Annual Report
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

CONTACT DETAILS:

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The School
Sacred Heart School is a multi-aged school. Sacred Heart School is a Parish School supported by the Sacred Heart Parish of Kooringal. Sacred Heart School is committed to assisting to prepare young people for tomorrows’ world by providing an education which is congruent with the Gospel values and church teachings.

Catholic Identity
Our Catholic faith is an integral part of life in our school community. In addition to daily Religious Education lessons in the classroom from the Sharing Our Story program we work to develop in each child a natural relationship with God and a life lived according to Gospel values.

Our Sacramental programs are a source of celebration as the children progress on their faith journey. Reconciliation occurs in Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4), First Communion in Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) and Confirmation in Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6).

All children attend our special school Masses three times per term, with each grade taking a turn to prepare the Mass.

Liturgies, apart from Masses, are often held to celebrate and commemorate special times or events such as Lent, Easter, Anzac Day, Advent & Sacred Heart Feast Day. Fortnightly Parish Masses are also organised by the School

A Message from key School Bodies
“Our School Council offers an opportunity for parent representatives to work with the Principal in maintaining the school in all aspects and planning together, in 5 year plans, for the further development for our children’s education. It is a collaborative team, happy in its advisory role to work with the Principal in our ongoing pursuit of excellence”. Chairperson

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing
Year 3
Spelling and Writing are areas explicitly targeted. Reading showed improvement as did Numeracy.

Year 5
Again in this area Measurement and Space are a focus. Literacy was sound with particularly good results in the reading area. The area to focus on is Spelling and Writing.

Professional Learning
Professional Learning is ongoing at Sacred Heart School through weekly meetings, professional reading and dialogue, conferences in capital cities, workshops with consultants. 2012 had teachers involved in Inquiry and Thinking Strategies, Numeracy – 1st Steps, Writing, partnerships with Victorian schools.

Teaching Staff
The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:
1) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia
2) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia but no formal teacher education qualifications
3) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
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Workforce Composition
2 Males
20 Female
0 Indigenous
**Student Attendance**

*Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>94.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>94.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>95.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>95.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>94.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>93.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>94.05%</td>
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**Student Non-Attendance**

*Reports are created at office level from SAS2000. Notes are sent home to parents asking for explanations of the absence.*

**Enrolment Policy**

**CRITERIA FOR ENROLMENT**

Children from families who are prepared to be supportive of the life and teachings of the Catholic Church, to adhere to the religious practices, educational ideals and financial requirement of the school may apply for enrolment.

All details for enrolment are found on the Catholic School’s website.csoww.catholic.edu.au/

**Characteristics of the Student Body**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig</th>
<th>LOTE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes

Multi-aging in stages.

**School Policies**

**Student Welfare and Discipline**
Intelligent behaviour goes hand in hand with the teaching of Gospel values and thus creates a caring and compassionate community where harmony of the heart and mind is nurtured.

Programs and policies are in place that ensures lifelong learning by building relationships and offering support and challenge with a focus on Art Costa’s Habits of Mind.

**Complaints and Grievances**
Dealing with Complaints and Grievances
The school has adopted an approach to resolving complaints and grievances that is based on procedural fairness. It recognises that parents/caregivers and students must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory way.

Parents/students with a complaint are encouraged in the first instance to contact their class teacher. If the need then arises contact with the Principal and the Catholic Schools Office may be appropriate.

Student Welfare is based on a concept of humanity and life. Our policies focus on the Human Person looking at Codes of Conduct, Bullying, Pastoral Care, Self-Esteem, Discipline, Child Abuse, Serious Offences and Harassment. These policies are continually developed within the school, based on the Catholic principles and values.

**Changes to School Policies**

*All changes are published on the school’s website. Such as Habits Of Mind*

**Improvement Targets**
Numeracy Project and Spelling K-6 & Writing

**Programs to Support Students**
Special programs exist in the school such as:
Reading Recovery, Parent Helpers, the Buddy Program and Student Council.

