



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Strategic Plan: 2013 - 2017

OUR VISION

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a Christ-centred community aspiring for excellence in learning and teaching. We work in partnership with families, supporting and encouraging each child to make a positive difference to the world in which they live.

CONTEXT FOR THIS PLAN

This plan has been informed by the following:

- Catholic Diocese of Darwin, Strategic Pastoral Plan, 2011-2015
- Catholic Education and Office and Schools, Diocese of Darwin NT: Towards 2017
- A deep knowledge and appreciation of the Parish and wider community that we serve

Catholic Identity

We foster and strengthen our Catholic Identity by living our school motto “May Christ Reign”.

Therefore we will...

- Share and celebrate the spirit and traditions of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart within and beyond our school community.
- Actively promote and share our school Vision and Mission.
- Support students, staff and parents on their own faith journey and in their spiritual development.
- Develop a respect and appreciation for other religious faiths and traditions.
- Ensure our Catholic faith permeates all aspects of our teaching, learning and daily lives.
- Actively nurture strong and enduring links with our Parish and wider community.

Targets

- 80% of parents, students and staff report that they agree or strongly agree with the way the school is expressing its Catholic Identity, based on responses to satisfaction surveys: Parents: Q7, 8, 10 and 11; Staff: Q5 and 6; Students: Q5
- Staff and parent representatives consistently rank the school as ‘achieving’ or ‘excelling’ in all aspects of Catholic Identity as outlined in SIRF Self-Assessment tools; and can outline evidence in support of their assessments.
- Symbols, displays, assemblies, liturgies and special events clearly identify the school as a Catholic, inclusive, faith community and this is acknowledged by parents, visitors and others who are relatively new to the school.

Teaching and Learning

SMCPS students engage in a variety of rich learning experiences that enable each student to reach their full potential. Our teaching is permeated with the qualities of Jesus Christ and our faith identity celebrated through prayer, liturgy and worship.

With parents as the first educators, we share the responsibility of facilitating learning and guiding students as lifelong learners.

Therefore we will...

- Develop dynamic, relevant, challenging, engaging learning experiences across the curriculum.
- Enrich and enhance learning through the integration of Information Communication and Technology in meaningful and purposeful contexts.
- Provide holistic and inclusive teaching and learning opportunities responsive to the needs of all learners
- Use a range of assessment and reporting strategies to inform teaching and learning
- Provide relevant, timely and meaningful feedback to students and parents

Targets

- 90% of students achieve scores at or above the National benchmarks on NAPLAN tests.
- 80% of parents and students rate their classroom as challenging and engaging on annual surveys. (Parent survey Qs: 12, 13, 14; Student survey Qs: 7, 9, 12, 13)
- All students develop and share (with parents and significant others) a digital portfolio of their work.
- All students identified as 'students with a disability' are working in accordance with an Individual Learning Plan (or equivalent). These students can explain their learning progress to their teacher, parents and significant other adult (e.g. an education consultant)

Leadership

We are inspired by Christ's leadership as shepherd and servant. We strive to promote, nurture, guide and support current and future leaders in our school community.

Therefore we will

- Strategically plan and implement dynamic and current practice in all areas of educational leadership.
- Provide an effective and efficient management framework and cooperative governance.
- Ensure ongoing open, consistent and two way communication with the school and wider community.
- Promote access to quality professional learning for staff.
- Provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills within and beyond the classroom.
- Promote a shared leadership model where all members of the community are encouraged to guide and lead others both formally and informally.

Targets

- 80% of staff express satisfaction with opportunities to exercise leadership in chosen fields (Staff survey Qs 16, 17 and 18)
- 80% or parents express confidence that the school is effectively managed (e.g. Parent survey, Q.22)
- The School Board is actively involved in school governance (in accordance with CENT policy). (Evidence: attendance and minutes, active engagement in policy review, discussion of planning and policy issues etc.)

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

We are committed to the emotional, spiritual, physical, social and intellectual development of each person. Our goal is to foster a nurturing, supportive, inclusive school community.

Therefore we will ...

- Create a caring and supportive school community where students feel safe and happy and all members of the community are valued and respected.
- Ensure teaching and learning is focused on the development of the whole person.
- Value the unique and diverse spirit of each person in our school community.
- Promote and actively support the health and well being of all members of our school community.
- Ensure that social/emotional learning programs are explicitly taught within our teaching and learning programs.

Targets

- The school's 'Wellbeing Team' is actively engaged in overseeing wellbeing initiatives, both in prevention and intervention.
- Records show evidence of multi-disciplinary, active intervention to support the needs and aspirations of individual students. Positive outcomes are evident in these records.
- 80% of students express satisfaction with the socio-emotional climate of the school and the support they experience when needed, (Student survey Qs 15-21)

Community and Culture

We are a Catholic School community that is rich and diverse in cultures and traditions.

Therefore we will

- Develop a holistic and inclusive approach to incorporating the needs of each person.
- Celebrate the rich social and cultural diversity of our school community.
- Nurture positive and respectful partnerships among all members of our community
- Foster knowledge of, appreciation and respect for the diverse cultures within our school and wider community.
- Nurture strong and enduring links with our Parish and wider community

Targets

- 85% of parents express satisfaction with relationships (including communications) between the school and parents/carers (Parent survey Qs: 17-21)
- Knowledge and appreciation of culture and tradition is evident in the school through behaviours such as:
 - The acknowledgement and celebration of significant cultural events through ritual, prayer, learning programs, in-school activities and school involvement in community events.
 - Teachers and students can name and describe key traditions of many of the cultural groups that are represented in the student population.
 - Teachers draw on cultural traditions to scaffold learning.

Finance, Facilities and Resources

We strive to ensure ethically sound, transparent and responsible financial practices catering for the present resourcing requirements and facilities and planning for the future needs of our school community.

Therefore we will

- Ensure ethically sound, transparent, equitable and responsible financial practices.
- Provide optimal Teaching and Learning and Information Communication Technology (ICT) resources and facilities that develop and enhance educational experiences for all students and staff.
- Ensure that school buildings, grounds and resources are well maintained and developed to support identified teaching and learning priority areas.
- Ensure school facilities and resources meet required Australian Health and Safety Standards.
- Engage the school community in consultation for future plans and priorities.

Targets

- Regular WHS audits undertaken and recommendations actioned
- Financial audits show evidence of effective financial management within budget limits.
- School enrolments are maintained or grow in accordance with population trends.