

Sacred Heart Primary School

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BOGGABRI, NSW 2382

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Parish Priest: Fr Vic Ignazio

Parish: Sacred Heart, Boggabri

Principal: Mr Rick McEvoy



Annual School Report 2007

Mission/Vision Statement

Sacred Heart School encourages children and staff to grow as persons within the context of Catholic education. To this end, it is a place where: The school philosophy and procedure are continually evaluated in light of the Gospel values of Love, Truth, Care, Justice and Peace. The developmental holistic approach to learning is implemented. Parents are involved in all aspects of school life. Children are exposed to a variety of experiences. The spiritual and professional development of staff is encouraged.

About this Report

Sacred Heart Primary School is registered by the Board of Studies (NSW) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale, the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990. The annual report provides parents and the wider school community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The report describes achievement of school development priorities in 2007 and gives information about 2008 priorities. This Report complements and is supplementary to school newsletters and other regular communications. This Report is sent to the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale for validation with the requirements of the Education Act 1990 before being forwarded to the Board of Studies. The validated report will be available on the CSO website early in the 2008 school year. The school's Diocesan Education Consultant also validates that the school has in place appropriate processes to ensure compliance with all NSW Board of Studies requirements for Registration.

Principal's Message

2007 has been a year of consolidation for Sacred Heart. The embedding of A-E Reporting practises and quality learning pedagogy continues and will again be a focus in 2008. Assessment procedures incorporating capacity matrices and rubrics are being developed. The goals of the National Safe Schools Framework continue to be promoted through the ARM (Attitude, Respect and Manners) Program including reading to the residents of the local hospital, a buddies session each week and participation in social justice efforts such as Caritas and St Vincent de Paul campaigns. We also held our Values Forum and are in the process of developing a new School Mission Statement. The school is entering an extremely busy phase as we approach next year's registration audit which will take place in May 2008. This has and will continue to involve extensive review of the schools policies and procedures, educational programmes and outcomes and the management practices used. This year the Diocese introduced new Annual Development and Strategic Management Plans which we are adopting and against which the school will be measured next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for the way they continually take up new challenges and for their commitment to improving teaching practice, in engaging with their

students and in their ongoing relationship with the wider community. It has been an extremely busy and productive year and staff do a wonderful job managing in all circumstances.

Parental Involvement

This year has been one of mixed fortunes for Sacred Heart. Current enrolments have fallen to 34 students, however, with substantial Kinder numbers and a Catholic Schools Office commitment to similar staffing levels for next year we can start the new year on a positive note. Much of the School Board's attention was devoted to finding the best way to promote our school. The purchase and installation of a school message sign has resulted in some very positive feedback. Funding for a number of projects for the school is assured. Extra to the funding already received is another Investing In Our Schools Programme commitment of \$20000. Ideas for the use of this new grant include computers, interactive whiteboards, library refurbishment and some external repairs to the school. A number of successful working bees were undertaken and substantial work carried out on the gardens and grounds. I look forward to an enjoyable and productive year to come. School Board Chairman

Student Leadership

In 2007 I was elected school captain for Sacred Heart School, Boggabri which was a job I always wanted. During this time I represented the school on many different occasions including Lions Club education week and the Boggabri Business awards night.

As well, I helped conduct school assemblies every term and conducted the end of year presentation night. What I liked most about being school captain was that I was able to represent the school, try to set a good example for others to follow and I also liked helping and looking after the younger children. I hope next year the school captain will do a good job. School Captain 2007

School Profile

School History

Sacred Heart, Boggabri, was founded by the Sisters of St Joseph in 1911. The Sisters of St Joseph were founded by Blessed Mary MacKillop, who died in 1909, so possibly the creation of a convent and school at Boggabri were amongst her last decisions. Until 1918, the Sisters conducted School in the

church. Fr Daniel Keane was made Parish Priest of Gunnedah in 1918 and in that year he built a new school, which occupied the site of the present school building in Boggabri. In 1965 a new brick building was opened and blessed by Bishop E J Doody. The administration building was added in 1985 and blessed by Bishop H J Kennedy. The Sisters of St Joseph were in charge of the school until 1980 and continued to teach until 1984 with Sr Roseanne being the last Sister to teach at the school. The old convent was replaced by the building in which Sr Maria now resides. Since then the school has been staffed entirely by lay people and continues to serve the educational needs of the area. Sacred Heart receives funding from the Country Areas Programme which is used to address Literacy, Numeracy and Technology priorities and other problems associated with isolation.

