

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL



SACRED HEART
Catholic School

GEEVESTON

"Lift up your heart"

ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT 2016

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Year: 2016

School name: Sacred Heart Catholic School

School sector: Catholic

School type: Primary

Year range: Kindergarten – Grade 6

Total enrolments: 168

Girls: 94

Boys: 74

Indigenous students: 31

Teaching staff: 18

Full-time equivalent teaching staff: 10.7

Non-teaching staff: 17

Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff: 5.25

Suburb: Geeveston

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Principal: Mr Luch Brighella

School Profile

Sacred Heart Catholic School is a co-educational school (K-6) with an enrolment of 168 students that has provided quality, child-centred education in the Huon Valley for 79 years. The school is situated on a magnificent 10 acre bushland property about 3km from the township of Geeveston. Today a dedicated and very professional staff carry on the spirit and traditions of our founding order; The Sisters of St Joseph. The school has an excellent educational reputation in the local and wider community. The school has a very comprehensive Aboriginal Education Program, and also participates in many community events and activities. Sacred Heart is a collaborative environment where staff and students work in teams, and learning takes place in small interpersonal groups. The

school offers an extensive range of specialist programs including LOTE, Physical Education, Art, Drama, Music, Band, Dance, Outdoor Education, Learning Support and counselling. Information Computer Technology is strong throughout the school with ICT fully integrated across all learning areas. In 2016, our one to one ipad program continued for Grades 3-6. With the support of the school staff, Board and parent body, the school facilitated a process to introduce a BYOD iPad Program at Sacred Heart. The school offers many opportunities for parents to work in partnership with the school, and this strengthens communication and promotes a real sense of community throughout the school.

Governance

The Sacred Heart Catholic School Advisory Board assists the Principal with the management of the school as an institute of Catholic Education and where possible, assists with major school initiatives and developments.

In 2016, the Sacred Heart Catholic School Advisory Board was:

Board chair:	Mrs Fiona Steel
Treasurer:	Mr Bashir El-Tahche
Secretary	Mr Adrian Short
Members:	Mrs Karan Spilling
	Mr Steven Richter
	Mrs Kylie Moore (joined the Board in 2016)
	Mr Martin Doyle (joined the Board in 2016)

Ex Officio:	
Principal:	Mr Luch Brighella
Parish Priest:	Father Michael Tate

Catholic Life and Mission

All staff and students joined in the celebration of Mass on many occasions throughout the year through our monthly Mass program that was very well supported by our parish priest Fr Michael Tate. Masses generally take place on site in St Joseph's Church. These included our Beginning of Year Mass, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, St Mary MacKillop and we also celebrated our Thanksgiving Mass where all in our community had the opportunity to express their gratitude for the wonderful year experienced by all. A representative group of children from Grades 3-6, attended the Catholic Education Week Mass held at St Mary's Cathedral and celebrated by Archbishop Julian Porteous, along with students from many other Catholic schools and colleges. Masses are prepared by different teaching teams thus giving each team the opportunity to both plan and celebrate these important liturgies. The Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop provided a wonderful opportunity for our community to connect with our Josephite history and charism through this celebration. This Mass was celebrated with students from St James Catholic College at St Mary's, our parish church in Ranelagh.

Classes also came together regularly for prayer at our school prayer assemblies held on Tuesday afternoons and also at the beginning of assemblies. Our prayer assemblies allowed the whole school to focus on what Jesus taught us through the Gospel stories.

The school has continued to run its Junior Joeys Program for students in Grades 4-6. These children gathered regularly to connect with our Josephite charism and organize fund-raising events responding to the famous motto of St Mary MacKillop; "Never see a need without doing something about it". Our Junior Joeys also visited Eldercare Aged Care spending time with the residents and making Christmas cards with them.

In 2016, our school Chaplaincy Program, facilitated by Mrs Leanne Hall, continued to go from strength to strength in supporting many of our students who struggle with grief, hardship, poverty, anxiety and self-esteem. Our Rainbows program continued to support children struggling with loss or family separation. Mrs Hall established a lunchtime care group that provides craft activities and pastoral care to children who either need support daily or from time to time. Mrs Hall also ran small cooking groups, and small excursions providing special opportunities for some of our children who don't get out much.

