



# Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Primary School, Epping

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# ABOUT THIS REPORT

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Primary School (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), Diocese of Broken Bay. The CSO as the 'approved authority' for the diocesan registration system formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act (1990), is responsible for monitoring the compliance of member schools in the manner that has been approved by the Minister of Education.

The Annual School Report (the 'Report'), approved by the School's Consultant, demonstrates accountability to regulatory bodies and the CSO. Additionally, the Report complements and is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the School community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the learning and wellbeing of its students.

The Report provides parents and the wider community with fair, reliable and objective information about educational and financial performance measures as well as School and system policies. This information includes summary contextual data, an overview of student performance in state and national assessments, a description of the achievement of priorities in the previous year and areas for improvement. Detailed information about the School's improvement journey is documented in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) which is developed, implemented and evaluated in consultation with key stakeholders.

Further information about the contents of this Report may be obtained by contacting the School directly or by visiting the School's website. Information can be also be obtained from the My School website.

# SECTION ONE: MESSAGE FROM KEY GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY

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

This annual report for Our Lady Help of Christians' Catholic Primary School celebrates the 2017 initiatives of the school community.

Our committed staff continued to provide a quality learning environment, fostering academic growth and excellence whilst responding to individual student needs through differentiated learning experiences. As always, we worked in close partnership with our parent and parish community to provide a faith-filled environment supported by a strong pastoral care programme.

The purpose of this Annual School Report is to share with the wider community the profile of the school, curriculum initiatives, student performance, school improvement and community satisfaction. Parents, teachers and students have focused on the implementation of the School Improvement Plan through a great variety of initiatives which are outlined in this report.

#### Parent Body Message

The Parents and Friends Association (P&F) has worked to encourage engagement of our parent body in supporting the common goal, the quality education for children in our school. Parental engagement in learning and education involves families and schools working in partnership to build connections between the most important environments in which young people learn. Parental engagement also involves commitment on the part of schools to valuing and engaging in that partnership with parents and recognising the significant role families play in the education of their children.

The generosity of our parents has enabled opportunities for many social events as well as fund raising efforts. There is a sense of working with the school to enhance and improve standards. The P&F has worked to build positive relationships, a welcoming school environment, parental engagement in learning and wellbeing and has supported the strategic goals of the school and parish community

#### Student Body Message

In 2017 the students of Our Lady Help of Christian's School, appreciated the

many valued opportunities to participate in a range of enrichment activities including:

- Robotics Club
- Annual Debating Competition
- Annual Public Speaking Competition
- Chess
- Twice-yearly Musical Soiree
- ICAS / Maths Olympiad
- Swimming carnivals, athletics carnivals, representative rugby / cricket / netball / diving competitions
- Netball / rugby / basketball / soccer / table tennis gala days
- Specialist sailing and swimming lessons
- Social justice initiatives including Winter Sleep Out, St Vincent de Paul Hamper Appeal, Sock-it-to-Poverty and many more
- Access to independent piano and woodwind tutor
- Lunch Bunch Social Club; and many more.....

# **School Features**

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Primary School Epping, is a Catholic systemic co-educational school.

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic School is part of the Parish of Epping and Carlingford located in the Broken Bay Diocese, on Sydney's North Shore, in the centre of the shopping area of Epping. The school is a two minute walk from Epping railway station and located on the parish grounds, behind the church. With a main entrance from Cambridge Street, the school can also be accessed from Oxford Street, the main street in Epping.

The school was founded by the Parramatta Sisters of Mercy in 1908.

Under the protection and patronage of Mary, Help of Christians, we value an ongoing partnership with parents in providing opportunities for students to excel within a stimulating Catholic school environment.

The school caters for boys and girls from Kindergarten to Year 6. Students are drawn mainly from Epping, North Epping, Carlingford, Cheltenham, Beecroft, Eastwood and Marsfield. The school enjoys a positive profile in the local community and is proud of its reputation for excellence in teaching, learning and pastoral care.

