature Indoors

Prayer Education

3. Prayer in Scripture
4. Responding to Scripture
5. Paraphrasing Prayers

Worship Education

1. Baptism in Scripture
3. Signs and Symbols in Baptism
6. Confirmation in Scripture
8. Signs and Symbols in Confirmation
10. Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Scriptural Education

3. Tools of the Trade
5. See-Judge-Act
6. Using the Scriptures for Personal Prayer

Personal Moral Education

2. Predicting Consequences
3. Guiding Questions for Making Decisions
4. The Nature of Sin
7. Taming the Tongue
8. Love your Neighbour

Education in Structural Morality

4. Responding to Racism
5. Discrimination against Women
6. People on the Margins of Society
7. Discrimination on the Grounds of Religion

Education for Religious Community

1. Christianity Comes to Africa
2. Owning Christianity
4. Founding Orders and Congregations

Grade 10

Theological Education

1. Christian Life
3. Following Jesus
4. Missing the Mark
5. Faith
6. Hope
7. Charity

Spiritual Education

1. An Introduction to Journalling
3. Object Meditation
5. Touching
7. He Touched Me

Prayer Education

1. Prayer is Listening
3. Centering Prayer
5. Body Prayer

Worship Education

1. Anointing and Healing in Scripture
3. Signs and Symbols of Anointing

Scriptural Education

1. Bible Geography
4. Religious Background
5. Creation in Genesis
6. Creation and Evolution
7. World Religions: Hinduism and Buddhism
8. World Religions: Islam

Personal Moral Education

2. Identifying Personal Values
3. Values Clarification
4. Testing Values
7. Yours and Mine

Education in Structural Morality

1. Economic Justice – Unmasking Global Inequalities
2. Unmasking Inequality in South Africa
3. The Causes of Poverty
4. Responsibility for the Poor
6. Economic Justice in Scripture

Education for Religious Community

7. Ecumenism
8. Attitude to Other Religions

Grade 11

Theological Education

1. The Church's Mission
2. The Paschal Mystery
3. The Church in the World

Spiritual Education

1. Healing Meditation
2. Stages of Healing
3. The Examen
4. Journalling
5. Spiritual Direction

Prayer Education

1. Centering Prayer
5. Psalms and Canticles
6. Prayer Model

Worship Education

1. The Liturgical year
2. Marian Feasts
3. Holy Week
4. Preparation for Lent
6. Easter Meditation

Scriptural Education

1. Why Four Gospels?
2. Authors of the Gospels
3. Synoptic Accounts
4. Other New Testament Books

Personal Moral Education

2. Informing Conscience
4. Moral Principles
5. Applying Moral Principles
6. Respect for Life

Education in Structural Morality

2. Governance and Development
4. 'Free and Fair'?
5. Society, Education and the State
7. Experiencing Justice as the Reign of God
9. Justice for All

Education for Religious Community

3. The Ideal Church
4. Models of Church
5. The Church in the Future

Grade 12

Theological Education

1. Christian Paths
2. The Laity

Spiritual Education

2. A Setwork for Spiritual Reading
4. The Ocean

Prayer Education

2. Prayer of the Church
3. Defining Prayer
5. Our Prayer Journey

Worship Education

1. Marriage in Scripture and History
2. The Rite of Marriage
4. Readiness for Marriage
5. Orders in Scripture and History
6. Rite of Priestly Ordination
8. Sacramental Overview

Scriptural Education

1. One Bible, One Word
2. Thorny Issues in the Bible
3. Biblical Touchstones
4. The Psalms

Personal Moral Education

1. Freedom and Choice
4. Look Before You Leap
6. Marriage and Family Life
7. Responsible Sex

Education in Structural Morality

2. Causes of Violence
3. Religious Violence
4. The Effects of Violence
5. The Violence of War
6. Traditional Violence
7. Breaking the Circle
8. The Church's Social Teaching

Education for Religious Community

1. Journey and Calling
2. My Vocation
3. Vocation in the Church
6. Youth Movements and Groups