School in the Life of the Parish Diocese

In 2016 Sacred Heart continued to work very closely with Fr Tate and the Parish, with the Sacramental Program. Of particular mention was the Baptism program where seven children and a parent were welcomed to God's family through the Sacrament of Baptism. This was an excellent example of the school and parish working closely together to promote the Catholic Faith.

Sacred Heart continued to support Fr Tate and the Huon Valley Parish with the Pilgrimage to St James, with the provision of buses and drivers to help transport 150 pilgrims over a dangerous stretch of road on the pilgrimage. This support was very much appreciated by the parish.

The school community continued to show its generosity through a number of fund-raising ventures including Project Compassion, the Archbishop's Samaritan fund and Geeveston Cares. The children saw these as great opportunities to help others in our world whether they be local, within Australia or in developing countries overseas. It was great to see the qualities of love, compassion, generosity and understanding so dear to the Sisters of St Joseph, ever present in our students.

Spirituality and Outreach Programs

In 2016 a number of opportunities were provided for enriching experiences in spirituality. A number of staff were able to attend the Sydney and Tasmanian Josephite Colloquiums and found these days to be very rewarding and spiritually enriching. We were also fortunate to have Fr Michael Tate provide a number of staff spirituality sessions after school throughout the year. These were well received and provided great insight to staff as they prepared their Religious Education units of work.

2016 saw the continuation of our Breakfast Club that offered warm Milo and toast to students at our school. Banjos Bakery and Foodbank Tasmania generously supported this free program. Students, staff and parents also volunteered each week in the service of others. This was a great outreach program where we were able to support students at our school.

Eddie Rice Camps Tasmania continued to support students from Sacred Heart with school holiday camps and the Head to Heart program. These experiences supported children who do not often have the opportunity to attend camps and activities.

Sacred Heart continued to support Eddie Rice Camps and other community groups with the use of buses throughout the year. This saves community groups thousands of dollars each year which can then be re-directed into supporting the community.

Parent Participation

Parents at Sacred Heart volunteered in many different ways. They assisted in classrooms, with programs like MultiLit, on excursions and camps, with the Veggie Garden, Breakfast Club, reading, Library, Sporting events, working bees, the P&F Association and School Board to name but a few. We were very fortunate to have so many parents so actively involved at our school. Parents feel very welcome and appreciated at Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Our Parents and Friends Association continued to actively support our teaching and learning programs through fund-raising events, like the Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day gift stalls, raffles, a school disco and the Fair. The Twilight Fair was a highly successful community building event and much needed funds were also raised. The Parents and Friends Association continued to support our Move Well Eat Well Program by sponsoring the purchase of fruit and veggies for Tasty Tuesday platters and fruit stations at school sporting events. Significant funds were also provided for classroom and playground resources, ipad covers, a new \$4000 reading program, supporting the Grade 6 trip to Melbourne and also in providing new display boards in the hall. Sacred Heart is very fortunate to have so many generous and committed volunteers.

Our School Board has continued to be a wonderful support for the Principal and the school community with their vision, commitment and support they so readily provide. The Board met monthly to assist with planning, overseeing financial operations and new developments. The Board has worked tirelessly to ensure that our school is affordable for all families and that fee assistance is provided when necessary respecting the dignity of the parents within our school community. I am particularly grateful for the dedication and guidance provided by our School Board in overseeing our bus company and its complex operation of bus contracts. Special thanks to our Board Chair, Fiona Steel, who has provided great leadership and guidance and personally devoted many hours to the creation of a new Bus Operations Framework to further support our Bus Company into the future.

