

Catalyst

An evidence-based
teaching approach



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

A message from our Director

Catholic Education Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn (CECG) serves the educational needs of over 21,000 students, through our 56 schools and over 1,700 teaching staff.

We strive to deliver excellent learning experiences that nurture each person's God-given potential through *Faith in Learning*. We developed **Catalyst** – an evidence-based approach to teaching, supported by high quality professional learning and curriculum resources – to ensure this is provided at every school in our Archdiocese.

We are motivated by excellence in teaching, where all students can deepen their knowledge for successful achievement throughout school and beyond. *'Learning is a change in long-term memory'*¹ and as such, teachers need the knowledge of how best to teach, to ensure that students have learnt what has been taught.

I invite anyone who may be interested in this approach to reach out to our team – we would be thrilled to show you the potential in evidence-based, high quality teaching practice.

Ross Fox

Director, Catholic Education Canberra & Goulburn



8 Big Ideas of Learning

Informed by the Science of Learning and research, evidence and insights from global experts in education, including the work of ED Hirsch Jr, Barack Rosenshine, Dylan Wiliam and Emeritus Professor John Sweller and more, we defined 8 Big Ideas of Learning, encompassing:

- 1 School is where we learn biologically secondary information
- 2 Learning is a change in long-term memory
- 3 Teaching is a profession that should be informed by the evidence
- 4 Knowledge matters, it's what we think with
- 5 The most efficient way to teach knowledge is to teach explicitly
- 6 High quality whole class instruction will help all students learn
- 7 Reading is essential for students to acquire knowledge
- 8 Curriculum should be ambitious, coherent, sequential and cumulative

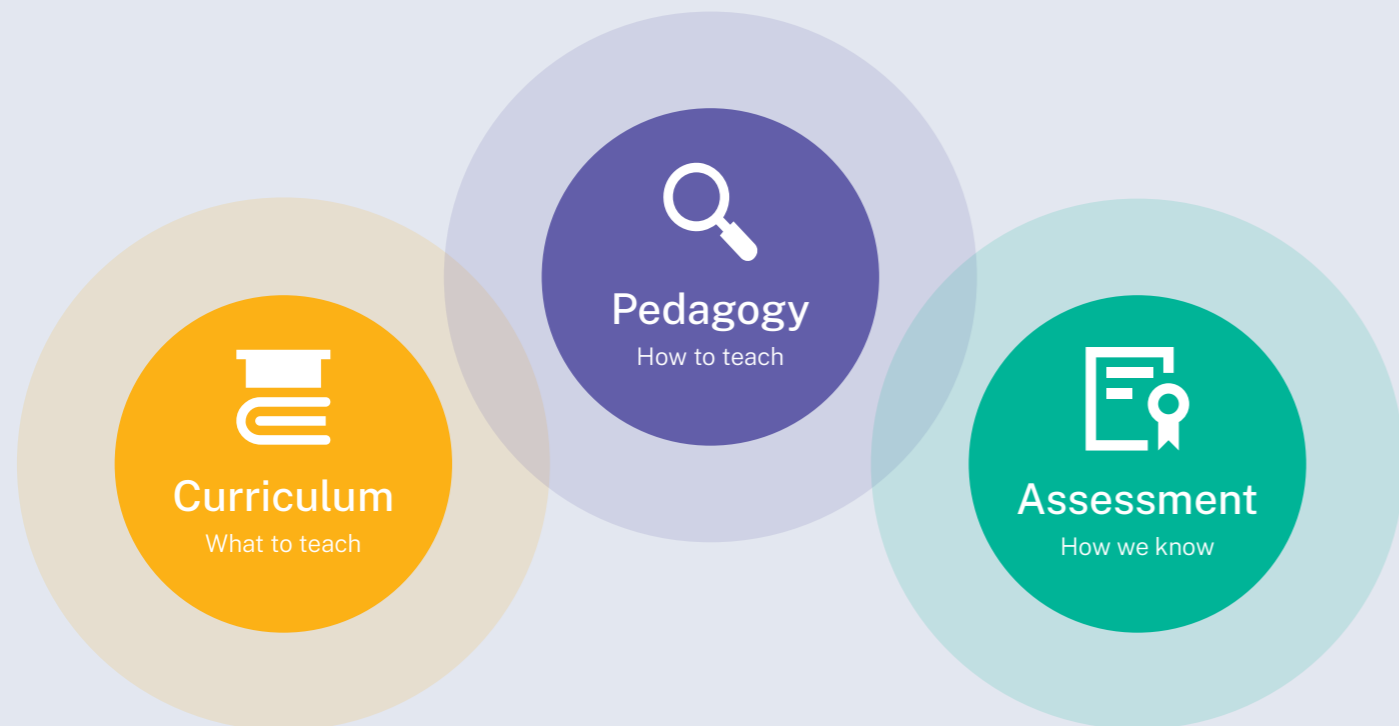
To better understand how students learn best, CECG set out to design and implement an evidence-based high quality professional learning, supporting curriculum resources and assessment protocols.