In 2017, approximately 140 students drawn from a range of cultural backgrounds attended the school. Seven class teachers and three specialist teachers supported the learning.

The children walk to Norfolk Oval and utilise local facilities for weekly sport for Year 3-6 during terms 2 and 3. The school competes each year in a range of Diocesan sporting events such as swimming carnivals, athletics days, netball gala days, rugby gala days and cross country events. Swimming lessons are conducted at the Ryde Aquatic Centre for Kindergarten to Year 4 students. Years 5 and 6 students participate in surf education lessons as well as sailing lessons at Balmoral.

Twice a year, a musical soiree is conducted to encourage the musical talents of children at the school. Junior and senior choirs perform at this event along with some of the children who take up the option of piano or woodwind tutoring.

Children have the opportunity to participate in a range of other enrichment activities such as:

- Maths Olympiad competition for Years 5 and 6
- ICAS Mathematics, Science and English for Years 3-6
- Chess club for Kindergarten to Year 6
- Year 5 Epping Rotary Debating Competition
- K-6 Annual Public Speaking Competition

# SECTION THREE: STUDENT PROFILE

### Student Enrolment

Students attending the School come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities. The following information describes the student profile for 2017. Additional information can be found on My School website.

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
67	75	62	142

\* Language Background Other than English

#### **Enrolment Policy**

The School follows the *Enrolment Policy for Diocesan Systemic Schools*. The policy encourages the local Catholic community, under the leadership of the parish priest and principal, to look upon the time of enrolment as a potential occasion for ongoing evangelisation. The policy calls upon parents to examine their present faith commitments, to develop their role as prime educators of their children in faith and to immerse themselves in the communal, liturgical, ministerial and service dimensions of the parish. Copies of this policy and other policies in this Report may be obtained from the CSO website or by contacting the CSO.

# **Student Attendance Rates**

The average student attendance rate for the School in 2017 was 93.58 %. Attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group						
Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
94 %	92 %	94 %	94 %	95 %	94 %	93 %

#### Managing Student Non-Attendance

In order for students to reach their full potential it is of paramount importance that they attend school regularly. While it is the parents' legal responsibility under the NSW Education Act (1990) to ensure that their children attend school regularly, our staff as part of their duty of care, monitor all absences and work in partnership with parents to support and promote the regular attendance of students. In doing so, the School, under the leadership of the principal:

- provides a caring environment which fosters in students, a sense of wellbeing and belonging
- maintains accurate records of student attendance
- implements policies and procedures to monitor student attendance and to address nonattendance issues as and when they arise
- communicates to parents and students, the School's expectations with regard to student attendance and the consequences of not meeting these expectations
- recognises and rewards excellent and improved student attendance.

School attendance records also contain information regarding student absences including reasons for absence and documentation to substantiate reasons for absences. Teachers are required to monitor non-attendance diligently on a student by student basis and to bring to the attention of the Principal immediately any unexplained absences, non-attendance of a chronic nature, or reasons for non-attendance that cause concern. Matters of concern are referred to the Principal, the CSO and the relevant Department of Education officer where appropriate.

Where a student is not able to attend school for a prolonged period of time due to a medical condition or illness, the School in collaboration with parents, provides resources to contribute to the student's continuum of learning where possible. The CSO monitors each school's compliance with student attendance and management of non-attendance as part of the system's School Review and Development (SRD) processes. The School's attendance monitoring procedures are based on the *Procedures for the Management of Student Attendance in the Broken Bay Diocesan Schools System* (password required).

