PRIORITY 1: RELIGIOUS and EVANGELISING MISSION
School Goal: 1.2 Evangelisation and Faith Formation

School Religious Education programmes provided support to students for participation in activities that fostered the growth of all members of the community in evangelisation. Associated with this was participation in activities such as support of Project Compassion, participation in the local conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society’s Annual Christmas Appeal. Other activities included the Year 7 students participation in World Vision 4 Hour Silence fundraiser and the participation of the entire Year 7 class in their Year 7 Leadership Camp in February at Mapleton.

The school also enabled Evangelisation and Faith Formation through students attending and participating in Whole School Masses (Opening School and Leadership Mass; Ash Wednesday Mass; Yr 7 Graduation Mass and Closing School Mass); Year level Masses and Whole School Assemblies which had a prayerful component.

The school also uses the Virtues Programme and concentrates on the 8 key virtues of: Courage; Peace; Love; Hope; Patience; Trust; Respect and Faithfulness. Activities associated with the Virtues Programme are taught in the classroom. Each classroom has established a Prayer Corner and Table and prayer is the way most classes begin each day.

The school also Parent Information Evenings at the beginning of each year and regularly holds Open Classrooms throughout the year for parents of students to be aware of the programmes including Religious education that are run throughout the school. The school supports the local parish by participation in parish activities such as Parish (and School) Feast Day – Our Lady of Lourdes Day. The school also participates in parish masses through classes attending Year level masses on a Thursday morning. The School also provides support to the local parish through involvement in the local parish Sacramental Programme.

PRIORITY 1: RELIGIOUS and EVANGELISING MISSION
School Goal: 1.3 Prayer and Worship

Prayer and Worship is a major component of a Catholic School. This school attempted to promote the growth in this area in a variety of ways. The school believes that each student attending a Catholic school should be familiar with and be given opportunities to learn and pray the prayers of the Catholic Church – at an appropriate level of understanding for each year level- us of Syllabus document for appropriate levels. Teachers also worked with students to develop and understanding of other styles of prayers that Christians may use. At an appropriate level students were introduced to and studied: Litany of the Saints; Appropriate Responses for Mass; Litany of Intercession; Many forms of Blessings for a variety of occasions; Mantras; Meditation- Ignatian Meditation; Prayer Journals.

Classes also examined and used rituals for everyday living. Classes also attended and participated in parish weekday masses and the whole school participated in a number of parish masses.
PRIORITY 2 STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

School Goal: 2.1 Vision for Learning

The School Mission Statement is a central element within the Brisbane Catholic Education Archdiocese Vision for Learning of Teach, Challenge, Transform. Our school vision for learning is informed by a curriculum implementation that was carefully planned. The staff use current research as support to assist them develop our curriculum and ensure that year level co-operative planning allows for all classes to implement our curriculum goals with emphasis on core subject areas. The school enabled parents and interested parties to share in this through a number of avenues. Our Religious Education Programme assisted the facilitation of this through special whole school events such as Mary MacKillop Day. Our school newsletter is regularly used to inform parents of aspects of learning as well as events such as Parent Information Evenings and Parent-Teacher Interviews. We also run special parent education evenings such as ‘Helping Your Child With Reading.” Which attract parents to hear more on ways that they can assist their children.

The core values espoused by our school are shared by our staff who contribute to projects such as our School Musical, Fete items, masses, liturgies along with special events such as Grandparents Day and Reading on the Green Day.

The school has worked diligently to establish a shared vision for learning with parents and this is reciprocated by support from parents who assist with areas such as the Walking School Bus, support for special school liturgies and also parent education evenings.

PRIORITY 3 STUDENT SUPPORT

School Goal: 3.1 Learning Support

The school positively engages through policies and guidelines inclusive teaching and learning practices. Class teachers through meetings with our Student Support Team and parents make necessary adjustments for our learners.

Our Student Support Team ensure that there is an adequate sharing of knowledge, skills and resources to support teaching. This is done through consultation with Administration, Specialist Teachers, classroom teachers, parents along with BCE Support Staff and outside agencies.

PRIORITY 3: STUDENT SUPPORT

School Goal: 3.2 Students with Disabilities

The school best supports students with disabilities through our IEP (Individual Education Plan) formation. This process develops, implements, monitors and reviews IEPs which support and enhance the learning outcomes for students with disabilities. This ensures strict adherence to legal requirements set down by BCE Guidelines.