Children with special needs are also catered for through the use of the Individual Education Programs and Teacher Assistants.

Other programs such as Year 6 visits to Retirement Villages, Choral Festival, Eisteddfods and Excursions occur throughout the year.

It is a strong belief that Sacred Heart School has a mission beyond the school and consequently seeks active participation within the wider community.

**Curriculum Focus**
Learning focus for 2012 was in four areas.
1. Literacy & Numeracy
2. Inquiry in Learning
3. Habits of Mind
4. Technology

**Programs to Support Learning**

*Reading Recovery* is a part of a school commitment to Early Intervention.

It reflects the needs of the students at Sacred Heart School. It is matched according to school staffing/organization.

It provides a balanced daily program that reflects the school’s commitments.

The Reading Recovery teacher is responsible for maintaining appropriate records to support students in the Program.

**Computers**

At Sacred Heart School we use computers to support learning across the Key Learning Areas. Every classroom from Kindergarten to Year 6 have 4 computers with internet access. 16 Apple Computers on mobile trolleys and smart boards in all classrooms and 20 iPads.

Teachers endeavour to enhance teaching and learning by using computers for a variety of tasks, with a particular focus on further developing literacy, numeracy, knowledge and research skills.

**Equity Programs**

**Programs to Support Students**

*Special Needs*

Sacred Heart School is committed to providing education in the service of a better world, and providing all our students with reasons for living, hoping and loving.

**Human Development**

Based on our pedagogy of six practices – Human Development, Inquiry, Collaboration, Communication, Meaningful Learning and Self Responsibility and our Diocesan document Towards Wholeness.

**Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility**

To supplement and enhance our classroom lessons in the Arts we endeavour to provide students with extra-curricular experiences. There is a strong culture of music in our school. Children are given a range of opportunities to perform their skills at Eisteddfods, concerts and special school events as well as supporting charity appeals. They also provide service, through singing at Nursing Homes.

We also have a small group of musicians from Year 3—6 who learn an instrument privately and use their skills to play as a group on special occasions such as school masses and concerts for the elderly.

We also foster a love of the Arts in our children by exposing them to professional performances of music and drama at least once a term. We have excursions to the local Art Gallery, taking advantage of current exhibitions and participating in the wider community. Our school employs a specialist Art teacher.

In September each year every child from Kinder—Year 6 performs at the Wagga Wagga Eisteddfod in either speech, percussion or choral groups. This has become a strong element of our school tradition. In 2012 we participated also in Wakakirri , a National competition.

Our children also have opportunities to perform items for school assemblies, concerts and an annual Talent Quest. All the above offer development in character, values and dispositions in our students.

**Sport**

It is the aim of the school that each child be introduced to the necessary skills that will enable the child to participate in school sport. All children are encouraged to participate regardless of ability.

In Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2, the children are taught elementary skills such as running, tumbling, dancing, balancing and ball handling to make them aware of their body movements and to experiment with their own body space.

Between Year 3—6, the children are introduced to team as well as individual sports such as athletics, swimming, cross country, rugby league, AFL, netball, soccer, hockey, tennis, cricket, touch football, softball, basketball and rugby union. Within the team, the child will experience a feeling of belonging to a group and will learn the art of winning and acceptance of defeat.
An intensive swimming program over 5 weeks is undertaken during one term of each year.

Various sporting bodies offer skill clinics throughout the year where children learn skills of a specific sport by talented players or development officers.

Throughout the year children are chosen to trial for representative sport in their chosen field, therefore, giving opportunities to gifted and talented students.

The children also compete in interschool competitions such as Paul Kelly Cup (AFL), Mortimer Shield and Trent Barrett Shield (Rugby League) and a Rugby Union school competition.

A 10 week Gymnastics program is undertaken by all students during one term of every second year along with swimming in the alternate year.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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**Students**
I am usually happy at Sacred Heart School).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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**Staff**
I am usually happy at {Sacred Heart School}.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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