



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

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### ***Vision Statement***

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School's vision is to create and maintain a welcoming, supportive and safe community where students can develop a personal faith relationship with God. Our vision includes an outstanding Catholic education, which will equip our student community with the knowledge, skills and optimism to live meaningful lives and enrich the world around them. This journey is at the heart of our motto that underpins our Catholic education ~ *Love One Another.*

### ***Mission Statement***

At Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, we believe that each person is unique and created in the image of God. We promote personal development and growth in all areas of our educational and personal journey through our partnership with parents, families, Parish, peers and staff. By bearing witness to, and celebrating the Word of God, we will prepare our students for life and its joys, opportunities and challenges.

## ***Principal's Message***

It is with pleasure that I present the 2018 Annual Report for Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School.

Sacred Heart Catholic School continues to proudly service the Palmerston community and engage with the community and parish on many levels. Our Early Learning Centre and Out of School Hours Care have strong connections with the school and all components work together to make Sacred Heart the great school that it is.

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of Fr Tom English, the wider Parish and the Catholic Education Office. The Parents and Friends Association and the School Board provide opportunities for parent participation in our school, and this support does not go unnoticed. Throughout 2018, we continued to maintain strong links with MacKillop Catholic College and we welcomed Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School into the Parish. Professional development opportunities were shared with these two schools, as well as with St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, Humpty Doo. We look forward to connecting more with these two schools in future.

The school felt the impact of Cyclone Marcus in March. Whilst the school buildings remained intact, there was a lot of damage to the trees, shade cloths and fences. The shade cloths will be replaced with solid structures in 2019 and there has been replanting of trees with the donation of native trees as alternative replacements. External Validation was undertaken in 2018 with the commendations and recommendations from the panel affirming the hard work of our staff and community.

The Swimming program was reintroduced in 2018 and all students attended eight lessons in Water Safety. This program was well attended and supported by the families.

As we head into 2019, we look forward to celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> birthday in Palmerston. It is a wonderful testament to our school community that we have enrolments of the second generation of families, continuing the tradition of education at Sacred Heart.

I am very proud to lead Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School into 2019, celebrating 25 years of delivering quality Catholic education in Palmerston.



Mrs Gez Mulvahil  
Principal



## ***School Overview***

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School was established in 1994 and is located in the city of Palmerston, approx. 20 km southeast of Darwin. Sacred Heart is a welcoming and friendly community, which allows students to grow in Catholic faith. It provides a holistic education, suited to each child's needs, through the cooperation of staff, children, parents, parish and friends in the wider community.

Sacred Heart is established on spacious grounds with facilities for fourteen classes, large play and assembly areas, an undercover stage and physical education area, canteen, sensory room, administration block and staffroom, oval, basketball courts and cricket nets. There is a separate building for a 90-placement Outside School Hours Care facility including a kitchen area. There is an Early Learning centre for 3-5 year olds on site. Many of these students continue into Transition at Sacred Heart. Sacred Heart provides specialist teaching in Indonesian, The Arts and Physical Education and support for Indigenous and Defence students.

Student enrolments for 2018

<b>Year Level</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>Girls</b>	11	20	17	22	24	27	22	
<b>Boys</b>	16	13	21	16	26	22	26	
<b>Total</b>	27	33	38	38	50	49	48	283

Indigenous Students Enrolled	12.7%
Special Needs	6.1%
Language background other than English	12.5%
Attendance Rate for the year	90.2%

## **Staffing Information**

All teachers are registered with the NT Teacher Registration Board.

### **Summary of teacher qualification:**

Post graduate qualification	8
Bachelor degree or equivalent	12
Masters	2
Other qualification	8

### **Staff profile**

	<i>Number</i>	<i>FTE*</i>
Teachers	19	16.60
Support staff	21	13.50
Total	40	30.10

## **2018 Staff**

### **TEACHING STAFF**

Mrs Mulvahil	Ms Emerson	Mrs Martin
Miss Morrissey	Ms MacSween	Mrs Priest
Mrs Curtin	Mrs Irwin	Mrs Heathwood
Mrs Aspinall	Mrs Lewis	Ms Hollister
Miss Ballesteros	Miss Smart	Ms Knizek
Miss McDowall	Miss Lucas	Mrs Steele
Ms Carson	Ms Piggott	Mrs Deer
Miss McCormack		

