



ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL CLAYFIELD

2008 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORTING

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ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORTING

Effective school reporting provides parents, staff, students and the community with meaningful information about schools. This annual report provides information as required by relevant Commonwealth and State legislation.

DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

For more than 80 years, St Agatha's has been a school where families have come to belong. We pride ourselves as being a family school with the focus of all our endeavours being on the children. We are a co-educational school with a current enrolment of 320 from Prep through to Yr 7.

Our School is integral to the life giving mission of our Parish Church of St Agatha's, located directly in front of our school in Oriel Road, Clayfield.

Together with parents, our staff seek to provide a child centered learning and teaching focus. At the very heart of our culture we celebrate God is among us in everything we do. Our curriculum, our relationships, our dreams emanate from our desire to share God's love with one another. We offer the latest in teaching and learning, technology and extra curricula activities.

St Agatha's has a number of distinctive curriculum offerings including; Early Years & Middle Schooling Philosophy, School Student Leadership Programmes, Debating and Interschool Sports and the annual Year 7 week to Canberra among many others. In addition to these curriculum offerings, St Agatha's offers varied extra curricula opportunities. These include; Tennis, Instrumental music, Band, Chess, Speech & Drama, AFL clinics, and Choir.

Our Prep, Year One, Year Six and Year Seven children are involved in a buddies program. St Agatha's School provides significant additional programs within the teaching and learning program of the school, which add value and interest for students, supplementing in enriching ways the core curriculum program offered from Prep to Year 7.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY

St Agatha's School has a vision of a school culture that promotes proactive and consistent approach to the development of positive relationships between all members of the school community. This is encouraged within a safe environment where co-operation, shared values and mutual respect are fostered and individual differences are recognised. Our policy is further developed within the policy section of our website.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

At St Agatha's we welcome parental involvement in the education of their children. St Agatha's has an extremely proactive Parents and Friends Association which encourages parental involvement and attendance at their monthly meetings. The P&F provides the school community with many activities that promote a welcoming social atmosphere for all families and provide opportunities to raise funds for specific projects, such as supporting major class areas playground building development, air conditioning, upgrading technology resources, play equipment resources and purchasing numerous classroom resources.

Parents are also encouraged to be active participants within their child's classroom. Reading parents, Art room helpers, excursion assistants, Parent Leaders for Yr 7 Canberra Tour, open classrooms, motor skill lessons & sporting carnivals, Celebrations of Learning Nights, Social Justice and Mission activities, Class parents and library assistants are a few of the ways in which parents can be actively involved with their child's education.

Parents are kept actively informed through newsletters, school blog site and other notices about school goal setting, strategic renewal objectives of the school.

We share with parents the growth and development in their child's learning in a variety of formal and informal ways:

- Fortnightly newsletter;
- Parent information nights,
- Parent/teacher interviews,
- Three way interviews including parent, student and teacher;
- Class and whole school liturgies, Eucharist and assemblies,
- Parents and Friends meetings,
- Year 3, 5 & 7 literacy and numeracy testing,
- Performances, artistic creations and projects,
- University of NSW competitions,



These reporting practices provide regular and varied opportunities for parent/carers to discuss information about student progress and provide for the diverse needs of individuals.

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Staff at St Agatha's are committed to lifelong learning by continued study in Post Graduate Qualifications. Our teachers are supported in their teaching and learning roles through a range of professional and personal development in-services/seminars provided by staff members, BCEC personnel and outside agencies.

These include:

- Understandings and input in Technology & ICTL, Mathematics & Religion
- Literacy teaching and learning
- Unit planning,
- Early Years Education
- Assessment and reporting
- Criteria sheet development
- Consistency of teacher judgement
- Behaviour Teaching and Learning
- Student Protection
- First aid , Health, WHS
- Leadership training
- Beginning teachers professional development



Percentage of teaching staff involved in professional development: 100%

Teacher Qualifications

Masters - 13% of staff

Bachelor -79% of staff

Diploma - 8% of staff

Average Staff Attendance for the School %

96.17% attendance rate

Proportion of Teaching Staff Retained from the Previous School Year %

100% of teaching staff retained from previous year.



ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL CLAYFIELD



SCHOOL GOALS 2008

All schools in the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane undergo on-going renewal in eight priority areas:

- Religious and Evangelising Mission
- Student Learning Outcomes
- Student Support
- Staff Support
- Partnerships and Relationships
- Information, Communication and Learning Technologies
- Resourcing Catholic Schooling
- Renewal and Quality Assurance

Many of our goals are ongoing throughout the current renewal cycle 2007-2011, while others are short-term. Attached to each goal are strategies which we plan to use to achieve our goals.

During this year, we will be taking a closer look at some elements of these priorities and gathering data to inform our future planning. Your assistance will be appreciated in this.

Religious and Evangelising Mission

Goals:

Assist students to identify with the world-wide Church by activities based on World Youth Day and Project Compassion.

Continue to build student spirituality.

Continue to provide inservice for teachers in both spirituality and religious education.

Student Learning Outcomes

Goals:

Collaboratively develop a vision for learning which will be used as a foundation to develop consistency in teaching and learning.

Develop processes for monitoring and tracking student outcomes, and supporting students progress from one year to the next.

Implement the QCAR framework, including new Essential Learnings and Standards and assessment and reporting practices.

Strengthen the continuity of teaching and learning approaches through increased opportunities for intra school moderation.

Strategies:

Participate in a Walk for Project Compassion and Missions activities.

Offer a youth day of celebration and prayer for our students and cluster schools.

Identify a yearly theme for the Yr 7 students which will permeate the whole religious life of the school.

Father Adrian to provide inservice to staff on the topic 'Reconciliation'.

Staff participate in a full day inservice with Fr Richard Leonard 'Lights Camera Action!' to develop awareness of the influence of the media on our lives and on our students.

Offer a Lenten Programme to staff.

Staff participate in the Multimedia Centre Film Festival.

Provide opportunities for staff prayer.

Strategies:

Provide professional development for staff to develop a consistent approach to the teaching of literacy.

Conduct an audit of reading books in yrs Prep-3 and make decisions about where reading book resources are directed.

Implement a tracking document to record student demonstration of outcomes which can be used across a student's years at the school.

Provide opportunities for end of year hand-over discussions, and decide on processes for storing and passing on folios and records.

Provide staff inservice on the QCAR framework and plan for implementation in the coming years. In 2008 raise awareness of the Essential Learnings.

Student Support

Goals:

Offer more opportunities for staff awareness of students with special needs.

Staff Support

Goals:

Provide comprehensive professional development options that enhance the current teaching and learning in the school and create new possibilities for future curriculum development. Explore options for developing a pastorally supportive staff.

Partnerships and Relationships

Goals:

Network with other local schools to assist teachers to develop their pedagogies and effective classroom practices. Offer parent education on a range of topics, to increase shared ownership of our mission and vision. RE-institute a school yearbook.

Strategies:

Create occasions for students' special needs to be communicated to all staff at the start of the year and on an on-going basis. In particular, this will include medical action plans and anaphylaxis policies.

Strategies:

Create a professional development plan for the school. Budget for professional development with release time, training costs, conference costs etc. Continue to release teachers to work with the Assistant Principal each term for co-operative planning. Provide release time for the leadership team to meet on a weekly basis.

Strategies:

Early years teachers join an early years teachers network. Establish a cluster of schools for CTJ moderation and work with these as opportunities arise. Provide parent education about a range of topics, including current government agendas and the introduction of Essential Learnings.

Information, Communication and Learning Technologies

Goals:

Offer staff inservice to develop competency in various ICT programmes and in integrating ICLTs into curriculum planning.
Set up and manage a process of acceptable use of the internet by students.
Further develop the school's website.
Maintain high quality and reliable access to the technological infrastructure.

