CONTENTS

Mission And Vision .............................................................................................................................................. 2

Mission Statement ......................................................................................................................................... 2

Vision Statement ............................................................................................................................................ 2

Principal’s Message ........................................................................................................................................ 3

School Profile ....................................................................................................................................................... 4

Staff Information ................................................................................................................................................. 5

Highlights Of The School Year ............................................................................................................................. 6

Teaching And Learning ........................................................................................................................................ 7

Year Five Naplan .............................................................................................................................................. 7

Year Three Naplan ........................................................................................................................................... 8

Early Learning Centre And Outside School Hours Care ....................................................................................... 9

Parents And Community ................................................................................................................................... 10

Financial Summary ............................................................................................................................................ 11

Outcome Of School Assessment ........................................................................................................................ 12

Endorsements .................................................................................................................................................... 13
MISSION AND VISION

MISSION STATEMENT
At Sacred Heart School we are committed to:

respecting each other’s dignity and valuing his / her uniqueness, while promoting personal
development and growth in all areas of school life.

VISION STATEMENT
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School strives towards being a welcoming supportive community
nurturing the Catholic Faith encouraging personal excellence in a stimulating and supportive learning
environment through partnerships involving staff, children, parish, parents, friends and other
organisations.
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

It is with pleasure that we submit Sacred Heart Catholic School’s 2012 Annual School report. This report is testimony to the many wonderful things that have happened in our community this year. While no document could ever hope to outline everything that happens in a busy school year, this report highlights some of the key successes and challenges of the year.

As a Catholic school we are undeniably a Catholic community. Our ethos is deeply embedded in everything that occurs within our school. This year we have made time for prayer a priority within our day and we have regularly gathered to celebrate Mass as a school on special occasions and as class groups each term. Our Religious Education and Personal Development programs offer children the opportunity to engage with and develop their faith. In supporting our children, the adult members of the community are also encouraged to journey together in their faith. We feel at home within our Parish and appreciate the commitment of Fr Tom English, our Parish Priest.

2012 was a year of growth and consolidation within our school community. This year was the fifth year in the school’s School Improvement and Renewal Framework cycle and so an external review of the last five years was undertaken culminating in a Validation Report being submitted to the School Board and the Director of Catholic Education NT. The Validation Report generally affirmed the positive direction of the school over the last five years and offered suggestions for future directions. Much of the latter part of the year was spent consulting with children, staff and families to formulate a new Strategic Plan for 2013-2018.

It is our sustained commitment to the teachings and model of Jesus Christ that drives and sustains us as a Catholic school community and we give thanks for the many blessings (those recorded here in this report and the very many that are not) that we have received during 2012.

Lindsay Luck
Principal – Sacred Heart Catholic School
SCHOOL PROFILE

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is a small, Co-educational Catholic primary school located at 34 Emery Avenue, Woodroffe NT. During 2012 our student population grew to 234 children across 9 classes.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>T</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are enriched by the diversity of our children and families. 24% of our children are from Indigenous heritage and 4.3% of our children are identified as having a disability.

Sacred Heart acknowledges the strong connection between regular attendance at school and student outcomes. During 2012 we had an average attendance rate of 95%. In cases where children are absent from school without notification from families, the classroom teacher and school secretary attempt to contact home with the view to supporting the child’s education during short term absence. In the of longer term absences or regular non-attendance the school Leadership Team, supported by our Indigenous Education Worker and Department of Education and Children staff, work with families to resolve the issue.
Sacred Heart employs a professional and enthusiastic staff who are committed to the holistic development and care of our community. In 2012 our staff profile consisted of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>FTE*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Staff</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our teaching staff is well qualified meeting all requirements of the Teacher Registration Board of the Northern Territory. Our teacher’s qualifications include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduate Qualifications</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor Degree or Equivalent</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that some of our Teaching staff hold more than one qualification.

We are blest to be supported in the work of the school by a dedicated and hardworking team of Ancillary staff in our administration, classroom support and support services areas.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Sacred Heart is always a busy and active school. A variety of activities are undertaken each day to support and celebrate individual, classes and the whole school in their development and learning.