# Staffing Profile

The NSW government requires that this Report detail the number of teachers in particular categories. The following table sets out this information. Further information about can be obtained from the My School website. The following information describes the staffing profile for 2017:

Total number of teaching staff by NESA category	14
Category (i): those having teacher education qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) guidelines	14
Category (ii): having a bachelor degree from a higher education institution within Australia or one recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines but lacking formal teacher education qualifications	0
Total number of staff	17
Number of full time teaching staff	7
Number of part time teaching staff	7
Number of non-teaching staff	3

# **Professional Learning**

The ongoing professional development of each staff member is highly valued. Professional learning (PL) can take many forms including whole school staff days, subject specific in-services, meetings and conferences and a range of professional learning programs provided by the CSO. The School takes responsibility for planning, implementing, evaluating and tracking staff professional learning. Individual staff members take responsibility for their ongoing professional development. All teachers have been involved in professional learning opportunities during the year related to improving student outcomes. The following table provides specific information relating to the focus of three of these staff development days.

Day 1	Developing An Effective Writing Programme
Day 2	NESA Persuasive Writing Course
Day 3	Walking The Way Parent Formation

# SECTION FIVE: MISSION

As a Catholic community, the School shares in the mission of the local Church: "The Diocese of Broken Bay exists to evangelise, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, gathered as friends in the Lord and sent out to be missionary disciples."

In partnership with parents as the first faith educators of their children and the local parish community, the School seeks to educate and form young people in the Catholic faith. The School provides formal Religious Education as well as retreats, spirituality days and social justice opportunities in which students are invited to serve others, especially the poor and those who are marginalised.

The School's Religious Education (RE) program is based on the Broken Bay K-12 Religious Education Curriculum and aims to provide students with meaningful, engaging and challenging learning experiences that explores the rich diversity of the Catholic faith and ways in which we live it.

Faith formation opportunities are provided for students, staff, parents and caregivers. Students regularly celebrate Mass and pray together. Students are invited to participate in age appropriate sacramental and missionary activities aimed at living out their mission as disciples of Jesus.

The teaching of Religious Education and the integration of Catholic values are at the centre of teaching at Our Lady Help of Christians' Primary School. Our main goal is to ensure teachers have a thorough understanding of an authentic contemporary environment where personalised learning and high expectations engage students and promote intellectual quality. All class teachers effectively implement the Religious Education curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 6. The staff has had several Professional Learning meetings including: quality assessment through rubrics; Cultures of Thinking Routines as an RE strategy; and quality reporting in RE. A staff development day provided an opportunity to explore strategies for parental engagement and faith-formation through the Broken Bay *Walking The Way* resource. Catholic values are taught explicitly through the Religious Education program and are also modelled explicitly through integration across the curriculum, the prayer life of the school and in a range of social justice and outreach programs.

Our Lady Help of Christians' Primary School has a strong partnership with the Epping Parish. The parish priest is actively involved in the faith formation of parents, staff and students. This partnership is fostered through classroom visits, class and school liturgies, the sacramental preparation programs, Kindergarten transition and social justice initiatives.

Prayer life in the school is at the centre of the Religious Education program. Prayer is an important part of every school day and is featured at school assemblies and liturgies and within classrooms through informal and formal prayer. Parents and carers are invited and encouraged to attend all celebrations.

Our Lady Help of Christians' Primary School's social justice and mission programs for students are centred on our four main organisations. Founded by the Mercy Sisters in 1908, we continue to keep the Mercy values central to our school's mission by supporting their works in Candela, Peru by purchasing craft items made by this community. We also support Caritas, Catholic Mission and Saint Vincent de Paul by holding mufti days, theme days, liturgies and fun activities for students. These initiatives are promoted by the Year Six social justice leaders. A parent social justice group was formed in 2016 and through collaboration with the parish priest, principal and REC, a "Winter Car Sleep In" was organised to raise money for the Hornsby Kur-ing-gai women's shelter.

# **Primary Curriculum**

The School provides an educational program based on, and taught in accordance with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) syllabuses for primary education. The Key Learning Areas (KLAs) are English, Mathematics, Science and Technology (S&T), Human Society and its Environment (HSIE), Creative Arts (CA) and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). In addition to this, the School implements the Diocesan Religious Education syllabus. Staff members are committed to continuous improvement of teaching and learning in all facets of the curriculum.