Location/Drawing Area

The town of Boggabri is located midway between Gunnedah and Narrabri on the Kamilaroi Highway and is situated on the banks of the Namoi River. It is a township of approximately 900 people and has two primary schools which serve the needs of the mixed farming community. Our student population is drawn from within a 25km radius around Boggabri and surrounding districts.

Enrolment Policy

Sacred Heart Primary School follows the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools policy Enrolment of Students in Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale 2002. This document can be obtained from the school office or is available on the Catholic Schools Office web site: <http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au>.

Student Enrolment

Year	Boys	Girls	Total
2005	22	29	51
2006	15	27	42
2007	11	23	34

Student Mobility

Student numbers in 2007 were smaller due to a large Year Six leaving at the end of 2006 and a smaller Kinder enrolment. Seven students left the school during the year due to families leaving the area for work or personal reasons. Student numbers for 2008 are forecast to be similar to 2007. There were two new enrolments throughout the year and six were taken in the Kindergarten enrolment for 2008.

Student Attendance

The average daily attendance for 2007 was 94.7%.

Structuring of Classes

Class structures for 2007 were: Kindergarten (1) Year 1 (4) Year 2 (7) - 12 students Year 3 (6) Year 4 (7) - 13 students Year 5 (3) Year 6 (6) - 9 students

Staff Profile

In 2007 Sacred Heart had a teaching principal, one full time and two part time teachers. Sacred Heart was able to support students with identified additional needs through the employment of two part time Learning Support Assistants. Administrative support was provided by a secretary/librarian. Teaching staff have post graduate qualifications in Religious Education. Years of experience are as follows: Full time staff - 24yrs, seven yrs Part time staff - 30 yrs (non continuous) and 24 yrs (non continuous). At the end of 2007 no staff left Sacred Heart.

The average daily staff attendance rate for 2007 was not provided because "The staff attendance figure is not reported as the number of teachers in the school is smaller than the threshold for which this information is provided."%

Teacher Standards

Teacher qualifications fall into 1 of 3 categories for all teaching staff responsible for delivering the curriculum.

Teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by AEI - NOOSR* 100%

Have qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia within AEI-NOOSR* guidelines but lack formal teacher qualifications 0%

Do not have qualifications as above but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context 0%

* Australian Education Institution - National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition

Staff Professional Learning

In 2007 various professional learning opportunities sponsored by the Armidale Catholic Schools Office were taken as follows: Maths Policy and Assessment Plans English Programming Additional Needs Days Values Forum Dynamic Assessment Reporting A-E Assessment Workshops Primary Writing Assessment marking Count Me In Too/Counting On Basic Skills Test Writing Marking ELIM Leadership Course Some professional learning opportunities came from Country Areas Programme initiatives such as: Cap Digital Portfolios Smartboard Training Visual Tools Practical Maths Rob Pirozzo Workshop Tony Ryan Workshop Weekly staff meetings were an opportunity for the staff to share their experiences of participation in professional learning.

The average expenditure per teacher on professional learning for 2007 was \$2364.

Catholic Identity

Religious Education Program

Sacred Heart Primary School follows the Armidale Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student text To Know, Worship and Love as authorised by the Bishop of Armidale, Luc Matthys.

Liturgical Life

The school celebrates Mass two or three times per term in consultation with Fr Vic. Sacramental programs for Eucharist (four students) and Reconciliation (three students) were conducted. Confirmation is held every two years so the next one will be 2008. Feast and Holy days are celebrated in consultation with Fr Vic but this year included the Feast of The Sacred Heart, All Saints Day and Ash Wednesday. Parents are invited to participate on all occasions. A training program is held for altar servers and there are currently three students active in this ministry.

Staff and Student Faith Formation

Staff were involved in a twilight retreat which focused on the text of 'The Washing of the Feet'. Staff prayer is held on a weekly basis and all staff share responsibility in turn for its preparation and delivery as with masses. Some staff attended a Retreat Day run by the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale and it is a school goal to increase this occurrence. Besides the sacramental and religious education programs children participate in regular school and class prayer and also prepare public prayer for

assemblies at relevant times such as at Easter. This year units of work have incorporated material and themes in preparation for World Youth Day which will be held in July 2008.