Highlights of the 2012 school year included:

- Increased enrolments throughout the year
- Successful solar schools grant to install solar panels in the school
- Refurbishment of our Outside School Hours Care including new flooring and painting
- Establishment of a recycling program and cottage gardens by the Student Representative Council
- Whole school celebrations of Sacred Heart Day
- The “Vinnies” ball social activity for parents and friends
- A strong commitment to fundraising for a variety of social justice causes
- Increased marketing presence in the local community including BBQs on election days and a stall in the local shopping centres
- Participation in the local PARCS sporting completions and the success of our netball teams planning in the local club competition
- Our participation in the Catholic Schools concert
- Carols by Candlelight
Our school implements a variety of assessment and evaluation protocols to monitor the progress of our children and determine the direction of our classroom programs. One of these protocols is the annual national NAPLAN testing program undertaken by our students in years Three and Five. In 2012 our children’s achievements compare favourably with other “like” primary schools in the Northern Territory. The tables below show student achievement ‘above, ‘at’ and ‘below’ the National Benchmarks in five (5) subject areas.

**YEAR FIVE NAPLAN**

![Bar Chart](image-url)
The data from this NAPLAN program will influence our direction for 2013 with a number of literacy and numeracy initiatives planned, including the introduction of the THRASS program.
Sacred Heart Catholic School operates an Early Learning Centre for 3 to 5 year olds and Outside School Hours Care services to support our children and families.

Both of these operations were involved in the accreditation processes brought about by the introduction of the National Quality Framework this year.

The Early Learning Centre submitted its Quality Improvement Plan and was assessed by an external assessor over a two day visit to the centre. As a result of these processes, our Early Learning Centre was rated “Working towards National Standards” and will continue the accreditation process in 2013.

The Outside School Hours Care services began preparing their Quality Improvement Plan and will submit this in early 2013.
PARENTS AND COMMUNITY

The staff of our school works in close partnership with our families for they are the first educators of their children. As a community we have worked hard to ensure that families are welcomed into the school and that their contribution to our culture and education is valued. To this end we held an increased number of activities to encourage parental and community involvement in our school including:

- Family movie night
- Discos
- Welcome BBQ at the beginning of the year
- Regular Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Mission Fair
- Science Week
- Reading groups and classroom assistance.

The Principal is assisted in the leadership of the school by an active school board consisting of our Parish Priest, Finance Officer, Staff representative and six parents.

The Board provides support and counsel on a wide range of policy and operational issues.

Zoe Walkington who had chaired the board for five years stepped down at the Annual General Meeting in August and was replaced by Neil Forsyth.

Pleasingly the Parents and Friends group grew in number and confidence throughout the year. They held a number of successful fundraising and social events. Under the leadership of new parent Alison Fitt the P and F began a number of new initiatives aimed at increasing the involvement of families in the school. Their $6000 contribution to the school through the Northern Territory Governments $4 $ program will go towards improved seating throughout the school for children at break times.
Financial data is unavailable at this time. This Report will be updated once it becomes available.
OUTCOME OF SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

The culmination of the five year SIRF cycle was the site visit of an external validation panel and the subsequent publishing of their report. This report not only made comment about the validity of the previous school self-assessments but also provided guidance for the development of Sacred Heart’s 2013-2018 Strategic Plan.

The Validation Panel noted:

The Validation Team saw evidence of sincere efforts by the school community to implement improvement processes as described in the School Improvement and Renewal Framework. Action has been taken to build on areas of strength and to address areas where improvement was warranted. In many cases the changes have been at the micro-level and the panel believes a ‘big-picture’ or macro-level would help ensure that improvement efforts are focused, coherent, manageable and sustainable.

Sacred Heart CPS exists in a competitive primary school environment and these circumstances are likely to continue as the City of Palmerston continues to grow. It is important that the school continues to respond positively to changing education demands including implementation of the Australian Curriculum and community demands for high standards in education service. Sacred Heart CPS is well placed to meet these demands.

The Validation Panel appreciates the welcome that they received to the school, the candid discussions with stakeholders and generous sharing of information about the school’s achievement.

We commend the school community for it striving for excellence during the period under review.

(External Validation Report 2012)
ENDORSEMENTS

Lindsay Luck     Principal         /     /2013

Neil Forsyth     School Board Chair       /     /2013

Michael Avery     Director Catholic Education    /     /2013