



September 2017

Made in the Image of God: Years 7, 9 & 10

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

At Blackfriars Priory School 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, skill and fostering attitudes and values that will enable students to make responsible choices in their lives.

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 7, 9 & 10 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. The 'Being Sexual' and 'Being Moral' strands will be 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.

MITIOG values the partnership that we have with you as you teach the young people in your care. The program has been developed over some years on the basis of consultation with parents, priests and educators in our community, as well as the advice of experts in moral theology and child psychiatry. 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. We are happy to discuss with you the overall structure and objectives of the curriculum, and if this is desirable, 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
Religious Education Coordinator

Mr David Ruggiero
APRIM

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.

YEAR 7 & 8		Year 9 & 10	
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.		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.	
Teaching & Learning Content			
<p>Year 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The human body as an expression of the image of God. ▪ Stages & implications of puberty ▪ The role of hormones ▪ Masculine & feminine traits as elements of all people. 	<p>Year 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 	<p>Year 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Catholic perspective on human sexuality and relationships. ▪ An understanding of God’s relational nature as the core of our human nature. ▪ Ways to critique societal/ media portrayal of ‘maleness’ and ‘femaleness’. ▪ The ability to identify influences that objectify the human person. 	<p>Year 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conscience maturity ▪ Theological & moral ▪ Relationships: family & friends ▪ Qualities of good friendships ▪ Sexuality & friendship ▪ The Church’s understanding of the purpose of sexual attraction vs society views ▪ An understanding of the nature and purpose of sexual attraction & feelings ▪ The implications of sexual activity ▪ Chastity as a virtue ▪ Moral decision making