

Parents & Caregivers' Evenings

Parent & Caregivers' Evenings precede the in-school programs and empower parents and caregivers to respond to the needs of the developing young person.

'Circle of Life' equips families with current information, useful strategies, program content and resources shared through personal encounter as an educator and parent travelling the journey of growth and development with many students across the ages. Our common goal is the safety and wellbeing of our children as they grow towards wholeness.

About 'Circle of Life'

'Circle of Life' provides a Catholic approach to Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) for the Health and Physical Education (HPE) learning area of the Australian Curriculum. It complements the Good News for Living (GNfL) Religious Education curriculum of Catholic Education Tasmania.

Using group presentations, personal stories, digital resources, creative activities, and small group discussions, 'Circle of Life' engages young people in responding to the challenges of growing up and making healthy decisions for themselves and others.

Our family is a circle of love and strength. With every birth and every union, the circle grows. Every joy shared adds more love, every crisis faced together makes the circle stronger.

Monique Hall Family Life, Relationships and Sexuality Educator

Monique has over twenty years of teaching experience in Catholic schools in the Early Years, Primary, Secondary and in adult education. Monique worked extensively for Catholic Care in Tasmania in the area of family life, relationships and sexuality education. Monique is a passionate and creative teacher, a wife and mother of four children, experiencing first-hand the joys and challenges of parenting.

Circle of Life
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OUR BLESSED JOURNEY

'Circle of Life' is a values-rich approach to Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) for Catholic Schools. 'Circle of Life' is aligned to the Archdiocese of Hobart guidelines Growing Towards Wholeness.

With an emphasis on human dignity, 'Circle of Life' assists young people to grow in integrity.

'Circle of Life' supports parents as the primary educators of their children. The program partners parents, schools and parish communities in the formation of young people in the truth and meaning of our human sexuality.

'Circle of Life' explores God's amazing plan for life, love, relationships, family and human sexuality.



Family Life (Early Years)

The Early Years program consists of age-appropriate content, facilitating a gentle unfolding of the child's discovery of 'who they are' in relation to God, their family, others and creation. Through the program

- The child is led into dialogue about the beauty of family life where they are loved, cared for, helped, and learn to share and develop a sense of belonging.
- The child grows in appreciation of the special and unique gift of life that they are to their families.
- Their mother's womb is presented as the first room where they are cared for and kept safe.
- Their family teaches them to love and stay safe in community.
- Gentle gesture of caring for a baby is enacted with the child.
- The beauty of birth as a new beginning is explored by drawing upon the animal world.
- Programs can also be tailored to assist students in particular areas if a need arises.

Growing & Changing (Primary Years)

Building upon the Early Years, the Primary program focuses on our sacred life journey from the moment of conception through to adulthood. The program explores how we express love for ourselves and others through our body and how the complementary design of our bodies facilitates new life. Puberty is sensitively explored as a stage in our life journey of spiritual, physical, emotional and social development that is part of our flourishing as human persons. Through the program the child

- Deepens their understanding that God's plan is for our full flourishing as human persons.
- Explores the nurturing place of the womb, the parental role and the responsibility of self-nurture as we grow and change.
- Identifies how the gift of their body is changing and deepens their understanding that their body is good and precious, to be respected, cared for (inclusive of hygiene requirements) and kept safe.
- Learns about friendships and the elements of safe and healthy relationships.
- Is guided to recognise safe and unsafe situations and identify actions to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Love, Relationships and Integrity (Secondary Years 7-10)

The Secondary program has at its centre the Christian belief that God created us in His Divine image as relational beings with the free gift to love Him, ourselves, and others in life giving ways.

Building upon the Primary Years, the program invites the young person to consider what it means to live with **integrity (wholeness)** and its implication for the gift of their sexuality and for the formation of meaningful relationships. Through the program the young person:

- Explores the meaning of authentic love as self-gift that upholds the dignity of themselves and others.
- Identifies and discerns the influence of their family, peers, social media and communication, music and popular culture that can potentially shape their attitudes, behaviours, and understanding of sexuality and relationships.
- Is empowered to develop actions that protect the integrity, health and safety of themselves and others.
- Deepens their understanding of Christian virtues and teachings as the reference point when acting according to a properly formed conscience.
- Deepens their awareness and understanding of the gift of their human sexuality, the sanctity of all human life, the transformative power of life-giving relationships, and the Christian vision for relationships, marriage and family.
- Reflects on the human experience with its frustrations, limits and failures as moments of growth as they learn about love, empathy and forgiveness.
- Is empowered to build resilience and have hope in the making of truly beautiful and loving relationships.

