1 The School

1.1 Sacred Heart Primary School

Vision Statement
Sacred Heart Primary School Tocumwal as a community 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 education 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. 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

As a community of Learners we promote the balanced development of the whole person. Therefore we:

+ meet regularly to exchange information about their child
+ 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
+ recognize 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 and its Environment, Science & Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Creative & Practical Arts) to extend, challenge and support 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 and recording all professional development completed
+ use staff meetings for professional dialogue and the development of all the Key Learning Areas
+ Incorporate ideas into the newsletter that affirm and/or challenge parents as they support their children
1.2 Religious Education
Sacred Heart Primary School is a Parish Primary School which we see as an extension of the local Catholic Church, existing for and serving that Church. 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. Correspondingly, the school will seek to involve itself in supporting Parish activities. Prayer is an important part of the life of Sacred Heart School 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. Mrs Dorothy MacMinn our Religious Education co-ordinator and Music teacher supports the Religious Instruction in our school with her wealth of talent in both these areas. Fr 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. This document is supported by RELATe Religious Education, Learning & Teaching Journal that is supplied to all the teaching staff. 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).

1.3 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 performances and also perform at the Lion’s Hostel for the Aged.

1.4 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, Athletics and Cross Country Carnival. Children have the opportunity to go on to compete in Deanery and Diocesan level sporting events. Several programmes are initiated at the School – Jump Rope for Heart (The Heart Foundation) Swimming lessons, Auskick, from time to time - sporting clinics are held locally so the children can access the very latest in skill development. Kelly Druett is currently our Sports Coordinator.

1.5 General and Specific School Initiatives
At the beginning of each year a Senior student is paired with a new 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.

1.6 School Policies
Our discipline policy is to promote self-discipline and courtesy in our children, so that they are encouraged to develop as persons who are responsible and caring of one another. Where misconduct occurs, the teacher should make every effort to discover the causes of this misconduct. Correction by an understanding and sympathetic teacher may be all that is needed. If punishment is considered
necessary for those who violate person or property, the purpose of the punishment should be reformatory, directed towards altering attitudes and subsequent behaviour. Corporal punishment of students by staff employed at the school and volunteers is not permitted. If parents or guardians have any complaints or concerns about any matters related to their child/children’s education they need to direct their complaints to the school principal or the chairman of the School Council.

During 2005 the staff of Sacred Heart have been actively working towards the development of a new Plain English Reporting System, this will be completed in time to trial during term two. In 2005/6 the school will continue to review & develop school Curriculum & Policy. The school refers regularly to the CSO web site http://cso.wagga.catholic.u/policies.htm for policy support.

2 Information on Key School Programs

2.1 Educational and Management Practice Evaluation – School Culture

SAS continues to have new and varied components added. One module now being reported to the federal government is MYCEETA. Family details are collected through the enrollment process; these details are then made available to the government. At this stage students in Years 3 and 5 are being targeted, when the BST and PWA testing occurs. Other add-ons include modules to report on attendance, provisions to note awards won, an incident register, student activities as well as a comprehensive first aid component. It is envisaged that SAS will also record Student’s Reports in the near future.

2.2 Curriculum Focus

During 2005 the Curriculum focus was to improve Math skills through the school year. The Curriculum focuses for 2006 is Creative Arts. Both KLA’s are undergoing curriculum audits to bring them in line with the latest trends in Teaching and Learning and The Board of Studies Curriculum Documents.

2.3 Programs to Support Learning

The school is now fully networked throughout each classroom, staffroom, office and learning centre (library). Early 2005 the school was placed on broadband which has increased the opportunity for all students to have more useful time on the computers researching. In 2006 Trish McKenna our Technology skills teacher will focus on improving the skills of the students and staff in computing. Reading Recovery is an early intervention Reading Program that is implemented in Year 1. Children needing extra support in this area are targeted and given 20 weeks intensive reading support by Mr Pat Boake.

2.4 Equity Programs

Sacred Heart is a CAP (Country Areas Program) school. This means that the school develops needs-based priorities for funding each year. The programs developed might include excursions to Melbourne, DECA – Driver Education in Shepparton, Melbourne Zoo, Canberra (our National Capital), Sport and Recreational camps where available, Dance workshops and development of Technology skills.

2.5 Programs to Support Students

Through support from our governing body we can offer student support in various ways. We have a family counselor who works through the Catholic organization called Centrecare – she visits the school regularly and has several students on her files. We have a special needs assistant – she currently works 22.5hrs each week with students deemed to have disabilities. Each year the school is visited by the Life Education Van – this has the facility to enhance the students learning through real life strategies.