During 2017 teachers were involved in a number of curriculum initiatives.

Professional Learning for staff was focussed on maintaining and extending student growth in writing, especially narratives. Teachers participated in a 12 hour online Narrative Writing module accredited by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). This provided an in-depth study and analysis of each component comprising quality student writing. Staff also attended a whole day Diocesan writing conference hosted by internationally recognised presenters in this field. The main focus was developing teachers' knowledge of engaging and creative strategies to enhance the quality of each student's writing.

The school participated in and supported the Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) program. A whole school assessment day was conducted at the start of 2017 in order to collect and analyse student data. As a result, a cohort of Year 1 students was chosen to participate in the EMU intervention program. The teaching staff implemented Mathematics assessment tasks with a differentiated class focus on either the counting, place value, addition/subtraction or multiplication strands.

Structured learning support programs responded to each student's point of need whether academically, physically, socially or emotionally. The learning support teacher worked in classrooms implementing and supporting individual education plans.

#### NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. An analysis of these results assists the School's planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

The tables below show the percentages of students who achieved particular skill bands in the aspects of literacy and numeracy compared to students nationally. Literacy is reported in four content strands (aspects): Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. Numeracy is reported as a single content strand. Students who were exempted from any test were deemed not to have met the national minimum standard in that test area and are not included in band distributions. Additional NAPLAN student performance information can also be accessed from the My School website.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2017		% of students in the top 2 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
			Australia	School	Australia
	Grammar and Punctuation	90.00 %	55.50 %	0.00 %	10.50 %
	Reading	80.00 %	51.60 %	0.00 %	10.00 %
Year 3	Writing	85.00 %	44.60 %	5.00 %	7.50 %
5	Spelling	75.00 %	45.60 %	10.00 %	13.10 %
	Numeracy	65.00 %	39.80 %	10.00 %	11.40 %

NAPLAN RESULTS 2017		% of students in the top 2 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
			Australia	School	Australia
	Grammar and Punctuation	66.67 %	34.40 %	0.00 %	17.50 %
	Reading	72.22 %	37.00 %	0.00 %	14.60 %
Year 5	Writing	38.89 %	15.80 %	5.56 %	19.40 %
	Spelling	55.56 %	34.30 %	0.00 %	14.10 %
	Numeracy	61.11 %	27.90 %	5.56 %	14.60 %

#### **NAPLAN Comments**

The School achieved strong results in Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN in 2017. The table above shows a very significant percentage of our students achieved in the top two bands compared to national figures. Further, the mean score for both Year 3 and 5 for each domain was well above the NSW cohort. For example, in Year 3 Reading, the school mean was 519.9, well above the state mean of 436.5. In Year 3 Numeracy, the school mean of 512.9 was well above the state mean of 444.3. In Year 5 over half of the students scored in the top two bands in Reading, Numeracy, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation. Again, all mean scores for Year 5 were above the state. For example, in Year 5 Numeracy, the school mean of 544.4 compares most favourably with the state mean of 499.6. Of particular note is the consistently higher mean scores, year after year, for both Year 3 and Year 5 across all domains compared to state results. This indicates the impact of our continued high expectations, quality teaching practice and student engagement.

# **Pastoral Care Policy**

The School's pastoral care and student wellbeing policies guidelines and procedures are informed by the *Pastoral Care Policy for Diocesan Systemic Schools*. This policy is underpinned by the guiding principles from the *National Safe Schools Framework (2013) (NSSF)* that represent fundamental beliefs about safe, supportive and respectful school communities. These guiding principles emphasise the importance of student safety and wellbeing as a pre-requisite for effective learning in all Catholic school settings. The *Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework for Learning for the Diocese of Broken Bay Schools System* (the 'Framework') utilises the NSSF ensuring that diocesan systemic schools meet the objectives of the NSSF at the same time as meeting the diocesan vision for pastoral care and wellbeing. The framework includes ten pathways that are intended to assist school communities create safe and supportive environments that foster positive relationships which enhance wellbing and learning for all students. Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the CSO website or by contacting the CSO. There were no changes made to this policy in 2017.

