1. **Rationale**

Catholic schools exist to further the mission of the Church and the Gospels remind us that “anyone who welcomes a child in my name welcomes me” (Luke 9:48).¹

The Mandate Letter of the Bishops of Western Australia requires that education be made available to all Catholic children in so far as this is possible.²

Children from other countries should also be given an opportunity to access Catholic education in Western Australia where appropriate.

In addition to the above, the provision of services for Full Fee Paying Overseas Students (FFPOS) will be provided according to the following principles and procedures which recognise the fact that Australian society is multicultural and inclusive.

2. **Definitions**

FFPOS is a person from another country who has been granted entry into Australia on a visa allowing them to enrol only at an Australian educational institution which is registered in the first instance with the Department of Educational Services as a FFPOS Provider. The Student does not attract Government Funding. The school will also have been granted a Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) provider code and courses code by the Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations.

3. **Scope**

This policy applies to all Catholic schools in Western Australia.

4. **Principles**

4.1 The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child states that the best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his/her education.³
4.2 Catholic schools shall endeavour to ensure that FFPOS have access to the same services provided to all other students and, where necessary, shall provide additional services to address their unique needs and characteristics to ensure an equitable and inclusive education.

4.3 Schools shall ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) who have contact with FFPOS have an understanding of the pedagogy and practice of teaching English as a Second Language and an awareness of cross cultural perspectives.

4.4 The overall provision of services shall be consistent with State and Australian Government legislative framework as outlined by the following, as amended:
   - The Education Service Providers (Full Fee Paying Overseas Students) Registration Act 1991 (ESPRA).
   - Education Services for Overseas Students Act (ESOS) 2000 (Australian Government).

4.5 The enrolment of FFPOS shall comply with the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy: Student Enrolment. Principals shall bear in mind to what extent the school can meet the individual needs of the student and other students before enrolling the FFPOS student.

5. Procedures

5.1 The following flow chart outlines the relationship between key stake holders in the provision of service for FFPOS:

5.2 Schools shall develop their own policy statement regarding the enrolment and provision of services for FFPOS as outlined in the legislative framework (4.4 above). Schools shall appoint an International Students Co-ordinator who shall be the reference person within the school for matters relating to FFPOS.

5.3 It is the Principal’s responsibility to ensure the relevant legislative requirements and procedures are followed.

6. References
7. Related Documents and sources of information

Australian Government: Australian Education International
(http://www.des.wa.gov.au/international_education)
Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students
(http://cricos.deewr.gov.au/default.aspx)
Overseas Students Ombudsman (http://www.oso.gov.au/contact-us/)
Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-D5 ‘Student Enrolment’
(http://cms.ceo.wa.edu.au/about_us/governance/policies/community.jsp)

8. Review History

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9. Next Review

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