Year 6 Religious Education Test

	Diocesan (%)	This School (%)
Average score 2005	63.1	56.4
Average score 2006	66.5	66.8
Average score 2007	69.6	66.7

Social Justice

The whole school community was involved in a number of fundraising activities including Project Compassion, Children’s Mission and Jump Rope For Heart for children’s medical research. The local conference of St Vincent de Paul were supported through the donation of food, clothing and toys for their winter and Christmas appeals. Also this year has seen children raising money for the World Youth Day activities of the parish.

Parish Links

Sacred Heart School has a very close working relationship with Sacred Heart Parish. Fr Vic Ignacio is the parish priest and administers the parish through St Francis Xavier’s, Narrabri. The principal attends regular Parish Pastoral Council meetings and assists in joint activities such as the annual Fete. Fr Vic is on the School Board and the interests of both the parish and school are served by this structure allowing communication and planning to occur. An example of this is the 2008 World Youth Day activities for Boggabri.

Respect and Responsibility

An initiative of 2007 was to further expand the ARM program (Attitude, Respect and Manners). This program focuses on the values enshrined in school behaviour policies and enhances the strong school culture of providing a balanced curriculum in an environment which is safe, friendly and supportive of individual needs. It also encourages further cooperation between students, parents and staff. The goals of the National Safe Schools Framework continue to be promoted through this program including reading to the residents of the local hospital, a buddies session each week and participation in social justice efforts such as Caritas and St Vincent de Paul campaigns. Fundraising was done for Mothers Day, Christmas and World Youth Day.

School Curriculum

Sacred Heart Primary School follows the Board of Studies syllabus for each subject offered (as required for registration under the Education Act 1990) and implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Schools Office.

Features of the School Curriculum

This year the school has been very much involved in the development of assessment plans which reflect the strategies used by teachers to allocate grades. Further to this staff have been using capacity matrices and rubrics as assessment tools and over the next few years these techniques will be embedded in school practice. Some initiatives of the school in 2007 which responded to the needs of students included the use of funds from the Country Areas Programme. Learning outcomes for students were enhanced through Quality Learning Strategies integrating technology objectives particularly introductory work using interactive whiteboards in the classroom. Teachers further refined their professional skills with inservicing on higher order thinking strategies, practical Maths and the use of visual tools. Information and Communication Technology outcomes were significantly improved through the Digital portfolios Project. An extensive orientation involving parent information meetings, craft days, testing and new class day was implemented to allow student needs in the new Kindergarten to be assessed. The programme this year included a new initiative of having current parents share an afternoon tea with the prospective parents so that questions can be explored in a social atmosphere. To support students at risk a thorough system of tracking and testing across Kinder to Year Six is in use. Students are supported through reading and maths in class assistance by parents and withdrawal for small group work with the Additional needs Focus Teacher. Gifted students are offered support through access to web based activities such as Webquest, curriculum acceleration and the services of the Gifted Education Research, Resource and Information Centre. Other expanded learning opportunities have included participation in such events as International Day Competition, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Week program, Multiple Sclerosis and Premier’s Reading Challenge, Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Competition, school excursions and Northwest Science Challenge amongst others. This year the school was able to update its Information and Communication Technology hardware through the acquisition of ten new computers through the Catholic Schools Office. This has enhanced the quality of network usage in the school. A comprehensive sporting

program exists with three major carnivals through which children may reach diocesan, state and national representation. In swimming there were 14 regional representatives, seven diocesan and five children achieved state level. In cross country there were 14 regional representatives and 2 diocesan representatives. In athletics there were 12 regional representatives. Three children represented the school in horse sports. This was our second year of Tennis for sport and the skill development of children was very evident. The cultural program includes performance at the Gunnedah Eisteddfod at which Sacred Heart came first in the Small Schools Section. At the Boggabri and District Small Schools Public Speaking Competition all students participated. Four students achieved first, three, second and four third, in their sections.

Student Performance

Sacred Heart Primary School uses a variety of assessment strategies at key points in the learning framework. These include teacher observation, portfolios, projects and presentations. The school also participates in the state-wide literacy and numeracy testing program for the purposes of diagnosing individual learning needs and reviewing whole class teaching programs. Information on student progress is communicated on a regular basis and opportunities exist for external assessment results to be discussed with parents on an individual basis annually.

Basic Skills Test

There were seven Year 3 and four Year 5 students who sat for the 2007 Basic Skills Test. Year 3 is reported in Bands 1-5; Year 5 in Bands 1-6, with Bands 5 and 6 respectively being the highest.

Year 3

Literacy: 0% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 14% of students in Band 5. The best performance was in *Writing*, followed by *Reading* and *Language*.

