SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 29 Murphy Street
          Pearce ACT 2607

Principal: Anne Staines

Parish Priest: Fr Laurie Blake

School Board / Council Chair: Anna Washington

Telephone: 6286 2443

Fax: 6286 5123

Email: office.sacredheart,Pearce ACT 2607

Website: www.sacredhps.act.edu.au

This report was prepared by:

Anne Staines

PRINCIPAL
MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal’s Message
Sacred Heart is a Kindergarten to Year 6 Catholic school, catering for 364 students from 260 families. Sacred Heart primarily serves Catholic children living in central Canberra ACT, specifically those living in Chifley, Farrer, Isaacs, Mawson, Pearce and Torrens, but subject to availability also offers places to children from other suburbs. Sacred Heart has an inclusive and supportive learning environment with a strong academic focus on literacy and numeracy. This is paralleled by an integrated inquiry approach that incorporates the Australian Curriculum. ICT is seen as a priority within the school with a range of digital devices to support student learning and quality teaching.

Community Council Message
New carpet was installed in the corridor spaces to highlight the bright new autex on the walls. The community celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation through our close relationship with the Parish. We once again had a very successful Walkathon with the students earning the right to have a crazy hair and silly sock day. The school fete was held in November with perfect weather, an amazing array of activities for all members of the family and once again delicious food prepared by some very talented community members. The iPads purchased through the support of our community council have become a highly valued tool for staff and students in 2012.

Student Representative’s Message
Sacred Heart is a wonderful school community, filled with welcoming students and staff. We all work together to make our school the best place it can be. We believe that Sacred Heart teachers and staff help all students to grow physically, emotionally, socially and mentally. There are many learning opportunities across all curriculum areas for all students. We have an excellent program called Peer Support which helps children to get to know one another, build relationships with older and younger peers and helps students to build confidence. We at Sacred Heart are a leading school in the ACT with our ICT program. Sacred Heart is a happy, fun place to be.

SCHOOL FEATURES
Sacred Heart is a Catholic Primary School located in Pearce, ACT. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 367 students. Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 41.7 % male and 58.3% female students; 1.4 % indigenous students; and 10% Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 32 staff comprising 26 teachers and 8 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including Office Administrator, Learning Support Assistant, Janitor, Canteen Manager and Clothing Pool Manager.

In 2012 our whole school focus for the year was ‘We Praise the Lord in All We Do’ and this theme was the inspiration for prayer and reflection within the school and parish community. Students at Sacred Heart continue to be warm, friendly and proud of their school. They all embrace the spiritual,
academic, creative and sporting opportunities offered to them at Sacred Heart. They make Sacred Heart the energetic and vibrant place it is. The Staff are dedicated, professional, warm and caring. They are always well prepared, concerned for each individual and do all they can to support families. Sacred Heart could not function effectively without the wonderful group of parents who are actively involved in the school in a variety of ways.  

2012 has once again seen the school alive with a whole range of activities. This year we saw new carpet tiles installed in the corridors, bringing to life the bright and colourful autex on the walls. We also rolled out our 2012 ICT initiative with the use of 30 new ipads. These devices have provided our students with the opportunity to use these amazingly versatile tools to assist their learning across all curriculum areas. They have enhanced student engagement and provided access to an extraordinary number of options for presentation of students work. 

Our continued focus on Literacy, Numeracy has once again seen improvements in 2012. Staff have also engaged in developing quality units of work in History and Science using 'Understanding by Design' a tool for supporting inquiry based learning to achieve enduring understandings and deep knowledge. Along with Music and Italian students at Sacred Heart are offered a wide range of experiences to meet their individual learning needs and interests. Our enrichment programs continued successfully in 2012 with our students once again benefiting from our school Thinkfest Carnival. Our students were offered a range of activities including Yoga, Golf, Reading Buddies and Maths Mates. A highlight from this this year was the great success of two of our Tournament of Minds Teams who were chosen to represented the ACT in Western Australia. The introduction of a our new Peer Support Program has complimented the schools already strong Leadership Program.

The school's website can be found at www.sacredhps.act.edu.au

**RELGIOUS EDUCATION**

Sacred Heart Primary School follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Treasures New and Old.*

We believe that all learning which is planned, guided and implemented by the school is designed to ensure that the student understands and values the living faith tradition and mission of the Catholic Church. Sacred Heart does this through many areas of the child’s school life. The Feast of the Sacred Heart is a special day of devotion to Jesus and a wonderful celebration for our staff and students. We encourage the students to understand and live the values of love, courage, charity, understanding, happiness and joy. The Sacramental Program is Parish based but is very much supported by the classroom teaching of each grade level. Children are involved in class/stage/whole school Masses throughout the year and lead Prayer Celebrations related to our values. The faith of the school is strengthened by the many outreach programs we are involved in throughout the year. This includes supporting our Global School Partner Takima Academy in Kenya. The students at Sacred Heart reflect their generous spirit in the way that they take action to bring change.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN**

Students in Years 3 and 5 sat the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) in May this year. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student
achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. An analysis of these results assists school planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

**School and National Mean Scale Scores**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>428.2</td>
<td>419.4</td>
<td>463.5</td>
<td>434</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>546.8</td>
<td>505.4</td>
<td>508.1</td>
<td>532.3</td>
<td>512.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>96.9%</td>
<td>96.9%</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>96.9%</td>
<td>98.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proportion of students in each Achievement Band**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band 6</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 5</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 4</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 3</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 2</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 1</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band 8</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above tables show that Sacred Heart Primary School students achieved excellent NAPLAN results. These results indicate that Sacred Heart students are above the National mean in all areas of Literacy and Numeracy. It also shows that Sacred Heart Primary School has a higher proportion of students when compared with the National average, attaining at or above the National Minimum standard in all areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

**SCHOOL POLICIES**

**Enrolment Policy**
In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the school's website or on the Catholic Education Office website at [http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx](http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx)

**Attendance Policy**
While the responsibility for attendance lies with parents, staff at Sacred Heart Primary School encourage students and parents to fully participate in school life.