2.6 Student Achievement

The students at Sacred Heart in years 3, 4, 5&6 participate in the NSW University Tests. These tests give each student the opportunity to experience an external test.
These tests are returned to the University of NSW for marking. All results are sent back to the school and then passed onto the parents. The KLA’s covered by this testing are Literacy, Maths & Science. As a school we achieve high results in these tests with many children receiving credits and distinctions. The children in years 3&5 each year sit a State-wide Basic Skills Test. (BST) These cover the KLA’s of Numeracy and Literacy, and in particular the art of writing. As a small rural school we always perform above average in these tests with the results also being sent to the school parents. The professional teaching staff at Sacred Heart then analyse the various data produced from the test and use it along with other forms of assessment to guide their future teaching.

2.7 Staff Achievement
Mr Pat Boake – Diploma in Teaching BA
– Bachelor of Arts (Major in Religious Studies. Reading Recovery trained 2004. School Principal for 23 years and 26 years teaching experience.
Ms Kelly Druett – 4 year trained Bachelor of Education, Primary Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. – 4 years teaching experience. Sports Co ordinator
Ms Melissa Smith – 4 year trained – Bachelor of Arts (Primary) – 4 years teaching experience. Teacher. Various Sports Coaching courses.
Mrs Dorothy MacMinn – 3 year trained. - 58 years teaching. ATCL – Music, Trinity College, London

3 School Renewal

3.1 Progress of the School Renewal Framework

VISION AND MISSION
The School’s Vision & Mission is displayed around the school for all to view and a copy has been placed in all teaching programs.

POLICIES, CURRICULUM AND PROGRAMS

Last year (2005) the school went through the Registration Process. Once this was concluded Mr. Boake developed a set of action plans to support the recommendations left by the Registration Panel. The action plan covers the following:
Creative Arts Policy will be reviewed term 3 2006. The Principal is reviewing the teacher’s programs each term in week 5. In term one the teacher’s program is viewed & in term 2,3,& 4 both programs & children’s work. During 2005/6 the school will trial using Integrated Planning and Programming which is a CAP funded program.

LEADERSHIP: ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANISATION

Currently the Principal is making sure that the school is up to date with all the compliance material.
This year all staff meetings are – Monday Curriculum and Wednesday Staff useful meetings, where we achieve real policy and curricular outcomes.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development for staff through-out the year will include the following:
Policy development in Creative Arts.
A teacher faith development day.
Creative arts support given to the staff by the Education Officer.
Plain English Reporting and the development of a new assessment & reporting system.
Professional support to improve the teaching & learning due to the feedback from the BST results.
FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Continue with the working bees, 8 per year and the school maintenance plan. Garden group/committee have met and are well on the way to setting goals for 2006. Complete toilet area. Continue work towards extending the school office & applying for a block grant to do so. Apply for a Water Grant for 2005/2006.

4 School Overview

4.1 School Enrolment and Attendance Profile
The school enrolment for 2005 has stayed steady with it being in the low fifties. There is a low rate of non-attendance by children usually sickness in term 2/3 due to head colds is the only affecting factor.

4.2 Structure of Classes
Sacred Heart Primary School Class Structures

Junior Room
Kinder and Year1 Teacher- Ms Melissa Smith Full-time Classroom Teacher.

Middle Room
Years 2, 3 & 4 in 2005. Mr Pat Boake - Four days a week teaching (.8) Principal Release one day a week (.1) Mrs Marcia Mcgrillen on teaching day a week (.1)

Senior Room
Years 5 & 6 Teacher- Ms Kelly Druett. Full-time Classroom Teacher.

4.3 Staffing
The staff at Sacred Heart are highly professional in their duty as teachers and role models to the students in their care. The teaching and learning standards throughout the school are high, with an emphasis on instruction that builds on children developing their own value system. Values such as -caring and compassion for others- doing your best in all that you do -Being honest and trustworthy -Showing respect for yourself and others -being a responsible member of our school and town community -Understanding the feelings of others and showing tolerance when playing and working at Sacred Heart -finally remembering to be inclusive and inviting others to play with you.

4.4 Parent Involvement and Participation
School Council meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month to discuss the needs of the School. In 2005/2006 the School Auxiliary was made a fundraising team of the School Council and now there is one parent meeting per month. The School Council has enlisted the help of all parents to be part of teams designed, to assist in fund raising for the School, including a Tuckshop Team and a Uniform Team.

4.5 Community Use of School Facilities
The local Parish Community uses the school toilets before, during and after Masses. The School Hall is often used by the Catholic Women's League for their monthly meeting. The Tocumwal Cricket Club uses the school oval and cricket nets for training and playing their Saturday morning games. On the odd occasion the Tocumwal Police have used the school grounds for fitness training.

4.6 Financial Statement Summary
4.7 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.