

CATHOLIC SCHOOL RETREATS

1. Definitions

Retreat refers to time away from the normal school program where participants have the opportunity to reflect on their relationship with God. The emphasis is on students' awareness of the presence of God in their lives. Retreats may vary in style and duration. They include experiences of prayer, discussions, reflective silence and quiet time alone. The celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist may be included.

2. Principles

- 2.1** Retreats aim to provide experiences for students to know, contemplate and celebrate Jesus.
- 2.2** Retreats are an integral part of Catholic school life. They need to be inclusive, purposeful, meaningful and take into account the culture, developmental needs and experiences of students.
- 2.3** Retreats complement the catechesis experiences offered by the school.
- 2.4** Retreats need to be planned in a way that engages students in rich experiences of Catholic symbol and ritual.

3. Procedures

- 3.1** A school's retreat planning policy shall follow the CECWA School Excursions policy.
- 3.2** Parents and students shall be informed about the nature and purpose of the retreat and the level of student involvement required.
- 3.3** A school retreat program shall consider the religious and cultural backgrounds and the developmental needs of the students.
- 3.4** A school retreat program may include appropriate prayer and liturgical experiences.
- 3.5** A school retreat program shall include creative and engaging activities.

3.6 The retreat program shall include appropriate evaluation procedures, including feedback from students.