Strategies:

Set aside time at staff meetings for staff development in technology.
Support teachers in using smartboard technology in classrooms by offering professional development.
Design a form that can be completed by students with their parents to make them aware of net and cyber safety.
Work with BCE IT services on a content management website.

Resourcing Catholic Schooling

Goals:

Work collaboratively with parents to allocate available funding and raise extra funding for projects.

Strategies:

Create a plan for air-conditioning the remaining areas of the school, including maintenance costs and replacement costs of existing units.

Renewal and Quality Assurance

Goals:

Re-examine our vision for the future, with a view to clarifying our shared understandings of Catholic Education among the whole school community.

Strategies:

Review the school's mission statement in a collaborative process during 2008.
Publish a 4 yr set of goals to drive our school community in the future.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL 2008

CURRICULUM

- First Steps Reading 12 hours across terms 2-4
- Developing our school's Vision for Learning statement
- Network Meetings Early Years teachers once a term
- Intra and Inter-School Moderation in 3rd and 4th term
- Early Years Inservices in 4th term for Yrs 2,3 teachers
- QSA Inservices—QCAR framework, Essential Learnings and Standards
- CST attends Curriculum network days.



GENERAL

- Primary Arts Network meetings
- Secretaries' Day
- First Aid and CPR re-certification
- School officer training on MAZE and financials
- WHS and Compliance Issues e.g. Fire Extinguisher training, Student Protection

LEADERSHIP

- Principal—Senior Leaders Course with Ken Avenell
- Leadership team—Internal School Renewal and Validation
- Principal— 'Developing a Performance Culture'
- APRE—Continuing Professional Development Inservice with Qld College of Teachers.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SPIRITUALITY

- Whole staff day with Fr Richard Leonard 'Lights, Camera, Action!' January 22
- Celebrating Reconciliation with students. Fr Adrian Farrelly. Jan 24
- Lenten Programme for small groups of staff in Feb/March
- Continue Spiritfire staff prayer sessions.
- Workshops and inservices offered locally in Religious Education and Spirituality.
- APRE attending Presentation Conference in August
- Principal and APRE attending launch of 'Religious Life of the School' document in September
- APRE attending LAB ORA inservice in October.

SPECIAL NEEDS

- Hearing Impaired seminar
- Downs Syndrome visiting teacher working with class teachers

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

- Whiteboard inservices
- AP attending ICT co-ordinators meeting
- Staff attending 'Multimedia Expo' in August.

SCHOOL PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Priority 1: The Religious and Evangelising Mission of School

Achievements over last couple of years

Working collaboratively with parish priest and deanery
Server training at lunchtime
Staff Prayer Fire

Future Development

Whole staff inservice in R.E. e.g. Richard Leonard
WYD focus (Aug) Denise attending
Planning and teaching modules review scope and sequence
Lenten Programme for staff
Hymn practice
Focus on values of gratitude, forgiveness, love as per Fr Richard's talk
Educating about others
Enhancing religious life whole school R.E. units
At least 1 R.E. day each year providing opportunities for spirituality and mission
Strengthen staff/parent community relationships

Priority 2: Student Learning Outcomes

Achievements over last couple of years

Peer assessment
Cross marking where available
IEPs and support programmes
Extra aide time
Mapping of outcomes for all classes leads to continuity
Learning support input into planning and reporting esp chn with special needs
Portfolios are just assessment tasks

Future Development

Continued support for children not on IEPs
More professional development teachers' choice.
Give outcomes the flick
Extra t/aide time to continue
Focus on staff PD in whatever area of literacy and numeracy needs support/improvement
Cohesive approach to teaching throughout year levels e.g. how is spelling/ reading etc taught
Scope and sequences for R.E. and Maths
CPT time reduced, more needed to plan effectively
L Support to meet with teachers after planning and in school time
Single stream teachers (Yrs 5,6, 7) more time with APRE for planning
More access to recent educational articles and inservices for all teachers.
Mentoring relationships between teachers

