

School Name Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Darra

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Contact Person John O'Connor - Principal

Principal's Foreword

Introduction

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School is a co-educational Catholic school in the Brisbane suburb of Darra. In 2014 the school had 544 students enrolled in 21 classes from Prep to Year 7. OLSH school has an ethos based on Gospel Values. Our focus is showing respect for each other. We are a multicultural community that celebrates the richness of a variety of cultures.

The school provides a diverse range of experiences to ensure our children are happy, engaged and interested in learning. Parental involvement is regarded as an integral part of a child's development, so the school embraces parental support in both the operational and organisational aspects of the school.

This report provides an overview of our 2014 school year, in accordance with the state government reporting requirements. 2014 was a successful year at the school with growth in the school population and improvement demonstrated in student learning. The school continued to allocate considerable amounts of funding to improve learning areas, resources and technology in the school as well as supporting staff professional learning in a number of different areas in 2014. The major project in 2014 was the completion of a building program that involved the demolition of Block B with 4 GLAs and the rebuilding of a new three storey building with 7 GLAs, offices and provision for the future relocation of the new library.

School Profile

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Darra is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Coeducational or Single Sex

Year levels offered: Primary Secondary P-12

Total student enrolments for this school 549

Total Enrolment 549 Girls 274 Boys 275

Characteristics of the student body

Students at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School come from diverse backgrounds. Approximately 33% of students speak a language other than English at home. A distinguishing characteristic of the multicultural nature of our school is the richness of cultures. Students live this out through acceptance and tolerance of others and a celebration of the existing cultures within our school community. As a Catholic community we embrace our heritage and shared cultures in the light of Gospel Values.

Many students come from homes and families where education is highly regarded and valued. Students are encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential. The majority of our students participate in various extra-curricular activities. These activities include sport, music and cultural pursuits. A large number of students participate in specific cultural and language education schools on the weekend.

While it has been stated that our school is multicultural in nature, the majority of students have Anglo-Saxon heritage with English as their first language. Many of these students reside in the affluent centenary suburbs of western Brisbane where both of their parents work, often in professional occupations. The diversity of our school is continuing with a large number of students now residing in the Forest Lake and Richlands catchment areas

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

The curriculum taught follows syllabus documents written by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority and Brisbane Catholic Education's Religious Education. In 2014 the school continued to implement the Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography. The staff prepare School Based Curriculum documents appropriate for our school. They are drawn from the syllabus documents and guide teaching and learning at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. The School endeavours to modify its teaching programs in order for students to achieve outcomes. In doing this, it is recognised that students have different rates of learning, different styles of learning, different cultures, different prior learning and different motivations.

The teaching staff at OLSH have continued their commitment to cater for the varying academic ranges and needs of the students. Experienced school officers support teacher and students both within the classroom and in individual situations. Students have access to a variety of state and national competitions with the results indicating the curriculum offered to these students has enabled them to achieve these results. In 2014 OLSH entered the Opti-MINDS competition with students achieving pleasing results.

OLSH has a specialist Art teacher, Music teacher, Drama teacher and Physical Education teacher who teach each class individually each week. A religious sister works in our school as our School Welfare Worker.

Extra curricula activities

Interschool Sport / Catholic Schools Sports carnivals
Opportunities for regional/state sport selection; Swimming Lessons; Fitness Club
School Choir & School Musical
School Camps
School /Class Liturgies; Mini-Vinnies
Whole School / Class Mass
Instrumental Music, Drama Lessons
Art Club
Canoeing
Opti-MINDS

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

At Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, we believe that in the natural Learning and Teaching process, technology is not something that is outside or dominates this process but is an integral tool that supports and enhances Learning and Teaching within and outside the School community. For teachers, using ICLT is a necessary part of enacting the whole curriculum - during planning, implementation, assessment and reporting. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School uses ICLT as an integral tool to engage students in understanding concepts and processes in more depth and to enable them to demonstrate their understanding, fit classroom learning to particular student needs and interests, and to extend the reach of the classroom across space and time.

Children continue to implement a learning management system - LIFE. Children weekly have access to LIFE and this is integrated with activities throughout the children's learning.

Children receive regular lessons with a bank of laptops and a bank of iPads in the early years.

Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

Children learn best when their spiritual, physical, social and emotional needs are met. Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life and expresses itself in quality relationships and the sense of belonging to our school community. Sister Sue Walpole is our School Pastoral Worker. She is available to both students and parents in a personally supportive and confidential way. Sr Sue organizes and presents Virtues Assemblies in order to teach the children about Christian virtues in a creative and fun-filled way.

Our school implements the "Friendly Schools" program and "Beating Bully Bulldozer" program as a preventive to response to bullying.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The indication of parent, student and teachers satisfaction can be gauged by the public perception of the school. OLSH School is held in high regard within the community of schools in this area of Brisbane.

The school engages the school community in our annual renewal process which allows parents and teachers to review components of school operations. Feedback is generally positive which reflects the professionalism and commitment of the staff of the school. In 2014 the school undertook satisfaction surveys in the four areas of Learning and Teaching of Religion; Student Well-Being and Pastoral Care; Professional Capacity and Learning Environments. The reviews were overwhelmingly positive. On average 87% of participants were either very highly or highly satisfied in these areas.

Parent involvement in their child's education

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School welcomes and encourages parental involvement in their children's education. Opportunities for them to be involved include:

Parent-Teacher information sessions beginning of year

Formal Parent-teacher interviews twice a year

Regular School Visits

Parent visit for Learning Journeys

Assistance with reading and maths programs

P & F Association meet monthly

Invitation to school assemblies, liturgies, mass and celebrations.

Involvement in fund raising events

Regular class contacts meetings and events

Staff Profile

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff
Headcounts	34	18
Full-time equivalents	29.3	12
Indigenous		

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of teachers and leaders at the school attaining this level
Doctorate	
Masters	8
Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate	20
Bachelors Degree	60
Diploma/Certificate	12

Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2014 was \$ 12 326

The major professional development initiatives were as follows

- New Religious Education Guidelines
- Kids Matter
- LIFE - Learning Managements Systems
- Positive Partnerships
- English as Second Language
- Vision for Learning

School Income by Funding Source

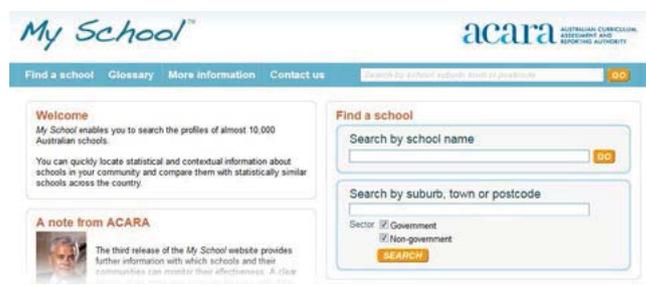
School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our school income details, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following:

'Find a school' text box.

Where it says 'Search by school name', type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select '<GO>'. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school's My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting 'School finances' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's entry web page.



Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was 97.38 % in 2014.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2013 school year, 89 % of staff were retained by the school for the 2014 year.

Key Student Outcomes

Whole School Attendance Rate	95	%
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Prep Attendance Rate	N/A		Year 4 Attendance Rate	95	%
Year 1 Attendance Rate	95	%	Year 5 Attendance Rate	98	%
Year 2 Attendance Rate	96	%	Year 6 Attendance Rate	96	%
Year 3 Attendance Rate	94	%	Year 7 Attendance Rate	97	%

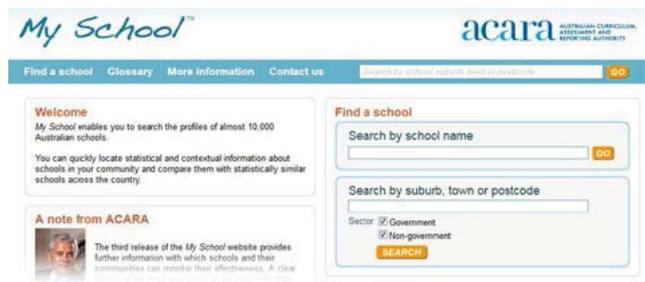
Policy and practice to manage student attendance

OLSH School is diligent in the management of student attendance. The school uses electronic roll marking for teachers to check student attendance twice a day. Parents of children arriving late or exiting school early are required to use an electronic check in system. Student absenteeism is recorded on student reports each semester and children taking holidays during school time are required to have school approval for this leave. High levels of absenteeism are investigated to see where the school can be of support in ensuring all children are attending school regularly.

Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.



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