Our parents also supported many community and school events including:

- ANZAC Day services at Geeveston, Dover and Huonville.
- The Huon Show and many other local community events.
- Huon & Channel and STCPSSA carnivals
- The Schools Triathlon
- The Huon Valley Schools Music Concert

- Sporting Schools after school sports programs
- Sacred Heart Twilight Country Fair
- The Geeveston Christmas Pageant
- The Pilgrimage to St James

Our Learning Community

Our Learning and teaching program continues to follow the Australian Curriculum, and staff have been well supported with professional learning opportunities both at school and through the support provided by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office and other school networks.

In 2016, Literacy continued to be our major priority; and in particular, oral language. Additional reading resources were purchased through a generous donation from the Parents and Friends Association and directed to providing quality literature that students in the Early Years were able to benefit from. New libraries continued to be resourced in classrooms and new programs like the Daily 5, MiniLit, Fluency Flyers and Book Clubs continued with great success. Literacy Programs like Letters and Sounds continued and new staff members were supported with quality professional learning opportunities and Leadership/TCEO support.

Staff continued to use student data to further inform their planning of lessons and units of work. Action Maths Data was particularly useful in supporting our Numeracy Program.

The School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Framework continued to flourish in all learning areas around the school. It was very reassuring to see that students are no longer just responding to rewards, but are just being positive, safe and respectful members of our school community because it is the right thing to do.

Specialist programs continued with Drama, LOTE, HPE, Art, Music and Dance providing quality programs for our students from Kinder – Grade 6. Back to back release times provided excellent opportunities for teachers to plan and carry out a multitude of classroom responsibilities. A number of staff, student and parent surveys were conducted and the feedback provided was both re-assuring and insightful.

Sacred Heart is especially fortunate to have dedicated teachers who are forward thinking and innovative. If we are to support our students in living and working in the 21st Century, then we need to teach our students to be creative thinkers, problem-solvers, risk takers and able to work collaboratively as a team. Our staff are constantly challenging themselves and their teaching teams to provide meaningful and engaging learning experiences across all areas of the curriculum.

Literacy and Numeracy

Sacred Heart's Literacy and Numeracy results in 2016 highlighted the extensive work and commitment of staff to provide a quality teaching and learning program for our students. Teachers have spent many hours unpacking data and using it to inform their planning and preparation.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2016

Grade 3

	Sacred Heart	Similar Schools (T)	National Average
Reading	416	397 (414)	426
Persuasive Writing	417	402 (414)	421
Spelling	397	381 (400)	420
Grammar & punctuation	421	399 (418)	436
Numeracy	388	380 (394)	402

Grade 5

	Sacred Heart	Similar Schools	National Average
Reading	492	479 (495)	502
Persuasive Writing	467	461 (472)	475
Spelling	478	469 (479)	493
Grammar & punctuation	491	484 (494)	505
Numeracy	482	473 (481)	493

Sacred Heart continues to demonstrate better results than similar schools in all areas tested. Sacred Heart performed similar/better than Tasmanian schools.

It was very pleasing for Sacred Heart Catholic School to be congratulated this year for its “well above average” achievements in Reading, Numeracy and Writing. Sacred Heart was one of only two Catholic Schools in Tasmania acknowledged for this significant gain by ACARA. Whilst NAPLAN is but one assessment, this achievement is still good recognition of the progress our students have made in recent years and the excellent work being done by our very professional and dedicated teaching staff.

PAT, PIPs and ENI Testing is conducted throughout the year by class teachers and our Learning Support teacher, to assist teachers with valuable data to inform their planning of a differentiated program for all students in their care. Our student results in these assessments are also very reassuring.

Two written reports with A-E ratings were sent home to parents throughout the year and two Parent Teacher interviews were offered.

Leadership

There are many opportunities that support leadership throughout the school. Our Leadership Team works incredibly hard to support, staff, students, parents and the learning and teaching program. I am very grateful for the many and varied responsibilities carried out by our Leadership Team members; Cate Doherty, Ryan Kinder and Ronita Barratt. Their dedication and supportive approach ensures that school priorities in Religious Education, Mission, Literacy, curriculum, well-being and admin are carried out in an efficient manner.