### **SUPPORT ROLES**

### **ANCILLARY/GROUNDS**

Ms Jacobs	Mrs Walkington
Ms Pligl	Ms Hallam
Mrs Troumouliaris	Mrs Lieminda
Mrs Howe	Mrs Flint
Mrs Bos	Mrs Banning
Ms Boulter	Mrs Bryan
Mrs Koppen	Ms Remfrey
Ms Rands	Mr Alchin
Ms Misob	Mr Morriss
Ms Doran	Mr T Motlop
Ms Craven	Mr B Motlop
Ms Amiri	Ms White
	Mrs Harvey

**ELC****OSHC**

Ivone Byrne	Denise Roberts
Dahlia de Guzman	Melinda Rands
Nella Ewin	Caitlin Boulter
Cindy Napiza	Amy Doran
Helen Allan	Ruciel Tubal
Rosanna Perdugeira	Veronica Hammer
Maria Costa	Tammy Winsley
	Anna Dolan
	Ella Mulvahil

## ***Highlights of the 2018 School Year***

### ***Catholic Identity***

Whole school masses are celebrated each term and classes also celebrate masses and liturgies with their class cohort. Our Sacred Heart Feast day continued to be a wonderful celebration for our community. The day began with a Mass, then after a shared morning tea, the students enjoyed a day of water slides and jumping castles to celebrate our special day.



A combined staff Catholic Identity was arranged, with staff from Sacred Heart, Mother Teresa and St Francis of Assisi joining together. The day was delivered by Mitch, leading us through the Making Jesus Real approach and discussing how we can build this within our schools

The Sacramental Program within Our Lady Help of Christians Parish was supported through the school, with staff assisting with classes and organisation of the Sacraments.

Families supported the fundraising initiatives through Caritas and Catholic Mission. A Caritas Carnival with classes running different stalls to raise money was held and over \$1000 was raised.

All Year 5 students attended a Make Jesus Real Retreat Day with the Year 5 students from other Catholic Primary Schools. The Year 6 students joined with Years 6 – 9 students from Catholic Primary Schools to spend the day with Fr Rob Galea.



## ***Teaching and Learning***

In 2018, a fully funded role for a Data Informed Practitioner was continued by Catholic Education NT. This role has enabled us to continue to critically analyse our data and use this information to inform our teaching and learning.

The NAPLAN for Years 3 and 5 in 2018 were above the Northern Territory Mean in all components. It was exciting to have our Year 5 cohort achieve above Australian mean in the areas of Reading, Writing and Spelling.

2018 NAPLAN							
Year Level	NAPLAN TEST	Australian Schools Mean	All NT Schools Mean	Schools Mean	20% of Australian Students	60% of Australian Students	20% of Australian Students
Year 3	Reading	434	336	393	3%	57%	40%
	Writing	407	313	317	9%	37%	54%
	Spelling	418	323	368	9%	43%	49%
	G&P	432	309	361	9%	49%	43%
	Numeracy	408	341	357	6%	46%	49%
Year 5	Reading	509	430	509	21%	58%	21%
	Writing	465	383	474	17%	63%	21%
	Spelling	503	437	513	25%	50%	21%
	G&P	504	411	490	23%	52%	25%
	Numeracy	494	434	486	19%	58%	23%



Using Hattie's Effect Sizes to measure the growth in student achievement from Year 3 to year 5, the results indicated well above expected growth. The expected minimum effect size over a two-year period is 0.8. The effect sizes at Sacred Heart from 2016 - 2018 are:

- **Reading: 1.02**
- **Writing: 1.14**
- **Spelling: 1.12**
- **Grammar and Punctuation: 0.56**
- **Numeracy: 1.47**

Sacred Heart was successful in an application to join the Digital Technologies in Focus project through the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA). This has enabled staff and students to look at the implementation of Digital Technologies across the curriculum through the support of the Project Officer, Simon Collier. Staff have participated in professional development sessions, modelled classroom activities and professional learning through Adelaide University MOOC. Locally, support has been provided through Sue Carter and staff from Catholic Education Northern Territory.

Students attended the local RoboCup event and were also invited to showcase their learnings at the Engineers Australia Showcase in the Darwin Mall. The demonstration of using fruit as a conduit for controllers to play Pacman through the use of Makey Makeys was well received by all those who attended.

Students were nominated for external achievement awards through the NT Board of Studies and the Australia Day Council. Ian Odhiambo (Year 6) was nominated for the NT Board of Studies Academic Excellence Award and Niamh Salter for the NT Administrator's Medal. Elsie Lasker was the recipient of the Australia Day Council award. All classes nominated and presented Chief Minister's Literacy Awards to students who showed progress or excellence in given areas of Literacy. These awards were presented at assembly.