The roll is marked in the morning and afternoon each day. Parents are contacted when there are unexplained absences and asked to provide a written explanation. If a student is absent for 3 days without explanation the classroom teacher informs the principal and makes contact with the family. Concerns about patterns of absence are reported to the Principal and discussed with parents. If attendance becomes a challenge for a student or family the staff are committed to finding appropriate support for more regular attendance.

When school procedures are not successful and there are serious attendance issues the Principal informs the Catholic Education Office.

In the case of planned leave for an extended periods of time (3 weeks or more) parents are asked to seek approval from the Principal by completing an “Application for Extended Absence” form available from the front office.

**Behaviour**
Sacred Heart Primary School is a community shaped by the teachings of Jesus Christ. As such, we want our school to be a happy place; a warm and safe environment where shared beliefs, consistent expectations and a framework for support, encourage each individual to grow and learn. When dealing with inappropriate behaviour we use logical consequences rather than punishment. Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school. In addition we do not sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons to enforce discipline at our school.

The full text of the school’s Student Welfare and Management Agreed Practice is available on the school website or from the Front Office.
Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy

The school policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that parents and caregivers must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory environment. Any concerns raised are responded to promptly and fairly and confidentiality is always maintained. A full text of the school policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Professional Learning
All teachers have been involved in professional development opportunities during the year. These experiences are designed to develop the skills and understandings of staff to improve student outcomes. Professional development can take many forms including whole staff days, subject specific inservices, meetings and conferences.

The school held five whole staff days in 2012. The content of these days was as follows: Spirituality – Faith, Story, Witness; Revisited the School Vision Statement & Introduction of the Understanding by Design model for planning; Peer Coaching; Australian Curriculum - Mathematics
Other professional undertaken in 2012 included:
Literacy Blocks and the Australian Curriculum; Numeracy Blocks and the Australian Curriculum;
Australian Teaching Standards

Teacher Qualifications
All 24 teachers at Sacred Heart Primary School are qualified as required by the relevant State and Territory bodies.

TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION

The average teacher attendance rate during 2012 was 97%.
The teacher retention rate from 2011 to 2012 was 96%.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2012 was 94.1%.
School attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance rates by Year group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

The opinions of parents, students and teachers were sought covering a range of aspects including school effectiveness.
Both parents and students appreciated and valued the leadership opportunities given to students through the leadership roles involving all students in Year 6.
Students were extremely satisfied with their involvement in the peer support and buddy programs. All students really valued the opportunities to represent the school in a wide variety of activities eg sport, Tournament of Minds. The introduction of iPads to the classroom in 2012 increased the already high use of Information and Communication Technology throughout the school and was well received by all members of the community as an effective way to increase student engagement and expand learning opportunities.
Staff appreciated the opportunity to work collaboratively with colleagues in implementing the Australian Curriculum – History. The release from class responsibilities for planning quality units of work in History using the Understanding by Design planning tool was highly valued and enhanced professional dialogue in the planning for and implementation of effective teaching and learning. Our decision to be more environmentally friendly by using electronic forms of communication was received positively by many in our community and we continue to support those who struggled with this major change.
There were also a number of improvements including the recarpeting of the school corridors, installation of the Autex in the school hall and replacement of the glass doors in the music tutors room and Kindergarten classrooms that drew very positive feedback from all.

PRIORITY AND TARGETS

The Professional Development undertaken by staff during 2012 reflects a continuing focus on Literacy and Numeracy. This year we have also been allocating release for improving teacher capacity through the implementation of a coaching model for teaching staff at Sacred Heart. This initiative has encouraged professional dialogue and collegiality across the school.
The staff is committed to maintaining a school-wide Literacy and Numeracy program that gives priority to establishing blocks of core teaching times. Within these sessions the use of the Gradual Release Model and the infusion of ICT have continue to be a priority.
In 2012 our Numeracy focus has been in developing teachers understanding and deep knowledge of Mathematical concepts from Kindergarten through to the first few of high school. This enables staff to remediate and extend where needed more confidently and effectively. We have been developing strategies and skills for explicitly teaching the Literacy skills in Mathematics – using ‘think alouds’. There has been a return to using a variety of visual representations across Mathematics strands from Kindergarten to Year 6.
In 2012 we focused on implementing strategies from the 'Read On' document to imbed pedagogical practice in teaching reading comprehension strategies more effectively across the school. We have had a particular emphasis on modelled writing as a step in the Gradualual Release of Responsibility model. We are aiming to continue to enhance literacy teaching pedagogy by maintaining quality teaching practices within our Literacy Blocks.
Our Teaching Programs are current, based on sound research and regularly assessed and evaluated. We believe in differentiation of the Curriculum to ensure all students have access to information and learning that best suits their needs. We value the dedication and commitment of our staff to
ongoing professional development to ensure our school maintains its reputation of quality teaching and learning, particularly in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. We will continue in our pursuits of integrating ICT within Numeracy and Literacy blocks as a tool for engagement and quality teaching and learning.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

![Sacred Heart Pearce - Income]

- **Government Capital Grants**: 0%
- **Commonwealth Recurrent Grants**: 55%
- **Other Capital**: 5%
- **Fees and Private Income**: 23%
- **State Recurrent Grants**: 17%

![Sacred Heart Pearce - Expenditure]

- **Salaries and Allowances and Related Expenses**: 77%
- **Capital Expenditure**: 2%
- **Non-Salary Expenses**: 21%