



2014

Annual Report

Sacred Heart Primary School, TOCUMWAL

CONTACT DETAILS:

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The School

Sacred Heart is a small Catholic rural school in the Murray Darling Basin, which supports families with the holistic development of their children. As a staff we live and model the teachings of Jesus and how they apply to everyday life. The School is supported by a very caring staff, who works with each student as if they are a member of their family.

Catholic Identity

The School

Vision Statement

Sacred Heart Primary School, Tocumwal as a Community of Learners acknowledges that Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school.

Mission Statement

Sacred Heart Primary is a community of Learners where the children, staff and parents are witnesses to their faith.

Therefore we:

- * Model gospel values when dealing with others.
- * Promote, through our religious educations programme, a knowledge and understanding of, Catholic teachings and a celebration of the sacraments.
- * Foster an environment which encourages Christian attitudes and behaviours towards others.
- * Demonstrates care and support for all members of our learning community.
- * Participate in regular liturgies and celebrations of prayer.

As a community of Learners parents are acknowledged and supported in their role as prime educators. We exist in, and are independent with our local and wider community.

Therefore we:

- * Provide regular recognition of parental efforts.
- * Provide opportunities and encourage parents to be involved in our learning community.
- * Provide opportunities for members of our learning community to participate in a broad range of activities at different venues.
- * Meet regularly to exchange information about their child.

As a community of learners we promote the balanced development of the whole person.

Therefore we:

- * Provide quality education through spiritual, academic, emotional, physical and social programmes that stimulate, challenge and support our children.
- * Promote opportunities that develop leadership, responsibility, acceptance, tolerance, confidence, cooperation, flexibility and self esteem.
- * Recognise the talents of all members of our learning community.
- * Have a Pastoral Care Policy which encourages Christian attitudes and behaviour towards others.
- * Utilizes the 7 Key Learning Areas [Religion, English, Maths, Human Society & its Environment, Science & Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Creative & Practical Arts] to extend challenge and support to all children.

As a Community of Learners we, as leaders strive for personal excellence, equality of opportunity and justice for all.

Therefore we:

Regularly participate in professional development, either formally or informally.

- * Use staff meetings for professional dialogue and development.
- * Incorporate ideas into the newsletter that affirm and/or challenge parents as they support their children.

Religious Education

Sacred Heart Primary School is a Catholic Parish Primary School. The school promotes values and attitudes that will enhance the growth and development of the parish school children. School resources will be made available for the good of the whole Parish. The participation of the Priest and the parishioners in the school will always be sought for furthering the growth and development of our Community. Through school and classroom prayer we join as a community to pray. Teachers pray with children daily. Staff and children are encouraged to share prayerful experiences, both formally and informally. Mr Pat Boake our Religious Education co-ordinator and Mrs Beverley Babington our Music teacher support the Religious Instruction in our school with their diverse talents in both these areas. Father Martin Cruickshank our Parish priest

has a strong supportive presence in the school and is always willing to give of his time to the various families of our Parish. The school Religious Education Curriculum is called Sharing Our Story K-12. Sacramental programs are conducted in the school with the support of the Parish and the Parish Priest. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered in Year 2, Eucharist in Year 3 and Confirmation in Years 5 & 6 (every even year).

The Arts

Music lessons include breathing and vocal exercises, rhythm and time recognition, musical terms e.g. ritardando, <> etc, playing of percussion instruments with arrangements by Peter Leyden. The students sing popular songs, musicals, country songs, songs for special events e.g. Anzac Day etc. Religious hymns are also taught which are used for Religious and Liturgical ceremonies and lessons. Children perform at school assemblies, entertain with end-of-year performance and also perform at the Lions' Hostel for the Aged.

Sport

Physical Education is a lynch pin in the School environment. Each day the students partake in some form of sport. The School holds an annual Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnival. Children have the opportunity to go on to compete in Deanery and Diocesan level sporting events. Several programmes are initiated at the School – Swimming lessons, Auskick, Golden Circle Fun Run, Jump Rope for Heart, from time to time – sporting clinics are held locally in golf and tennis so the children can access the very latest in skill development. Pat Boake is currently the Sports Co-ordinator.

School Initiatives

At the beginning of each year a senior student is paired with a kindergarten student to offer peer support, this relationship is fostered throughout the year through various tasks undertaken, e.g. boarding the bus, playground activities, school orientation. Kindergarten orientation occurs each November when for one day each week the new Kinders are invited to come and take part in school activities. The school is encouraging those Parents with school age

Pre-Schoolers to think about part-time school, for the transition to full-time schooling. A research project has been started to trial a social and emotional program written by Michael E. Bernard, PhD. called "*You Can Do It*". All staff members have been in-serviced and this program has run successfully each term in 2014.

School Policies

During 2014 the Sacred Heart staff, have been actively working towards the development of a new plain English Reporting System. In 2014 the school will continue to review & develop school Curriculum & Policy. The welfare of all students at Sacred Heart is of concern to all the staff at school. School staff, do their best to care for each and every student's needs at school and in the home environment if the need arises. It is part of building a Christian Community to care for all in their community where possible. The staff encourage all students to strive for self-discipline through a system of relationships, rules, rewards and sanction. It is our aim that students will gradually develop as persons who are responsible and inner-directed, capable of choosing freely in conformity with their conscience. All complaints by parents and guardians are firstly dealt with by the class teachers and then passed onto the Principal for further consideration if there is a need.