Jasper	Cock	Most improved writing
Iletisha	Fowler	Most improved reading
Clara	Lawrence Kute	Most Improved in Writing
William	Ing	Most improved in reading
Lenix	Tselembis	Most improved in Reading
Manai	Nona	Most improved (reading)
Sienna	James	Most Outstanding communicator at school.
Solomon	Freeman	Most improved in reading
Nicole	Thompson	Most Imaginative (Performance)
Charlotte	Haller	Most improved (Writing)
Ava	Willoughby	Most Outstanding communicator at school.
Addison	Perris	Most Outstanding communicator in the community.

To support the teaching and learning program, staff and students were involved in many extra activities:

- Visits from authors Mark Greenwood
- Intensive Literacy and Numeracy groups for support and extension
- Targeted EALD support group
- All Inclusion Support Assistants engaged in regular school based and external professional development
- Participation in the Australian Mathematics Competition
- Development of Gifted and Talented identification process
- School Camps and Sleepovers
- Australian red Cross visits
- Life Education Program
- Safety House presentation
- ThinkUKnow presentation (Australian Federal Police CyberBullying team)
- Participation in National Science Week
- Visits from Jacqueline Harvey



Some staff have engaged in the Age Appropriate Pedagogies project, focusing on the teaching approaches used in the Early Years. To support this, two staff also attended a two-day Walker Learning professional development opportunity.

## ***Pastoral Care and Wellbeing***

In 2018, School Wide Positive Behaviours was continued throughout the school. Five agreements were established:

- Mutual Respect
- Attentive Listening
- Right to Learn/Right to Teach
- Participation
- Responsibility

The consistent approach to discussing behaviours in a positive way has led to a significant decrease in high-level behaviours. Catholic Care provided support through a School Based Counselling program. The school also has a Defence Support Transition Aide and an Indigenous Education Worker who work with students and families to provide a supportive school environment.

Small withdrawal groups focusing on the development of Social Skills provided opportunities for students to focus on key strategies for improving and managing difficult social interactions.

The Year 6 classes and their teachers engaged with Marg Lambert in an approved Action Research Project using Tapping in the classroom context as a method of self-regulation. Evidence was gathered across the classes and with the high success rate shown; tapping will be introduced to all classes in 2019.

## ***Community and Culture***

In March, Sacred Heart was fortunate to be selected as a School Stopover point for the Queen's Baton Relay as a part of the Commonwealth Games. The baton was handed over at a special assembly with local and national media representation.



Sacred Heart Catholic School supported a number of local community and regional events throughout 2018:

- Representation at the Bombing of Darwin service
- Representation at the Palmerston Anzac Day service
- Choir performance at Palmerston Christmas Carols
- Choir performance on ABC Radio, at Gateway Shopping Centre
- PARRS sporting events
- Staff involvement in PARRS and School Sport team representation
- MacKillop Instrumental Program
- Defence Expo

The Harmony day celebration provided an opportunity to celebrate the many cultures in our school community and a shared lunch, with food from many cultures was a highlight.



The Book Week parade saw some amazing costumes from staff and students.



Events held through School Sport NT were well attended and supported and Sacred Heart recorded the highest participation level of all schools within the PARRS region. Many students were selected in PARRS teams in a range of sports and represented the school and region at NT Championships. From these Championships, the following students were selected to represent the Northern Territory at National Championships:

Calisthenics – Niamh Salter

Australian Rules Football – Jack Buckler

Track and Field –Nelson Minogue

Cross Country – Lily Hollister, Elijah Williamson

Tennis – Ava Willoughby

Students organised a range of lunchtime activities for students to participate in, including some staff v students sporting matches.



## ***Leadership***

Staff from Sacred Heart are well represented on various sub committees of the Northern Territory Catholic Education Council, with representation on:

- Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Standing Committee
- Teaching and Learning Standing Committee
- Community and Culture Standing Committee
- Study Incentive Program Committee

Rahima Piggott was involved in the Middle Leadership Program through Catholic Education Northern Territory. Geraldine Ballesteros was awarded the status of Advanced Skills Teacher Level One. Staff attended Network Meeting Days with other staff within Catholic Education Northern Territory, such as:

- Administration
- Finance
- Work Health and Safety
- Pastoral Care and Wellbeing
- Principal Meetings and Retreat
- Deputy Principal Meetings and Retreat
- APRE Meeting and Retreat
- Inclusion Support
- Data Informed Practitioners
- Curriculum Coordinator

Staff attended the Professional Development conferences interstate:

- Edu Tech
- Positive Schools
- Make Jesus Real

### ***Finance, Facilities and Resources***

The school engaged with Danihers Facility Management to oversee the cleaning, grounds and maintenance within the school. We have been fortunate to have quality, dedicated grounds and cleaning staff overseen by Client Services Manager, Thomas Motlop. The visible difference in our facilities through this engagement is obvious. Plans are in place to continue to work with the Danihers Team to build a Master Plan for the school.

