Our Lady Of The Sacred Heart School, Darra

PO Box 3076 Darra 4076

(07) 3375 4519  Fax  (07) 3375 3867

pdarra@bne.catholic.edu.au

olshdarra.qld.edu.au

John O’Connor

Principal’s Foreword

Introduction

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School in the western suburbs of Brisbane embraces students from a variety of cultures, a significant number having English as a second language. As a Catholic community we embrace our heritage in the light of Gospel values and endeavour to provide an inclusive curriculum which promotes lifelong learning for all. We strive to create positive partnerships within the school community and to establish a happy and secure environment for all children in our care. A very dedicated and professional staff stay abreast of new and innovative teaching. Guided by a clear approach to building positive relationships, with our Friendly People Friendly Schools program and with a fulltime student pastoral worker, children are taught the value of respect which underpins all right relationships. Whilst our school has a heavy emphasis on the teaching of Numeracy and Literacy and ensuring all children have the foundational knowledge preparing them for a wide scope of learning, we also value the teaching of the performing arts subjects. With a whole school musical biennially and instrumental and drama lessons happening in school time, children continue to grow in confidence through a variety of subjects.

School Profile

OURLADY OF THE SACRED HEART,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 514

Total Enrolment 514  Girls 259  Boys 255
Characteristics of the student body

Students at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School come from diverse backgrounds. 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. A number of students are now residing in the Forest lake catchment with families from the suburb of Richlands now inquiring and enrolling at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

The school curriculum encompasses the Key Learning Areas of:

- Religious Education
- Mathematics
- English
- History
- Science
- The Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages other than English
- Technology

The curriculum taught follows syllabus documents written by the Queensland Study Authority and Brisbane Catholic Education’s Religious Education Guidelines. the school implements, assesses and reports in English, Mathematics, History and Science using the Australian Curriculum. The staff prepares 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.
Extra curricula activities

- Interschool Sport / catholic schools Sports carnivals
- Opportunities for regional/state sport selection
- School Choir
- School Musical
- School Camps
- School /Class Liturgies
- Whole School / Class Mass
- Instrumental Music, Drama Lessons
- Art Club
- Canoeing

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 lays 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 receive regular donation in the sue of a bank of laptops and in the early years iPads.

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 the quality of 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 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

As part of our quality assurance program parent, staff and Year 7 students are surveyed every 12 months. Results are as follows,

Component 1.2: Evangelisation and Faith Formation 93% Agree or Strongly Agree
Component 2.1: Vision for Learning 89 %Agree or Strongly Agree
Component 6.2: Leadership and Management of ICLT 80 % Agree or Strongly Agree
Component 7.3: Maintenance and development 82 % Agree or Strongly Agree
Component 8.3: Monitoring and Internal School Review Process 82% Agree or Strongly Agree

Overall there is a strong satisfaction with the school. A number of parents were unable to comment on a number of areas. As part of the 2013 quality assurance areas identified as needing attention by this survey are being review.

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
- Parent-teacher interviews

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

Staff Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Non-teaching Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcounts</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time equivalents</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Qualifications of all teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Percentage of teachers and leaders at the school attaining this level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors Degree</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2012 was $6341.45.
The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

Reading To Learn
Austism children in the classroom
Words their Way - Spelling
Stepping Stones - Mathematics
Interactive Whiteboards - Using Information Technology in the Classroom
Australian Curriculum - History
First Steps - Reading
Functional Grammar

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 97.17% in 2012.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2011 school year, 86% of staff were retained by the school for the 2012 year.

Key Student Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whole School Attendance Rate</th>
<th>95.3%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Attendance Rate</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>93.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>97.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>95.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy and practice to manage student attendance

- Parents reminded to contact school to explain any absence from school
- Unexplained non-attendance parents contacted by text or phone
- Frequent non-attendance parents initially contacted and meeting held with principal
Further non-attendance parents informed in writing of concern

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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