The Support Team display a high level of commitment to correct procedures when attending to Enrolment Application and Support Procedure, Educational Adjustment Programmes (EAP) and Individual Education Programmes (IEP) to ensure the needs of all students are
met. The Support Team and Administration Team met fortnightly to ensure the ongoing correct communications and support for this area.

PRIORITY 3: STUDENT SUPPORT

School Goal: 3.3 Cultural Diversity

Our Lady of Lourdes is a school that welcomes students from a variety of cultures and backgrounds. There are ?? cultures present in the school. Through our classroom programmes we are able to support the learning needs of students who have English as a second language. The school employs a specialist English as a Second Language teacher and programmes that support the classroom learning of our ESL students. Teachers when planning are aware of the need to integrate into their classroom teaching an awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. The students of Years 4 to 7 also participate in our LOTE (Languages Other Than English) Programme and study the Italian language and culture.

PRIORITY 3: STUDENT SUPPORT

School Goal: 3.4 Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care

Our Lady of Lourdes School places a high value and emphasis on Pastoral Care of its students, parents and carers. The school has sought to maintain the already developed partnerships with relevant community agencies and student services. The school has effectively used programmes such as the Games Factory, Promoting Peaceful Relationships as well as Student Protection by integrating into our curriculum programmes. Students are aware of the Student Protection Contacts and the majority of students have indicated that they feel safe, happy and are valued. The majority of students have also indicated that they feel supported academically, behaviourally, emotionally and spiritually at school. Students indicated that the following elements were identifiable to them: A caring ‘proactive’ staff who knew them; The use of Feeling Unsafe Posters in each classroom; The Buddies Programme; The use of the Games Factory programme; Frequent communications with families on matters of behaviour; Well organised camps and excursions; Health oriented lessons and activities throughout the school; Specialised programmes such as – Travel Safe were organised; A Nutrition Policy through the School Tuckshop and supported through lessons in the classrooms.

Other areas identified were: Behaviour Plans for individual students were supported by the Administration of the school; Support is provided for students who need this at lunch times; Student achievements are acknowledged and celebrated by the community; A Whole School Behaviour Policy that is directly linked to the school vision; Disadvantaged families and students are indentified and supported; Frequent communications with families in relation to behaviour support; The School Anti-Bullying Programme and attendance tracking.

PRIORITY 5: PARTNERSHIPS and RELATIONSHIPS

School Goal: 5.1 Relationships with parents, care givers and local community

Our Lady of Lourdes strives to promote positive relationships with parents, carers and the local community. Relationships are strengthened through the many opportunities that are offered through interviews, participation in the Parents and Friends Association. Community members feel welcomed at the school when events and celebrations are held. The
community becomes involved in events such as Mothers’/Fathers’ Day liturgies; Under 8s Day; School Sports Day; Bush Dance and Book Week.

The school uses Induction processes and these are generally received as welcoming and engaging events. Prospective parents receive parent friendly brochures that outline school policies and procedures. Throughout the year parent education workshops on a variety of subjects are held in an attempt to assist parents in the education of their child/children. Our Lady of Lourdes School resides in the Parish of Sunnybank/Acacia Ridge. There are 3 other Catholic schools inside this parish and an attempt to establish strong links between these schools and Our Lady of Lourdes School is essential. The schools meet for professional inservice opportunities as well as for events such as interschool sport.

PRIORITY 5: PARTNERSHIPS and RELATIONSHIPS

School Goal: 5.2 Partnerships

There is a strong engagement with the Parents & Friends Association within our school. The Parents & Friends Association provides strong contributions to the spiritual, cultural, celebratory and financial life of the school. During 2010 the Parents & Friends Association assisted the school through the School Fete – both financially and network building; the Welcome Bush Dance held early in the school year. Each event is a great opportunity for parents to mix socially. The Parents & Friends also conducted the annual Mother’s and Father’s Day Stalls.

Our Lady of Lourdes School also has links to Caritas Australia, the St Vincent de Paul Society and the local RSL. Our school has established links with several Universities and a number of local businesses. Our Lady of Lourdes School holds strong links with the local parish and has established a strong, consistent association with the other Catholic schools within the boundaries of our parish (Our Lady of Fatima, Acacia Ridge; St Stephen’s, Algester and St Thomas More College, Sunnybank).

Our school website along with our newsletter, email groups and school notice board are all used to communicate with groups both inside and outside the school.