



Catholic Education Office Parramatta Diocese

March, 2006

DIOCESAN DIRECTIONS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN RELATION TO REPORTING STUDENTS' LEARNING

The following points present the Diocesan position. This position ensures that all Primary schools are meeting the Commonwealth requirements as described in "School Assistance (Learning Together – Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Regulations 2005".

1. All schools will formally report in writing, twice each year, to parents regarding students' learning achievement in all subjects, including formal Religious Education, in accordance with points 2-9 below.

2. Students' Learning Reports (except those for kindergarten- please see 8 below) will report individual student learning achievement according to the A – E scale below:

- A Excellent Achievement
- B High Achievement
- C Sound Achievement
- D Basic Achievement
- E Elementary Achievement.

3. Students' Learning Reports for students in Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 will not publish the performance of the individual students relative to the rest of the cohort. This information though will be available to parents if requested. These reports must include the following statement.

This learning report is designed to provide accurate information about your child's learning. You are invited to contact the school if you would like information on this report explained. You can ask the school to provide you with written information that clearly shows your child's achievement in the subjects studied in comparison to that of other children in the child's peer group at the school. This information will show you the number of students in each of the achievement levels A-E. Students' learning achievement in Religious Education is related to their knowledge and understanding of Catholicism and life as a Catholic. It is not a judgement about their faith or their goodness.

Students Learning Reports for students in Years 5 and 6 will publish the performance of the individual students relative to the rest of the cohort by indicating the number of students in the cohort that have performed at each of the achievement levels. These reports will also include the following statement:

This learning report is designed to provide accurate information about your child's learning. You are invited to contact the school if you would like information on this report explained or if you would like further information about your child's progress. Students' learning achievement in Religious Education is related to their knowledge and understanding of Catholicism and life as a Catholic. It is not a judgement about their faith or their goodness.

4. All Student Learning Reports are to be written in "plain English", avoiding the use of jargon, so that they are understandable to parents.

5. Student Learning Reports issued in the last term of the year must be available to parents at least seven (7) days before the last school day for students in order to allow parents an opportunity to discuss the report with the school.

6. Evidence in the form of achievement records and work samples indicating levels of achievement on various tasks must be kept by schools to ensure accuracy across classes within a cohort and to validate learning report results.

These must be kept for 12 months. Please note this does not mean that individual work samples have to be kept for every student, beyond what is needed for meetings with parents to discuss students' progress.

7. In the case of Yearly Learning Reports in Years 3 and 5 the following statement must be included on the report; In October, you received a report on your child's performance on the Year 3/5 Basic Skills Test.

This test provided the following information:

- whether (or not) he or she achieved the national benchmarks in reading, writing and numeracy
- what skill band he or she achieved in reading, writing, language and numeracy
- what the average achievement was for students at this school in reading, writing, language and numeracy.

8. Kindergarten Learning Reports will maintain their 2005 form for 2006. Kindergarten students are also included in (1) and their learning will be reported on twice each year in writing.

9. In 2006 Students with Special Education needs
- for whom adjustments have been made, which allow them to access the curriculum of the cohort, will be reported on the A-E scale of achievement. These students are to be included in the calculation of the number of students in a cohort performing at a particular achievement level.
 - whose level of need does not allow them to access the curriculum of the cohort (even with adjustments) will have information provided about their learning using a scale determined by the school. These students are not to be included in the calculation of the number of students in a cohort performing at a particular achievement level.