SACRED HEART SCHOOL MUNDARING

STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 – 2019
FOREWORD

BACKGROUND

Sacred Heart School is a Catholic primary school located in the beautiful Perth Hills town of Mundaring. The school caters for approximately 170 students from Kindergarten to Year 6. The school commenced in 1952 and has a rich tradition linked to the two Orders of Sisters who were involved within our school; the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition and the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

A warm, intimate and friendly environment where all children are challenged to reach their potential in a Catholic context permeates the way we operate. Integral to this is a tripartite relationship with the families, school staff and our Parish working together to form a strong community for the benefit of all our children. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in the school in support of their children, including through School Board and Parents & Friends membership and participation, as well as assisting teachers in the classrooms.

We are steeped in Catholic traditions with Jesus as the master teacher and our role model. Everything that we implement reflects our Core Values. Education of the whole child is paramount and we offer a diverse range of opportunities for children to develop and enhance their knowledge and skills and ultimately to grow into happy and well-adjusted adults of the future.

LEADER’S MESSAGE

This document is organised around four key elements established by the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) – Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship (LEAD). It outlines the school’s strategic priorities and the outcomes against which our performance will be measured.

The priorities articulated in this Strategic Plan are focused on strengthening our fundamentals. They are intended to,

- Advance the Mission of the school
- Build on our strengths

In formulating this Strategic Plan, the School Leadership Team has undertaken a thorough process. Through this process we have assessed how well we are going as a school, identified emerging challenges and discussed new trends and opportunities likely to be faced in the future. As we look ahead to the next four years, ensuring every child and staff member is learning and challenged is our aspiration. This is about living out our school motto which calls each of us to strive and challenge ourselves and others - to learn, to care and to give.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with parents as we embark on this plan and continue our tradition of providing an outstanding Catholic education to the children of Mundaring.

George Firns
Principal
OUR VISION

At Sacred Heart School we remember the history and traditions of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart ‘relieving suffering and bringing hope to all with the desire to accomplish God’s will’. We value the wonderful community spirit and pastoral care, which permeates all aspects of our school life. It is within this nurturing environment that our parish priest, parishioners, staff, parents, guardians and students work collaboratively to maintain our Catholic practice and deliver a life-long love of learning. Our school motto articulates our Vision for the School to be a place where each of us strive and challenge ourselves and others ‘to learn, to care, to give’.

Our success indicator is the quality of our students who will exhibit;

- Confidence - believing they can be anything they want to be
- Enthusiasm - for learning and to be involved
- Respect - for others and to be respected themselves

OUR MISSION

Sacred Heart School is centred in Jesus. We strive for educational excellence encompassing the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical, emotional, religious and creative development of our students.

OUR CORE VALUES

Our core values are a crucial element of our school and feature in all our documents and actions that we undertake. Our Core Values are underpinned by Gospel values and are linked to the traditions of our founding Orders and the Gospel message. Each value has quotes and descriptions which help to understand the true meaning of it.

- COMPASSION
- COURAGE
- FORGIVENESS
- HUMILITY
- RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY
- SERVICE TO OTHERS

OUR SCHOOL WIDE FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS

Ensuring every child and staff member is challenged to learn, to care and to give.
LEARNING

CECWA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Learning is what we do – we are committed to learning at every level. The outcomes we seek are to:

- Enhance student achievement and well being
- Increase student and staff engagement in their own learning and faith formation

OUR STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THIS ...ensuring every child and staff member is challenged to learn, to care and to give ...