# **Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy**

The School's policies and procedures for the management of student behaviour are aligned to the Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy for Diocesan Systemic Schools. Policies operate within a context of social justice, compassion, reconciliation and forgiveness. The dignity and responsibility of each person is promoted at all times along with positive student behaviours whilst ensuring the respect for the rights of all students and staff. Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the CSO website or by contacting the CSO. There were no changes made to this policy in 2017. Note: the policy on the CSO website is the updated policy for implementation in 2018.

# Anti-Bullying Policy

The School's Anti-Bullying guidelines and procedures are based on and informed by the *Anti-Bullying Policy for Diocesan Systemic Schools* and is aligned to the *Pastoral Care Policy for Diocesan Systemic Schools* and other related wellbeing policies and guidelines. All students, their families and employees within Catholic education have a right to a learning and work environment free from intimidation, humiliation and hurt. Anti-Bullying policies support school communities to prevent, reduce and respond to bullying. Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the CSO website or by contacting the CSO. Changes were made to this policy in 2017 to reflect evidence based practice and to clearly articulate roles and responsibilities of members of the school community.

## **Complaints Handling Policy**

The School follows the *Complaints Handling Policy and Procedures for Diocesan Systemic Schools.* A distinctive feature of this policy is to ensure that complaints are addressed in a timely and confidential manner at the lowest appropriate management level in order to prevent minor problems or concerns from escalating. The expectation is that complaints will be brought forward and resolved in a respectful manner recognising the dignity of each person concerned in the process. The policy recognises that a number of more minor or simple matters can be resolved without recourse to the formal complaint handling process but rather, quickly and simply, by discussion between the appropriate people. Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the CSO website or by contacting the CSO. There were no changes made to this policy in 2017.

# **Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility**

Our school has an embedded Wellbeing program to promote student resilience and good mental health, enabling each to achieve their potential.

A number of specific programs and strategies are utilised for this purpose. Some of these strategies include: the identification and tracking of individual 'at-risk' students on the SEL continuum, K-6 *Bounce Back* program teaching good mental health strategies, Code of Conduct outlining students responsibilities to themselves and others; and, the annual K-6 Anti-Bullying program as part of the PDHPE curriculum.

Each year the students lead and participate in a number of outreach social justice efforts including Project Compassion, Candela-Peru Education Sponsorship Initiative, Winter Sleepout Appeal, Sock-it-to-Poverty and the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal.

All Year 6 students take on the responsibility of a Leadership Role / Ministry in their final year of primary schooling. Each role is a ministry of service where students share their unique talents and abilities with the wider community through such roles as School / Vice Captains, Sport Captains, Wellbeing Captains and Kindergarten Buddy Captains as an example.

Strategic planning ensures a common purpose and agreed values are established. In Broken Bay systemic schools, this common purpose and agreed values along with goals, targets and key improvement strategies are documented in the School Improvement Plan (SIP). This SIP is a three year planning document and is used to record the School's progress in working towards priorities for improvement in three domains: Mission, Pastoral Care, Learning and Teaching. School improvement planning is supported systemically by the Diocesan *Leading Learning* initiative. This initiative is research based and has been developed in partnership with the University of Auckland. Building on *Leading Learning* in the Learning and Teaching domain, the Diocesan *Learning Principles* guide improvement strategies toward high quality contemporary learning.

# Key Improvements Achieved

In the area of mission, students have developed a greater ability to assess and improve the quality of their RE assignments using an assessment rubric. A focus on parent formation through the Walking the Way programme, saw an increased number of parental participants each session as well as the attendance of parents at the Parent Spirituality Retreat.

In the area of learning and teaching, students have demonstrated an increased engagement and achievement in narrative writing. The Geography and History syllabuses have both been introduced and the teachers have continued to evaluate their Science and Technology programs.