A Message from key School Bodies

The Sacred Heart School Council brings together representatives of all those within the parish who are concerned with the work of the Catholic School. The School Council is comprised of:

- The Parish Priest
- The School Principal
- One Staff Representative
- Two or three parents elected by parents
- One representative appointed by the School Auxiliary
- One representative from the Parish

The School Council meets at the school on the second Wednesday of each month.

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

Sacred Heart has participated in NAPLAN Literacy & Numeracy since 1998 and NAPLAN Writing since 2001. The school monitors the NAPLAN Trend Data each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year. The student outcomes from the NAPLAN Literacy and Numeracy tests are very positive and reflect the effective teaching occurring at Sacred Heart.

Professional Learning

All the staff at the school are offered Professional Learning in First Aid, CPR & OHS. Staff are encouraged to attend Professional Learning in all Key Learning Areas. During 2014 Professional Learning has taken place in "Making Jesus Real", "First Steps" – Writing & Team Leadership for School Improvement.

Teaching Staff

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

- A) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia
- B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia but no formal teacher education qualifications
- C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

A	B	C	TOTAL
5	0	0	5

Workforce Composition

At Sacred Heart there are three female teachers, two male teachers, one female secretary and one female special needs support staff.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	91%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	93%
Year 5	94%
Year 6	93%

Student Non-Attendance

The Principal is responsible for this and reviews the attendance data weekly. If a student has a non-attendance problem, the parents are contacted and asked to explain the reasons for this. If it continues the Principal then writes a letter to the parents and informs the CSO of his concerns.

Enrolment Policy

All parents give a firm commitment that they accept and support the life, nature and identity of the Catholic School, including the participation of their children in religious education programs. No enrolment is denied simply because of an inability, as against an unwillingness of the parents/carers to pay. NSW Legislation allows for the enrolment of children into Kindergarten who turn five before 1st August. Parents of children who turn five after 30th May are advised by the principal of the possible implication for their child. Students are to begin school by the age of 6. A copy of the Diocesan enrolment policy can be found at www.csoww.catholic.edu.au

Characteristics of the Student Body

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
21	21	1	5	42

**Language background Other Than English*

School Policies

Discipline

Where student behavior is in appropriate or unacceptable a discipline response may be considered necessary. The purpose of any punishment should be reformatory, directed

towards altering attitudes and subsequent behavior. Any children who come into conflict with the standards of our school must be made aware that it is their actions and not the child that is unacceptable.

Student Welfare

"CATCH THEM BEING GOOD"

This will be our first line of approach. Both in the classroom and in the play-ground staff will be looking for children displaying good behavior. The staff has set up a rewards plan, so there will be many opportunities for children to be thanked, congratulated and praised. Positive Playground Player Award is chosen by the school Captains and presented each week at school assembly. The child who receives this award can select an item from the Tuck shop free for that week.

Complaints and Grievances

Sacred Heart School Staff aim to foster a regular and ongoing informal contact throughout the year between teachers and parents. As well as this, parents are welcome to make an appointment with a class teacher or the Principal at any time during the school year.

Changes to School Policies

Changes to the School Policies have been minor eg. Uniform changes and sun smart time corrections. Please contact the school for more information about these policies.

Improvement Targets

As with past years we are constantly looking to improve and develop our teaching practices. The teaching staff and teaching aids attend professional development days to support the latest teaching and learning research. There is a focus on Numeracy and Literacy in the early grades, with class sizes kept small supporting students with individual learning outcomes. In the middle and upper grades students are extended in Numeracy and Literacy skills.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

Sacred Heart encourages our students to self-discipline through a system of relationships, rules, 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. Where 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.

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.

Parents, Staff and Students are extremely happy supporting, working and learning at Sacred Heart. The family caring community of Sacred Heart is thought highly of as an academic learning environment in the Local Community.

Parents

My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at Sacred Heart School.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
<i>90%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>

Students

I am usually happy at Sacred Heart School.

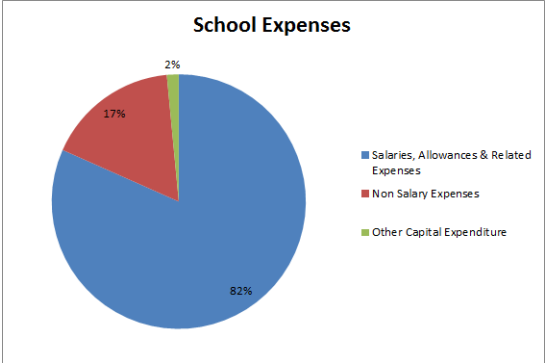
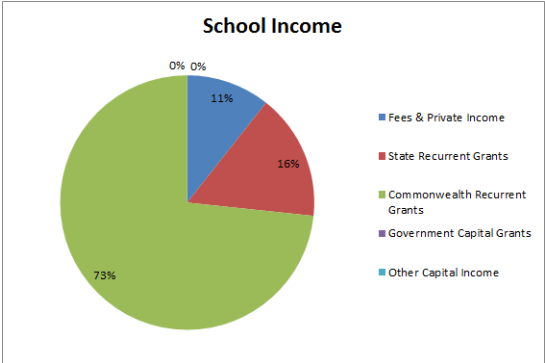
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
<i>40%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>

Staff

I am usually happy at Sacred Heart School

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
<i>90%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>

Financial Statement Summary



About This Report

This annual report was generated in collaboration with the Principal, the School Staff, School Parent Community, the Catholic Schools Office of Wagga Wagga and the Catholic Parish Community of Tocumwal.