



September 2019

Made in the Image of God: Years 5-12

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Did you know that studies show that about **50% of 10-year-olds have been exposed to pornography?**

Did you know that studies show **nearly all young people have been exposed to pornography by the age of 16?**

Did you know that there is strong evidence that this is causing a **significant impact on the development of our young people**, and moreover their sexual health and their ability to form and maintain good relationships?

During 2018, Blackfriars Priory School participated in a Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) Online Environment Inquiry to help mitigate the problems of pornography. We believe in the inherent dignity of each human being and in the sacredness of human sexuality. We also believe that the beliefs, values and insights of our Christian and Catholic tradition enrich our lives. Our curriculum across the board is concerned with developing knowledge, skills and fostering attitudes and values that will enable students to make responsible choices in their lives. Such choices will help them lead fulfilling lives. It is a positive curriculum, but it does not ignore the realities of detrimental influences.

The Second Vatican Council called us to give students, 'positive and prudent sexual education.' By this we understand that such education will include the spiritual, physical, moral, emotional, psychological and social dimensions of the whole person. As sexuality is a mode through which humans, as male and female engage with the world and explore the Christian vocation to love, then sexuality education is an essential aspect of any Christian education.

To this end, students in Years 5-12 will be studying the Made in the Image of God (MITIOG) curriculum from around the latter part of Term 3 and the beginning of Term 4. Some year-levels have begun, and classroom teachers have alerted parents to this. The 'Being Sexual' and 'Being Moral' strands are the focus of the content. The other strands (Being Connected & Being Human) are embedded in various Religious Education topics and experiential learning in RE and other learning areas. The MITIOG content for each year can be found overleaf.

The MITIOG curriculum is not just a 'sex education' course. This curriculum focuses on developing in students a greater understanding of themselves as a total human being, made in the image of God. MITIOG provides a human sexuality curriculum that respects the dignity of the human person and is grounded in the human vocation to love. The holistic nature of human sexuality and our core calling to live a responsible Christian life are key themes in this curriculum area.

In delivering the MITIOG program, Blackfriars values the partnership that we have with you as you are the first educators of the young people in your care. The program has been developed over time following consultation with parents, priests and educators in our community, as well as the advice of experts in moral theology and child psychiatry. Blackfriars is also incorporating material that addresses pornography in line with CESA's Online Environment Inquiry. In this endeavour, we acknowledge that Blackfriars Priory School and parents work in partnership. The whole community complements and supports your role as the first educators of your children. The success of this program depends on the close co-operation between parents and teachers. For this reason, we are providing a Parent Information Session at 5.00pm on Tuesday 17 September in the Fr James O'Doherty Performing Arts Theatre. I encourage you to attend. If you intend to attend, please send me a return Direqt Message.

We are happy to discuss with you the overall structure and objectives of the curriculum. The Parent Information Session is an opportunity for information-sharing and discussion. If you cannot attend but would like more information, please contact us at the School. Alternatively, you can view the MITIOG Curriculum Framework by following this link: <http://www.cesapp.catholic.edu.au/our-faith/made-in-the-image-of-god>

Yours sincerely,



Mr Matthew Crisanti
APRIM



Ms Silvana Cardone
REC

The MITIOG curriculum uses a Constructivist approach to learning design which focuses on outcomes for all learners. This curriculum uses **Strands** to structure and organise learning from Reception to Year 12 and **Key Ideas** which comprise the fundamental concepts of the learning and understandings as they are developed in complexity across the years.

The four conceptual Strands explore different aspects of human sexuality.

Being Human

This strand examines the Church's affirmation of the value and dignity of human life, promoting reverence for self, others and the whole of creation. It enables students to explore the belief that humans are created in the image and likeness of God, and are called to demonstrate reverence for self, others and the created world.

Being Sexual

This strand explores the spiritual, physical, moral and psychological dimensions of human sexuality and develops an appreciation of the Catholic Church's teaching regarding sexuality. It develops the notion that sexuality is a fundamental dimension of the human person. It is part of the physical, moral, psychological and spiritual realities of life.

Being Connected

This strand reflects how humans are drawn to connection with God and with others, and that God's love is revealed to us in and through relationships with others. It enables students to explore the human vocation to love God and neighbour, and to grow in appreciation of the interdependence of humanity.

Being Moral

This strand develops an understanding of what it is to be moral, and encourages responsible decision making by exploring the processes of Christian decision making. It enables students to analyse Christian decision making, which involves informing one's conscience, praying, and drawing upon the life of Jesus and the wisdom of the Church.