SCHOOL PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Priority 3: Student Support

Achievements over last couple of years

- 3.1 Whole school personal development programme
- Inservice for student protection
- Began to review behaviour management programme
- 3.2 Cultural diversity explored through curriculum programmes
- 3.3 Specialised support /aide time
- Curriculum adaptation
- IEPs
- 3.4 Staff have better sensitivity towards families who are different in structure
- 3.5 Open communication between staff and parents and specialists

Future Development

- 3.1 More awareness and better implementation of the behaviour programmes available
- 3.2 Assemblies can celebrate special occasions of other cultures
- 3.3 Whole staff awareness/education of special needs children they could come in contact with
- Better understanding of child well before child arrives and processes to inform others (wider community)
- 3.4 Focus children on the value of gratitude
- 3.5
- Safe zones for children
- Behaviour management that is whole school consistent

Priority 4: Staff Support

Achievements over last couple of years

- Good leadership team, promotes staff morale
- All have an open voice
- Opportunities to voice opinions
- Given many opportunities

Future Development

- Voice care for teachers
- More planning time one on one assessment
- Visits by Principal and Fr Adrian to classrooms
- 4PD days: options—planning, 4 days leaves one for one on one work with children or seminars
- Scanning emails to prevent in-boxes filling up

SCHOOL PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Priority 5: Partnerships and Relationships

Achievements over last couple of years

Connection with Hendra and Woolloowin and Nundah PD days etc
Lots of parental involvement

Future Development

Goal to continue to promote the religious and evangelizing mission of the school
Continue to involve P&F and PA
Conversations with St Rita's in particular
Website policies must be updated

Priority 6: Information, Communication & Learning Technologies

Achievements over last couple of years

School website/intranet/blog
Delicious
Access to laptops is improving—hopefully with re-imaging which has happened over holidays IT problems have been overcome
Powerpoint for whole school gatherings
Effective use of email
Use of Cath Ed intranet for processing of chn with special needs.
Use of photostory—revision needed

Future Development

Not rushing into things, esp technology
Staff training on technology, enhancing IT competence of staff.
Access to e-books. Subscriptions to sites.
Smart board training. Smart boards in every classroom.
More software for literacy and numeracy development for small groups.
Technology maintenance plan, so computers all work
Borrow laptops from other levels????
More ICT training, sharing of good practice within school
New computers permanently in LS room?
T/aide training in use of support software e.g. boardmaker (school time)
Teacher training in software such as 'text helper'
Acceptable use internet policy for children.
Software sharing for teachers computers at home e.g Microsoft office

SCHOOL PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Priority 7: Resourcing Catholic Schools

Achievements over last couple of years

Installation of air conditioners and long term planning for extension to all classrooms
Improvements to library and new user-friendly resource room
Catalogue of teaching resources
Library monitors system
Realistic and just fee levy system
Well resourced

Future Development

Giving more to the missions by Catholic schools
Library resourcing/ class budgets
Air con and fans to all rooms
Teacher resources to become even more user friendly—icon of teacher resources for teachers to use and look up
Computer in each classroom + LOTE, Music etc
More IT inservicing for all staff members
Purpose built rooms e.g. LOTE, music
More environmentally friendly use of resources: paper waste, water tanks, water saving heads, timed basins, spring loaded taps etc.
Lap tops for each child.
Installation rights for teachers
Prioritisation of resources.

Priority 8: Renewal and Quality Assurance

Achievements over last couple of years

Balance of staff and admin on leadership team (and changing to promote new ideas)

Future Development

More emphasis on St Agatha's Day, change day to celebrate if necessary
Intention 1.5 Refine and integrate reporting mechanisms on school performance to communities, the Archdiocese and government.
More communication with parents re outcomes and reporting