Pippa Soccio evaluated the learning environments within the school as a part of the LEaRN Project through Melbourne University. Staff and students were surveyed about the current environments and pedagogy and a written report provided to the school.

All classrooms had new SmartBoards installed and staff in-serviced on using these boards. Other equipment to support the teaching and learning programs was provided through the donations of the Parents and Friends Association and school funds.

IN 2018, the school was randomly selected to undertake a Copyright Survey, with all elements successfully completed in Term 2.

New systems were implemented for reporting (GradeXpert) and for the management of student information (CES) and school finances (TechOne).

School income is derived from a variety of sources and can be summarised as follows:

Australian Government	44%
Territory Government	14%
Other sources	42%



## ***Parents and Community***

The Parents and Friends Association worked to raise \$9000 for the school. This amount was matched by Catholic Education Northern Territory. In total, over \$20 000 was raised by our community. In 2018, this money was spent on:

- Robotics
- Science resources
- Literacy resources
- Digital camera
- Charitable donations

Fundraising activities held by the P and F included:

- Colour Run
- Discos
- Raffles
- Food at events such as Sports Day and the Christmas Concert
- Mothers' day and Fathers' Day breakfast
- Bunnings BBQs



The School Board is made up of the Parish Priest, parent representatives and has been chaired by Mrs Keira Robinson. The Board has been working on the review of current policies and has provided ongoing support of the Sacred Heart community.

Regular opportunities are provided for parents to engage with the school through informal occasions such as sports days, discos, assemblies and celebrations as well as more formal opportunities such as parent teacher interviews. Ongoing communication between parents and staff is welcomed and encouraged.



## ***Parent Satisfaction***

In a recent survey of parents, the following ratings were achieved; from 1 the lowest rank to 5 the highest:

Use of prayer throughout the school

1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
4.26% 2	2.13% 1	21.28% 10	10.64% 5	61.70% 29	47	4.23

Religious Education Teaching and Learning Program

1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
2.08% 1	2.08% 1	20.83% 10	16.67% 8	58.33% 28	48	4.27

Celebration of Masses and Liturgies

1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
2.08% 1	4.17% 2	16.67% 8	20.83% 10	56.25% 27	48	4.25

Catholic Signs and Symbols around the school

1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
2.08% 1	2.08% 1	20.83% 10	14.58% 7	60.42% 29	48	4.29

Teachers at Sacred Heart expect my child to do their best

1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
0.00% 0	2.04% 1	4.08% 2	30.61% 15	63.27% 31	49	4.55

Useful feedback is given to my child about their work

1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
0.00% 0	6.12% 3	16.33% 8	42.86% 21	34.69% 17	49	4.06

I can talk to my child's teacher about my concerns

1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
.00% 0	4.08% 2	14.29% 7	18.37% 9	63.27% 31	49	4.41

My child is making good progress at this school

1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
0.00% 0	2.04% 1	24.49% 12	28.57% 14	44.90% 22	49	4.16

**Strengths: (a selection of comments from 36 responses)**

*"The ladies in the office are friendly and welcoming. The principal knows the students well and can articulate to parents how they are going. The new teachers in the past few years have been a welcome change to the school."*

*"The well being and communication from the school is great. MY children come home happy from school and can tell me what they have learnt. That is all I can ask. Very happy with the school."*

*"The sense of community. It is welcoming and accepting of others and demonstrates genuine care and compassion."*

*"Supportive and caring staff who all work hard to provide a rich learning environment for our children."*

*"The teachers and the principal. Since sending my child there she has flourished. And all her needs met. Especially with the special issues she had, everyone there had so much love and understanding."*

**Areas for Improvement: (a selection of comments from 18 responses)**

*"Change assembly time to the morning"*

*"More shaded areas"*

*"15 minutes not enough time for Parent Teacher Interview"*

*"More buddy class activities where the senior school could mentor younger students. More education to happen outdoors learning through nature. Cater to the child's interests when learning and inquiring. Increase community connections through each year level having an excursion or community visitor each semester."*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Gez Mulvahil, PRINCIPAL

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Keira Robinson, Board Chair

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Greg O'Mullane  
Director Catholic Education Northern Territory