CESA Online Environment Inquiry

Blackfriars' participation in the Inquiry qualified us for access to a secular educational resource that aims to highlight the realities of pornography. In doing so, students are challenged to examine the impact of pornography on those in the industry as well as consumers. As the resource is secular, Blackfriars has significantly supplemented it with Catholic perspectives, largely built upon our strong tradition of honouring human dignity. It should be stressed that the theme of pornography is not explicitly addressed until Year 9. However, activities for Years 5-8 are a progression that aim to develop a sense of empathy for people subject to exploitation in other ways (e.g. teasing for entertainment, people embarrassed through imagery). This attitude is transferable to sexual exploitation, including pornography.

YEAR 5 & 6		YEAR 7 & 8	
<p>Learning Outcome: Males and females develop in different ways. Puberty is a time of radical change. Understanding this change and appreciating one's sexual identity is critical for developing as a mature person.</p>		<p>Learning Outcome: Reflects upon the implications of adolescent growth and development and engages with Catholic teaching on sexuality and its implications for the sexual behaviour.</p>	
Teaching & Learning Content			
<p>Year 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An understanding and respect for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. ▪ A respectful attitude towards self and others as changes occur during puberty. ▪ A basic understanding of the female and male reproductive systems. ▪ A recognition of the growth and development that occurs in males and females during puberty. ▪ An understanding of sexuality as a gift from God ▪ Empathetically address situations where human dignity is ignored 	<p>Year 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An understanding and respect for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. ▪ A respectful attitude towards sexuality as changes occur during puberty. ▪ A basic understanding of the female and male reproductive systems. ▪ Discuss different issue that male and female teens may be experiencing and why. ▪ Explore personal hygiene and why it is so important during puberty. ▪ Empathetically address situations where human dignity is ignored 	<p>Year 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An understanding and respect for the human body as an expression of the image of God. ▪ Examination of the stages & implications of puberty and the role of hormones ▪ A recognition of masculine & feminine traits as elements of all people. ▪ Empathetically address situations where human dignity is ignored 	<p>Year 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify the unitive & procreative nature of sexual intercourse as expressed in marriage ▪ Knowledge of human fertility and related issues such as sexually transmitted infections and contraception ▪ An understanding of sexual orientation and the pastoral response of the Church ▪ Empathetically address situations where human dignity is ignored in the media

Year 9 & 10		Year 11 & 12	
Learning Outcome: Explores the portrayal of human sexuality in contemporary society and evaluates these portrayals in the light of the Catholic understanding of human sexuality and relationships.		Learning Outcome: Understands the potential of sexuality to enrich the human person and explores his/her personal response to the gift of human sexuality.	
Teaching & Learning Content			
Year 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigate the Catholic perspective on human sexuality and relationships. ▪ An understanding of God’s relational nature as the core of our human nature. ▪ Develop ways to critique societal/ media portrayal of ‘maleness’ and ‘femaleness’. ▪ Develop the ability to identify influences that objectify the human person. ▪ Empathetically address situations where human dignity is ignored ▪ Examine the impact of pornography 	Year 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore conscience development and maturity ▪ Apply theological & moral perspectives to sexuality and decision making ▪ Critique relationships: family & friends and the qualities that make them fulfilling. ▪ Discern and integrate sexuality & friendship ▪ Examine the Church’s understanding of the purpose of sexual attraction vs society views ▪ Develop an understanding of the nature and purpose of sexual attraction & feelings ▪ The implications of sexual activity and chastity as a virtue ▪ Examine the impact of pornography 	Year 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ explore the nature of intimacy, commitment and marriage in a Catholic context ▪ develop an understanding of the ways in which human desire is an expression of God’s desire for humanity to live in loving relationships such as marriage ▪ explore the belief that sexuality is integral to the human person and that it is a gift from God. ▪ develop an understanding of the Church’s teaching on human sexuality ▪ develop an understanding of sexual growth as being a movement towards wholeness and relationship ▪ examine the impact of pornography on relationships, including marriage. 	Year 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ develop skills to critique portrayals of human sexuality and expression in both a Catholic and non-Catholic context ▪ develop an awareness of the emotional, psychological and spiritual dimensions of sexual intercourse and sexual expression ▪ analyse contemporary responses to human sexuality, in a Catholic and non-Catholic context. Some of the issues examined include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ marriage ○ pornography ○ pre-marital sex ○ homosexuality ○ transgenderism ○ gay marriage ○ bisexuality ▪ examine the impact of pornography on human dignity and human thriving