



2014

Annual Report

St Francis Xavier's Primary School, Urana

CONTACT DETAILS:

PRINCIPAL: *Therese McFarlane*
ADDRESS: *1 End Street
Urana NSW 2645*
PHONE: *02 6920 8051*
WEBSITE: *web.sfxuww.catholic.edu.au*
EMAIL: *info@sfxuww.catholic.edu.au*



The School

St Francis Xavier's Primary School is a small school located in the south-western region of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, one hundred and ten kilometres west of Wagga Wagga.

It services families who, in the main, are engaged in rural-related industries.

The school is a valued institution in the parish and wider community.

Members of the school community continue their long-standing commitment to the school, community and in its function in the Catholic education of its students.

Within this report for 2014 evidence of that commitment will be detailed.

Catholic Identity

At St Francis Xavier's Primary School, Urana our Vision Statement is 'Think, speak and act like Christ'.

MISSION STATEMENT

At our school we believe that 'Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school' (par34, The Catholic School).

Therefore, we believe our Mission is to:

Be a Community of Faith

- Centred on Christ and the sacramental life of the Church
- Learning about and living our Catholic faith whilst respecting other faith traditions
- Building the kingdom of God on earth
- Demonstrate relevance of faith to life (in contemporary culture)

Be a Community of Learning

- Helping students to find and nurture their gifts
- Provide a quality comprehensive curriculum that promotes life-long learning
- Value effort and achievement and excellence
- Respect contributions of members of the school community
- Use ICT to enhance learning and teaching

Be a Community of Care

- Welcoming students and families
- Promote self esteem, respect, dignity and uniqueness of each other
- Provide a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment Use discipline measure that are just and fair
- Promote critical thinking

Be a Community of Service

- Work in partnership with priest, parish and community
- Promote outreach to poor and disadvantaged
- Encourage attitude of stewardship of the land
- Work in partnership with parents
- Promote use of gifts to benefit society

Religious Education

- To ensure our school's life is based upon Christ and the teachings of his Church, aspects of our faith and Catholic tradition are integral to our daily program.
- Prayer and Liturgical Celebration
- Prayer
- The customary daily practice for each person attending school is visitation to the church, situated in the school grounds, for personal prayer.
- Every day commences with formal prayer for the school at morning assembly. Prayer also begins and concludes each learning block throughout the day.
- Prayer and reflection articles specific to parents, staff and/or students are shared at appropriate times.
- Liturgical Celebration
- The school attends weekly Mass, and all students are involved in the preparation for the Mass, taking on the various responsibilities required according to maturity and skills.
- Spiritual Formation
- Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation are included within the Religious Education program.
- Students and staff are given the opportunity regularly to avail themselves of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Social Justice/Mission

- Our school continues a long-standing tradition of financial support of persons in need, particularly through Church agencies such as Catholic Mission, Caritas and the St Vincent de Paul Society, providing opportunities for the school community to 'put faith into action'.

Message from key School Bodies

Our school has a unique situation which allows all families representation at meetings of the parent body as a whole, as well as in the election of executive members.

Parents demonstrate their engagement in their children’s learning through their attendance and participation at Parent Information sessions, Parent/Teacher Reporting interviews, and a wide range of school activities.

Parents willingly carry out grounds and maintenance works around the school, and have completed the required training in the use of chemicals and fuels to allow them to do so.

Fundraising is a major activity in which parents are involved throughout the school year. Major fundraisers this year have been the annual Paddy’s Market, catering ventures and commission gained from plant markets. Parent contributions equate to approximately half of the recurrent annual costs.

A very significant additional contribution was made by the parent body this year to maintain and upgrade the existing excellent repository of information and communication resources.

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

All students from Years 3 and 5 participated in National Literacy and Numeracy testing in 2010. All students achieved benchmark gradings or higher, the majority higher. Each year the school monitors Trend Data and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year.

Professional Learning

The major focus for professional learning this year were the new Mathematics and Science syllabuses. All staff attended the diocesan-wide in-service/s regarding knowledge, understanding, pedagogy and implementation of these syllabuses. In addition, as one of a network of schools which teach in K-6 classrooms, a number of workshops were conducted to design and construct templates for the programming of these Key Learning Areas.

Continuing the numeracy focus for the year brought about all staff’s participation in ‘First Steps in Number’ as professional learning to assist in learning and teaching strategies within the Maths Class. This course was conducted by CSO personnel and involved

staffs from a number of district schools. It was conducted throughout Terms 2 and 3. (See ‘Improvement Targets’)

Staff Spirituality and Formation involved all staff from our school, along with staff from our neighbouring Catholic school, attending a reflection day on ‘Witness within the Catholic School Setting’.

Under the Creative Arts banner a staff member attended music workshops which introduced ‘Kodaly’ music as a useful tool in teaching music and singing.

In 2014 the whole school community was fruitfully engaged in a writing project within one of our integrated units of work- Children Then & Now. All families, including parents, and extended family members, attended a writing workshop to draft, publish and collate an anthology of writing based on each one’s childhood. A scaffold was used to assist all with bringing their pieces of writing together, and to reinforce this learning strategy.

Teaching Staff

The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in the following categories:

- A) having teacher education qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) guidelines, or
- B) having a bachelor degree from a higher education institution within Australia or one recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines but lacking formal teacher education qualifications.

A	B	TOTAL
3		3

Workforce Composition

St Francis Xavier’s School employs one full-time and two part-time qualified teachers. The school also employs a full-time clerical/teacher assistant.