EFFECTIVE PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES (QCS REF 305)

1. Develop a consistent school wide approach to the teaching of Literacy and Numeracy and lift student performance with a specific focus in the early primary years (K-2)

2. Develop a consistent school wide approach to the extension of brighter students in the areas of Science, Technology and Maths (STEM) with a specific focus in the upper primary years (Year 3-6)

3. Prioritise professional development activities focussed on building the data literacy skills of teachers and leaders plus developing engaging teaching practices

ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION OF DATA (QCS REF 302)

4. Establish a systematic approach to collection, analysis and use of individual student achievement data to identify individual learning needs of students

5. Establish regular time for school leaders to work with teams to review student data and develop improvement strategies

KEY SUCCESS MEASURES

OUTCOMES

- School Climate Survey – increasing scores for professional learning and staff confidence measures
- School Climate Survey – parent data indicates students are being challenged
- NAPLAN data – like school comparisons indicate
  - Improvement in Year 3 outcomes
  - Student gains from Year 3 - 5 are greater than those in comparison schools with the same starting point

INPUTS & PRACTICES

- Meetings to review data and establish improvement strategies are scheduled at least once per term
ENGAGEMENT

CECWA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Engagement is essential – we are committed to Catholic Education’s Mission through relationships with all. The outcomes we seek are to:

- Enhance parental engagement in their child’s learning and faith formation
- Develop our people to be leaders in Catholic Education’s mission

OUR STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THIS …ensuring every child and staff member is challenged to learn, to care and to give …

ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOL COMMUNITY (QCS REF 201)

1. Continue to strengthen relationships with families in our community and the Parish through promoting the schools’ Core Values and Mission as a shared responsibility

2. Increase parent involvement in the early years with a specific focus on assisting Literacy and Numeracy teaching and improvement

KEY SUCCESS MEASURES

OUTCOMES

- School Climate Survey – increasing scores for community engagement measures

INPUTS & PRACTICES

- Observation – increased parent participation in the Literacy and Numeracy programs in Kindergarten to Year 2
ACCOUNTABILITY

CECWA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Accountability is not optional – we have personal and collective responsibility for our System’s success. The outcomes we seek are to:

- Increase understanding of our personal and collective responsibility for Catholic Education’s Mission
- Ensure inclusivity, good governance and the resource allocation required to meet our mission

OUR STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THIS …ensuring every child and staff member is challenged to learn, to care and to give...

TARGETED USE OF SCHOOL RESOURCES (QCS REF 304)

1. Develop a School Marketing Plan and implement it in a systematic manner in order to maximise the single-stream enrolment pattern of the school

2. Plan for and progress changes to K-2 classrooms and playground facilities so that they continue to be contemporary, inspiring and compliant with requirements of the National Quality Standards (NQS)

3. Prioritise budget allocations for:
   - Reading resources to support our learning focus
   - Time and resources to increase the focus on STEM subjects in the upper primary years
   - Professional Learning activities focussed on building the data analysis skills of teachers
   - Professional Learning activities focussed on ways of developing engaging teaching practices

KEY SUCCESS MEASURES

OUTCOMES

- A stronger single stream enrolment pattern is achieved by 2019 – evidenced by:
  - At least 22 enrolments at Kindergarten
  - Consistently 20+ students per class is maintained into Years 4-6
- K-2 facilities and playground spaces comply with the National Quality Standards (NQS)

INPUTS & PRACTICES

- A Marketing Plan is prepared during 2016 and implemented by the start of 2017
- Professional Learning budget is focussed and spent annually in support of this plan
DISCIPLESHIP

CECWA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Discipleship is our calling – we are committed to deepening our relationship with Jesus. The outcomes we seek are to:

- Enhance opportunities for personal faith development
- Increase enrolment of the vulnerable, poor and marginalised as a visible sign of our faith in action

OUR STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THIS ...ensuring every child and staff member is challenged to learn, to care and to give...

INTEGRATING CATHOLIC FAITH, LIFE AND CULTURE (QCS REF:102)

1. Promote a strong understanding of the School Mission and Core Values and how they are an integral part of the Sacred Heart School culture and life

2. Increase opportunities for parents and students to develop a commitment to Christian witness through provision of service to those in need in the community

KEY SUCCESS MEASURES

OUTCOMES

- School Climate Survey – Parent feedback on Catholic Culture measures show at least 80% of responses are favourable in each domain

INPUTS & PRACTICES

- The number of Christian Service opportunities for students and parents increase across the four years of this plan