



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta

GBW:vt

27 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta is changing the way students learn about their faith in response to changing times. A bold new approach to Religious Education has been developed based on the big questions students ask about life, identity and belonging.

I can now report that our Draft New Curriculum for Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 have been approved by the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA). This is a great outcome and supports the important work that is already underway with schools trialling the new approach for many of the other year groups. We are now looking forward to completing the final version of the curriculum so it can be launched in Term 2, 2021.

With a strong focus on connecting students' faith through a framework we call 'Head, Heart and Hands', the new approach is about all aspects of school and parish life here in Parramatta. We encourage everyone to learn more and there will be information about this from your school soon.

Many people have contributed to this once-in-a-generation draft curriculum particularly our Principals, teachers, Religious Education Coordinators, clergy and Catholic Education staff. Bishop Vincent's pastoral leadership has also been critical in guiding this work. It has been a very collaborative process and I particularly want to thank families who have been involved.

This is a very exciting time for our school communities. We look forward with confidence to the launch in 2021 as we 'go into the deep' together to support the faith life of our students and their families.

Yours sincerely

**Gregory B Whitby AM KSG**  
Executive Director  
Catholic Education  
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TRANSFORMING LEARNING

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