In the area of pastoral care, students are able to increasingly use SEL language to describe their feelings and actions. This was supported by the use of the *Bounce Back* program and the introduction of wellbeing week.

# Priority Key Improvements for Next Year

The following targets have been developed for 2018:

- In the area of mission: students will be able to demonstrate a deeper knowledge and understanding of their Catholic Identity
- In the area of learning and teaching: students will demonstrate increased engagement and achievement in writing with specific evidence of student growth in persuasive writing
- In the area of pastoral care: students will achieve Social Emotional Learning benchmarks in the nominated common core area of self-management.

# SECTION TEN: COMMUNITY SATISFACTION

The opinions and ideas of parents, students and teachers are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving improved outcomes for students. This year, a variety of processes have been used to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, students and teachers.

# **Parent Satisfaction**

Parents responded positively to the parent formation sessions held during the year as part of the Walking the Way Program. They were appreciative of the opportunity to reflect on the daily joys and challenges of being a parent and celebrate their own family's faith journey.

Parent feedback specifically noted the following:

- happy, engaged and enthusiastic students
- welcoming and connected community
- dedicated staff who respond to the individual needs of each child
- diverse and inclusive culture with strong partnership between the school, parish and parents
- good academic results

#### Student Satisfaction

In 2017 the students of Our Lady Help of Christian's School, appreciated the

many valued opportunities to participate in a range of enrichment activities including:

- Robotics Club
- Annual Debating Competition
- Annual Public Speaking Competition
- Chess
- Twice-yearly Musical Soiree
- ICAS / Maths Olympiad
- Swimming carnivals, athletics carnivals, representative rugby / cricket / netball / diving competitions
- Netball / rugby / basketball / soccer / table tennis gala days
- Specialist sailing and swimming lessons
- Social justice initiatives including Winter Sleep Out, St Vincent de Paul Hamper Appeal, Sock-it-to-Poverty and many more
- Access to independent piano and woodwind tutor
- Lunch Bunch Social Club
- and many more.....

# **Teacher Satisfaction**

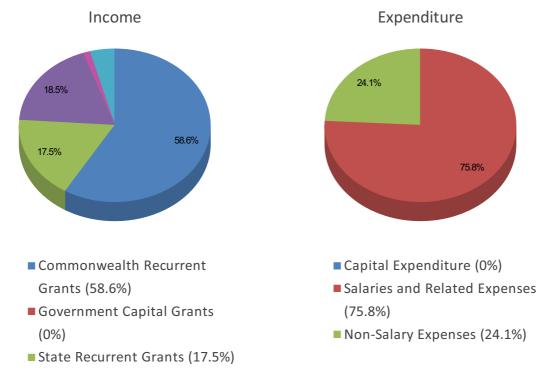
The school offers a supportive environment and the staff is committed, caring and responsive to the needs of the students and their parents.

The teachers expressed a high degree of satisfaction with:

- the positive partnership between staff, students and parents
- their collaborative involvement in decision-making
- supportive nature of the school leadership in relation to professional endeavours and growth

# SECTION ELEVEN: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Consistent with the NESA requirements, financial income and expenditure for the School is shown below. More detailed financial data is available on the My School website. Diocesan system financial reporting can be found in the Broken Bay Diocese Annual Report.



- Fees and Private Income (18.5%)
- Interest Subsidy Grants (1.2%)
- Other Capital Income (4.3%)

<b>RECURRENT and CAPITAL INCOME</b>				
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants	\$1,228,639			
Government Capital Grants	\$0			
State Recurrent Grants	\$366,126			
Fees and Private Income	\$387,347			
Interest Subsidy Grants	\$24,990			
Other Capital Income	\$89,217			
Total Income	\$2,096,319			

<b>RECURRENT and CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>			
Capital Expenditure	\$375		
Salaries and Related Expenses	\$1,521,149		
Non-Salary Expenses	\$483,949		
Total Expenditure	\$2,005,473		