¹Kirschner, Sweller and Clark, 2006

Catalyst

Since its launch in 2020, **Catalyst** has evolved from a professional learning program that builds Teachers' knowledge and expertise to CECG's long-term approach for teaching and learning.

Catalyst empowers all teachers and leaders in our Archdiocese with the skills, knowledge and resources to deliver high quality:



Our teaching approach aims to provide an education that ensures:

- 1 Every student is a competent reader
- 2 High Impact Teaching Practice is visible in every classroom

Empowering Leadership

A key enabler of **Catalyst** is the Principal and Leaders' commitment to change. To empower and enable our System and Leaders to guide their schools through change, **Catalyst** provides professional learning, mentoring and networking opportunities underpinned by evidence-based change management principles.

We also work with schools on a case-by-case basis, carefully planning the journey to ensure it fits the needs and context of the school, and the capabilities and capacity of staff.

Literacy Focus

We believe reading is a key enabler for learning – when students can read effectively, they build their capacity to learn and gain greater knowledge. That's why we have a solid focus on providing evidence-based reading instruction for all students, based on comprehensive research into how students learn to read, known as the Science of Reading.

Focused on high-quality whole class instruction

Our Teachers are supported to implement, embed, and sustain effective and efficient whole class instruction in literacy. Our programs include InitialLit and Let's Decode.

Supporting whole class instruction is evidence-based intervention. These programs develop and scaffold the necessary skills students need to be able to participate fully in whole class instruction. Our intervention programs include MiniLit Sage (Kindergarten-Year 2), MacqLit (Year 3 and above) and Reading Tutor.



High Impact Teaching Practice

Underpinning **Catalyst** is High Impact Teaching Practice (HITP) - the methodology based on the Science of Learning, Barak Rosenshine's 10 Principles of Instruction and Tom Sherrington's Rosenshine's Principles in Action.

Empowering teachers to design lessons that draw on pedagogy including:



Explicit Instruction



Practice and retrieval



Engagement and participation



Explaining and modelling



Checking for Understanding

Supported by high quality curriculum resources

Supplementary to HITP, CECG Teachers are supported through the provision of high-quality, low-variation curriculum resources, including:

- Scope and Sequence documents aligned to Australian Curriculum / NSW Syllabus Outcomes
- Curriculum Maps that show the topics for the year, suggested sequence and explicit guidance each lesson
- Lesson resources for every lesson
- Assessment samples

By provisioning these resources, Teachers will spend less time planning and finding materials with more time doing what they do best – teaching children.

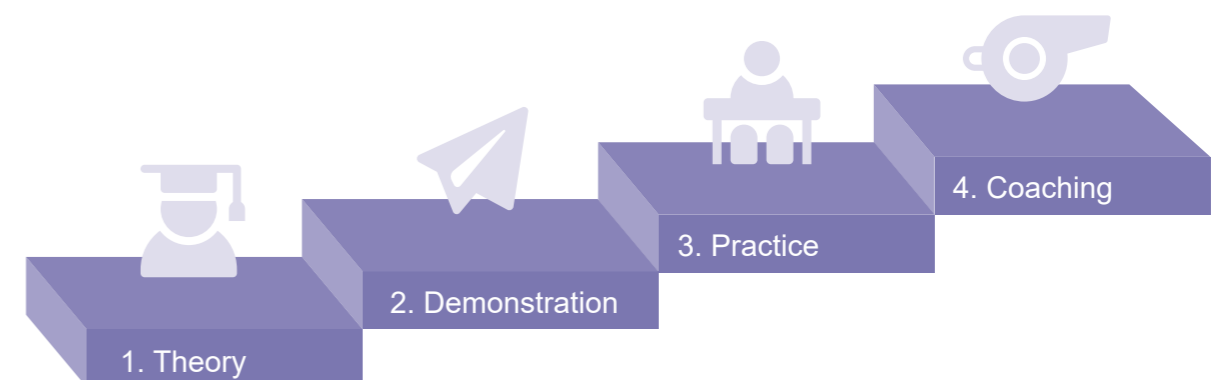
We are now exploring the opportunity to implement a knowledge rich curriculum across all subjects and year levels.

Our approach to Professional Learning

Catalyst supports development of excellent Principals, Leaders and Teachers through evidence-based professional learning founded in the Science of Learning and the Science of Reading.

CECG provides comprehensive professional learning encompassing theory, demonstration, practice and coaching to support teachers throughout the learning journey, culminating in embedding the teaching practice in the classroom.

Transitioning from professional learning to improved practice:



Professional Learning is delivered via:



Online Units that can be completed individually or as part of a group



Practical face-to-face professional learning and follow-up coaching



System-wide learning days for all staff, and additional days for Principals

Want to learn more?

Visit the Catalyst website at
catalyst.cg.catholic.edu.au
or scan the QR code



Catalyst

Transforming lives
through learning