“This is what God asks of you only this
To act justly,
To love tenderly,
And walk humbly with your God”

Micah 6:8
At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we, the parents, students and staff are committed to continuing the vision of our founders, Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. We value and endeavour to provide an education of excellence and care in a family environment, being accessible to all while upholding the Catholic tradition based on the philosophy “In Omnibus Caritas” … In all things love and kindness.

**Rationale**

*God, who created humankind out of love, also calls us to love – the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For human beings are created in the image and likeness of God who is love.*

The *Made in the Image of God* Programme at Mary MacKillop Memorial School, recognises the key role of parents in the task of education. Parent Partnerships, Documentation, Professional Development for Staff and the provision of adequate and sound resources are crucial to the implementation of the programme.

**At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we believe that:**

- Humans are made in the image of God
- Humans are deserving of the utmost dignity and honour.
- Human sexuality, integral to the human person, is a gift from God through which we can live out our vocation to love.
- The values and insights of the Christian Tradition and Catholic moral teaching enrich our lives and are integral to this programme

**Theology**

*Made in the Image of God* is the mandated programme for sexuality education in South Australian Catholic Schools. It incorporates a sequential curriculum firmly based on Catholic moral teaching. The curriculum is organised into four strands which explore essential aspects of the human person.

**Being Human**

This strand aims to affirm the value and dignity of human life and to promote reverence for self, others and the whole of creation.

**Being Sexual**

This strand aims to explore the spiritual, physical, moral and psychological dimensions of human sexuality and to develop an appreciation of Catholic Church teaching regarding sexuality.

**Being Connected**

This strand aims to explore the human vocation to love God and neighbour and to develop an appreciation of the interdependence of humanity.

**Being Moral**

This strand aims to develop an understanding of what it is to be moral and to encourage responsible decision making by exploring the processes of Christian decision making.

Each of these strands has Key Ideas and associated outcomes. Units supporting each of the Key Ideas are available to all staff on the school’s ICT Network.
**Scope and Sequence**

At Mary MacKillop Memorial School, staff, in conjunction with the Overview Committee, have developed a scope and sequence plan in order to establish the learning outcomes at each year level – and which is critical to the standard. This will be communicated to parents and adhered to by teaching staff.

The scope and sequence plan will be reviewed at the completion of the *Made in the Image of God* programme each year as a part of the evaluative process of the programme.

It is important to note that this programme crosses the curriculum areas of Religious Education, Health, English and PE and the Arts.

**Leadership of the Programme**

The Key Teacher manages the programme. This is done in conjunction with the Overview Committee which consists of parent representatives, the Key Teacher and other interested school staff.

The role of the Key Teacher and Overview Committee includes decision making, communication and evaluation of the programme and resources.

**Professional Development**

Those who teach *Made in the Image of God* will have completed training in the program. Further professional development in the area will be undertaken by the staff on a regular basis.

**Resources**

Resources used to support the program are carefully monitored to ensure they are suited to the programme.

Resources are also made available to support parents in sexuality education at home through the Parent Library.

**Parent Partnerships**

We acknowledge that parents have a right and responsibility to educate their children in human sexuality and that it is the role of the school to support parents in this area. We highly value our partnerships with parents and are committed to strengthening and enriching these partnerships.

Parent communication is vital to ensure that classroom learning always recognises the key role parents play in the education of their children. The parent community have opportunities to hear about the programme and its content through various means, including newsletters, brochures and parent meetings.
Each year parents are provided with a copy of the school scope and sequence plan, as well as specific information about the Being Sexual section well before the lessons take place. At the end of each year there will be opportunities for parent feedback about the program. Parents with any questions or concerns about the program are encouraged to discuss them with the class teacher, the MITIOG Key Teacher or a member of the Overview Committee. Parents will always be informed about the date and time of lessons which are focused specifically on Sexual Growth and Development.

**Programme Management**

The *Made In the Image of God* programme will always be overseen by a Key Teacher in liaison with the Principal of the Mary MacKillop Memorial School.

The role of the Key Teacher will be to:

- Organise and be a member of the Overview Committee
- Manage all Staff Professional Development
- Supervise Parent Communication
- Manage the Scope and Sequence and provide guidance for all staff
- Organise and maintain all resources
- Liaise with the Principal.

**Developed 2012**

**Implemented**

**Ratified by the Mary MacKillop Memorial School Board on September 2012**

**Reviewed**