The workforce is from non-indigenous backgrounds.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	95%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	95%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	91%
Year 6	91%

Student Non-Attendance

Student non-attendance is managed at St Francis Xavier's Primary School by:

- Recording in the SAS system as required and according to the coding of the Education Act
- If a student is absent for an extended period of time, families are contacted
- Partial absences are recorded as required
- Requests from families for extended periods away from school are sent to the Principal, and when necessary the Catholic Schools Office, for approval

Enrolment Policy

St Francis Xavier's Enrolment Policy aims to provide equitable prioritization of enrolment applications, and to ensure that the requirements of the State and Commonwealth legislation are met.

Our Enrolment Policy is supported by the Catholic Schools Office Enrolment Policy.

www.csoww.catholic.edu.au

Characteristics of the Student Body

As of August Census the total enrolment at our school was 18 students, 10 girls and 8 boys.

Generally the class composition is in a Kinder-6 configuration with team-teaching for the majority of the timetabled learning and teaching activities. In addition, there are sessions which include arrangements of K-2, 3-6, and sometimes smaller groups according to the individual needs of students.

School Policies

Student Welfare

This policy aims to:

- Enhance positive relationships and connectedness across the whole school community by promoting mutual respect, communication, security and well-being.
- Recognise and nurture approaches to learning and teaching, across all curriculum areas, which endorse pastoral care.
- Co-ordinate and link policies and programs within the school with a particular focus on pastoral care.

Discipline

This policy aims to:

- Make explicit the links between the school's Vision and Mission and the systems of behaviour management operating within the school
- Assist teachers as they work to support, develop and maintain students' ability to make responsible behaviour choices
- Clarify processes and procedures to be used to manage irresponsible or inappropriate behaviour choices.
- Provide a clear and accountable framework for communicating behavior expectations and management strategies to all stakeholders.

Complaints and Grievances

- The school's Complaints and Grievances Policy aims to support the ongoing development of positive relationships.
- It provides a positive, clear and effective process for resolving grievances between the school and community members and assists in the building of strong relationships, dispels anxiety, and ultimately provides students with an enhanced learning environment.

Anti-Bullying

Our school adheres to the over-arching policy on Anti-Bullying implemented by the Catholic Schools Office.

The policy is available through the following link-

www.csoww.catholic.edu.au

Changes to School Policies

The above policies are in alignment with CSO overarching policies. They have been reviewed and updated as required and in accordance with the NSW Board of Studies and CSO requirements. The overarching policies are available through the following link-

www.csoww.catholic.edu.au

Improvement Targets

Numeracy skills were the major focus for improvement in 2014, with the goal being:- *to provide targeted numeracy learning experiences to raise numeracy achievement levels of children who currently are achieving below/at benchmark/stage levels, and further challenge children competently achieving at/above those levels.*

Baseline data used to determine starting levels included Best Start Numeracy, SENA 1 & 2, and Pat Maths results.

'First Steps in Number' professional development enhanced teachers' abilities in targeting learning experiences which assisted students to achieve stage level competency, or next stage/s in the case of higher achievers.

This project also resulted in deeper teacher collaboration, and improved teacher data analysis in Mathematics.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

St Francis Xavier's encourages our students to self-discipline through a system of relationships, expectations, goal-setting, rewards and sanctions.

The students gradually develop as persons who are responsible and inner-directed, capable of choosing freely in conformity with their conscience. The attainment of self-discipline can be fostered by giving students a degree of responsibility, according to the situation.

When student behaviour is inappropriate or unacceptable a discipline response may be considered necessary. The purpose of any punishment should be reformatory, directed towards altering attitudes and subsequent behaviour. Any students who come into conflict with the standards of our school must be made aware that it is their actions and not the student that is unacceptable.

Under the PDHPE school program, and with the assistance of our school counsellor, students were involved in workshops to further develop skills in fostering self-esteem

and self-management, particularly in difficult situations within the 'FRIENDS' program. Students are given an opportunity to develop as responsible citizens through activities held in the wider community.

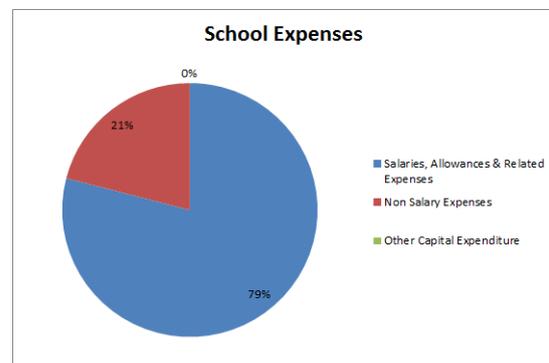
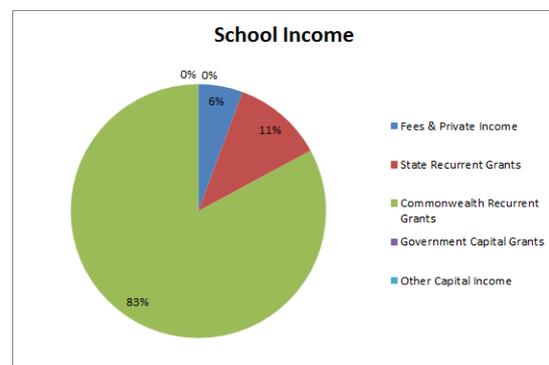
Annually they participate in events such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies, Local Government Week activities, Senior Citizens Week, and community tree-planting days.

Community Satisfaction

The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school.

The parents, staff and students at St Francis Xavier School are satisfied with the overall aspects of the school. This data was gathered through responses sought at School Meetings, Parent/Student/Teacher Meetings, student consultations in class and through staff consultation. Input is also gained through consultation processes conducted by CSO personnel in relevant school matters throughout the year.

Financial Statement Summary



About This Report

This report was compiled by the principal in consultation with staff, parents, students and Catholic Schools Office personnel.