Staff are encouraged to take up leadership responsibilities in the following teams:

- Teaching teams
- Aboriginal Education
- School Environmental Team
- Move Well – Eat Well
- School sport

Opportunities for student leadership are provided in the following areas:

1. School Captains / House Captains / Band Captains (Grade 6)
2. Student Representative Council (Grades 3-6)
3. Aussie Sports Leaders (Grade 6)
4. Junior Joeys (Grades 4-6)
5. Green Heart Warriors (Prep – 6)

Sustainability

In 2016, Sacred Heart continued to develop a Sustainability Program within the school. Class teachers continued to receive curriculum support from our school sustainability teacher. In 2016, Sacred Heart received two Keep Australia Beautiful Awards recognizing the innovative work it has been doing and also for the sustainable use of resources in its new playground development. During 2016, our school was invited to present to the Catholic Principal's Association and the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office on the work it has been proactive with in Environmental Education and use of outdoor environments. Sacred Heart is seen as a lead school in Sustainability and the environment.

Aboriginal Education

In 2016, Sacred Heart Catholic School continued to support all students in our school in Aboriginal Education. Students were able to go on cultural experiences to TMAG, Mount Misery and the Hartz Mountains. Students from Grades 3-6 worked with Aboriginal artist, Ruben Oates to develop two large Aboriginal pieces of art, which will be displayed outdoors. Aboriginal students worked in groups to maintain Aboriginal reflective spaces and our Aboriginal campsite as part of their PLPs.

School Improvement, Validation & Registration

In 2016, Sacred Heart Catholic School continued to respond to the TCEO model for School Improvement in the following domains:

- Catholic Culture and Ethos
- Leadership
- Learning Environment
- Curriculum and Teaching
- Student Learning and Achievement

This process provides a framework for goal setting and action based on feedback received from stakeholders in the community. It provides a sound foundation for decision-making, policy development and the implementation of systemic strategic development and imperatives.

Sacred Heart has engaged its key stakeholders in a way that responds well to the School Improvement Process, thus ensuring that the school plans strategically for the future needs of the school. There are opportunities for this to occur at Board, Leadership, Staff, P&F Association, Student Leadership and Team meetings. Surveys are organized, particularly after regular school events to gain feedback. The process has been school based, learning centered and future orientated.

School Improvement at Sacred Heart Catholic School is driven by a desire to enhance student learning by engaging and involving the community in critical reflection.

In 2016, Sacred Heart underwent both School Validation and Registration Processes. Both processes were quite rigorous but also provided opportunities for professional discussions to take place between panels, staff, students and community members. Both processes provided the school with many commendations to celebrate which was very reassuring for our school community.

Pastoral Care

Our Vision at Sacred Heart Catholic School promotes that all within our community can develop a relationship with God and be witness to Christ by living the Gospel values whilst promoting peace and tolerance. All in our community can work together to provide a safe, supportive, encouraging and welcoming environment. We acknowledge the role of parents as the primary educators of their children and strive to promote a school environment where Christian values are respected and celebrated.

Students in Grade 6 follow the 'Making Jesus Real Program' that provides a values based approach to teaching religion in a language that our children can both relate to and understand. The program is based on children taking responsibility for their lives now and into the future.

Sacred Heart continues to work closely with a number of agencies in the area, especially those provided through our strong community partnership with the Geeveston Child Family Centre. In 2016 Mrs Jane McKie continued as our school psychologist working with vulnerable students and their families and offering a range of support programs to assist their social and emotional well-being.

Our connections with the local schools at Geeveston and Dover continued with all schools coming together at Sacred Heart to participate in the Bravehearts Program.

Building Works

The school continued with its new playground development with the existing oval being transformed to provide a range of diverse play experiences that our students would find enjoyable and challenging. This new playground environment has provided many new play experiences for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6. It was also very reassuring to see the playground being used extensively all year round and to also note the improved behaviour of students.

This Report was prepared by:

Mr Luch Brighella

Principal

Sacred Heart Catholic School

April 2017