Annual Report

St Francis Xavier’s Primary School, Urana

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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 2012 evidence of that commitment will be detailed.

Catholic Identity
VISION STATEMENT
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.

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.

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’.
A 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
Throughout 2012 staff have engaged in a process to integrate strategies learnt within “First Steps in Writing”, professional development begun the previous year. A major Catholic Schools initiative for diocesan teaching staff was the opportunity to attend ‘Visible Learning’ input lectures presented by Professor John Hattie. The major ethos of ‘Visible Learning’ is ‘teachers seeing learning through the eyes of students; and students seeing teaching as the key to their ongoing learning.’ Technology has been a major part of professional learning; details are outlined in this report under ‘Improvement Targets’.

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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>98.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>95.50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>93.80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>90.33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>96.20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>94.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>95.00%</td>
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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 prioritisation 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.cso.wagga.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>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
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</table>

*Language background Other Than English

**Structure of Classes**
Student enrolment is in the main in a single class across all stages. The greater part of the school week lessons are delivered through a team-teaching approach.

**School Policies**

**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.

**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.
- 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.

**Changes to School Policies**
- All policies have been reviewed and updated as required and in accordance with the NSW Board of Studies and CSO requirements.

**Improvement Targets**
Major priorities for improvement have been student achievement, and pedagogy. Analysis of NAPLAN results has deepened understanding of students’ learning needs, and given teachers greater skill in designing learning activities appropriate to individuals’ needs. ‘Visible Learning’ input (see Professional Development’) has also assisted teachers to hone their skills in targeted learning.

Staff members have also been party to the Curriculum Review process conducted by the Board of Studies, and the Catholic Schools Office. Under review this year were the Key Learning Areas of Creative Arts, Science and Technology and Religious Education.

A significant focus within ‘Improvement Targets’ was the ongoing integration of technology within learning. Through the ‘Country Areas Program’, and assisted by the generosity of the parent body all students have the use of their own IPADs. Much of the ICT focus for the year involved the use of a wide range of Apps- (applications), - particularly those to enhance literacy and numeracy skills across stages. Staff were also introduced to the use of ‘Google Apps’, with the introduction across the diocese, of a new management system. Students also received an initial introduction to this system.
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 reformative, 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 ‘FRIENDS’ program, a program to promote well-being and resilience, students were involved in learning key strategies to develop skills in fostering self-esteem and self-management, particularly in difficult situations.

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.

As well, students participate weekly in ‘Meals on Wheels’, and regularly visit our local health-care facility to meet with and entertain the elderly.

The majority of children also participate in school and community sports events which enables them to develop team spirit.

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 all aspects of the school. This data was gathered through visits to the school by members of the Catholic Schools Office staff, and through student/parent/teacher interviews.

Financial Statement Summary

About This Report

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