



Year 8 Science: Sexual Reproduction and Year 8 Religion Studies: Made in the Image of God

September 2017

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 Year 8 Religion Studies will be studying the Made in the Image of God (MITIOG) curriculum Being Sexual strand during the latter part of Term 3 and the beginning of Term 4. The other strands (Being Connected, Being Moral & Being Human) are embedded in various Religion Studies topics and experiential learning in Religion Studies and other learning areas.

The Religion Studies 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 conjunction with this mandated MITIOG program, students also learn sexual reproduction in their Year 8 Science course, as per the Australian Curriculum. Given this fact, the scientific content of the MITIOG program will be addressed in Science and simply reviewed in Religion Studies, with the focus in Religion Studies being on relationship, dignity of the human person, and morality. However, due to this cross-curricula reality, all staff received MITIOG training earlier this year to ensure a consistent understanding and message, faithful to the MITIOG ethos and objectives.

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 in 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,

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