As a Christian in society, in a way appropriate to age, maturity and faith development, the young person
• witnesses in everyday life to faith in the gospel
• critiques values, events and structures in the light of the gospel and Catholic tradition
• is actively involved in the betterment of the world
• participates in the Church’s social mission
• lives out the ethical dimensions of work and leisure.

Implications
Religious education of the young person is a shared undertaking, and occurs in a variety of forms and settings appropriate to the young person’s circumstances.

If young people are to engage in religious education that achieves the above goals and outcomes, the following implications require consideration.

• The family is the first place where faith can be nurtured, and ideally provides occasions for education in faith for all its members right through life. Parish-based programs can provide for sacramental preparation, liturgical formation, formal catechisis for some, and many different opportunities for apostolic action and personal spiritual growth. The school is a proper setting for formal instruction in religion and in the teachings of the faith. Adolescents may also find groups and organisations that further contribute in different ways to their overall religious education.
• No one form or setting can usually provide all that is required. Collaboration is needed to ensure a comprehensive, relevant and acceptable religious education of which young people may avail themselves.
• Parents are described as “first educators of their children in the faith”. In the home they can introduce young people to the lived reality of faith through prayer, moral formation, everyday expressions of love and reconciliation, good example and simple sharing of the faith journey. They also contribute appropriately to their children’s formal instruction in the faith.
• The parish is where the young person should learn the meaning of worship, encounter Christ in the sacraments, and share in the practical outreach of the Christian community in mission to the world.
• Religious education programs — in schools, parishes or other settings — provide more formal teaching in matters of belief, values and practice that equips the young person, according to each stage of development, for a free and intelligent expression of personal faith within the family, Christian community and wider society.
• Young people should not be seen as merely passive recipients of religious education. Increasingly they have responsibility to choose and actively participate in religious education suited to their age, faith development and personal needs.
That They May Have Life
The religious education of school-aged Catholics

Policy Statement
All young Catholics, throughout their school years, should be provided with opportunities to participate in religious education suited to their age and circumstances.

Purpose
"The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God." [Rite of Baptism]

In the baptismal ritual the Church commits itself to assist parents in the religious education of their children. The Archdiocese has undertaken to "promote faith learning that is life-long and life-giving" and to "nourish and co-operatively support through education the faith life of families".

This policy statement provides a basic description of the nature and aims of religious education that will guide parents, parishes, teachers and schools in their role as religious educators.

Goals of Religious Education
The religious education of our Catholic young people seeks to foster their
- growth in relationship with God
- knowledge and understanding of God as revealed by Jesus
- understanding of Catholic tradition and their full participation in the life of the community
- critical participation in society and its transformation in light of the gospel and Catholic tradition.

Desired Outcomes
Religious Education has the following desired outcomes.

As an individual, in a way appropriate to age, maturity and faith development, the young person
- is confirmed in belief in a personal God
- values self as gifted by God
- is aware of God's presence in the world
- has a personal spirituality relevant to one's life journey
- has an informed conscience
- sees a purpose in life and hope for the future.

As a member of the faith community, in a way appropriate to age, maturity and faith development, the young person
- values and reflects on religious experience
- knows and values the Catholic Christian heritage
- experiences a welcoming faith community
- actively participates in its worship
- contributes to its life and work.

Principles
All people are created "in the image and likeness of God", and so are imbued with a natural spiritual yearning. They seek to understand themselves in the light of the transcendent. Any genuine education must address this religious dimension of life. In addition, initiation into the Christian community carries with it a continuing need to grow in understanding of and participation in the faith heritage that gives it life. Hence every young Christian, by reason of humanity and baptism, has a claim to be educated religiously.

This policy statement is, in effect, a charter of young Catholics' rights to be effectively supported in their faith growth through appropriate religious education.