Numeracy: 28% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 0% of students in Band 5. The best performance was in *Number, Patterns and Algebra*, followed by *Measurement and Data, Space and Geometry*.

Year 5

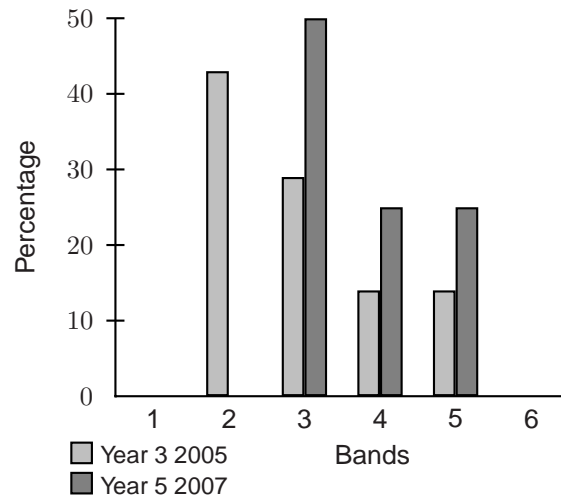
Literacy: 0% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 33% of students in Bands 5 and 6. The best

performance was in *Reading*, followed by *Writing* and *Language*. The percentage of students with learning growth for *Overall Literacy* greater than the expected one skill band was 100%.

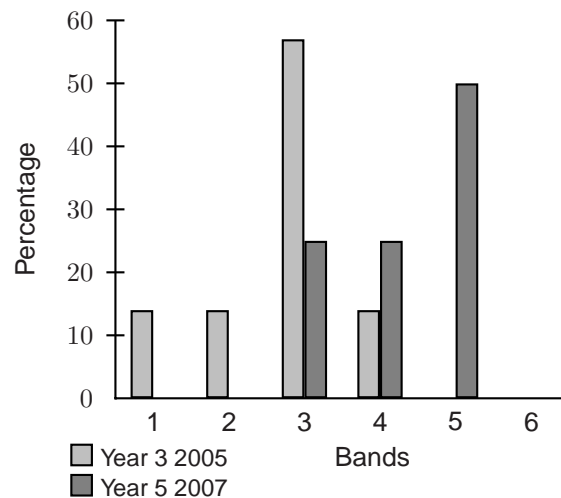
Numeracy: 0% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 50% of students in Bands 5 and 6. The best performance was in *Number, Patterns and Algebra*, followed by *Space and Geometry* and *Space and Geometry*. The percentage of students with learning growth for *Numeracy* greater than the expected one skill band was 100%.

Comparison of Cohort

Literacy



Numeracy



National Benchmarks

The table below indicates as a percentage the Year 3 and Year 5 of students achieving the national benchmarks.

	Year 3 (%)		Year 5 (%)	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Reading	100%	100%	100%	100%
Writing	87%	100%	100%	100%
Numeracy	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: National Benchmarks not included as they have not yet been published

School Policy Summary

Student Welfare

Sacred Heart Primary School seeks to provide a safe and supportive environment which:

- minimises risk of harm and ensures students feel secure
- supports the physical, social, academic, spiritual and emotional development of students
- provided student welfare policies and programs that develop a sense of self-worth and foster personal development

The school's Pastoral Care Policy is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese.

As part of our pastoral approach Sacred Heart pairs younger students with older students. The most effective partnerships have at least two years between the students. The experience provides children with stimulating opportunities for learning skills and social development. Time was allocated once a week for thirty minutes. Activities done at this time include reading, literacy games, art, drama and PE/Health. An extension of this has been visits to the local hospital to read and sing to the elderly residents. Participation in the buddies programme enhances cooperative learning behaviours and promotes a favourable school atmosphere.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available by enquiring at the school office.

No changes were made to the Pastoral Care Policies in 2007.

Discipline Policy

Sacred Heart Primary School bases its Discipline Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policies Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese, Policy On Suspension, Expulsion Or Exclusion Of Students In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale and Management Of

Drug Related Issues In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale. These policies are based on procedural fairness and are discussed with students on a regular basis. In compliance with the NSW Education Reform Act 1990, corporal punishment is banned in ALL Armidale Diocesan schools.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available by enquiring at the school office.

No changes were made to the Discipline Policy in 2007.

Complaints and Grievance Resolution Policy

Sacred Heart Primary School procedures for resolving concerns and complaints is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Complaints & Suggestions Policy for the Diocese of Armidale. This policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that members of the school community must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive, conciliatory environment. The full text of school and diocesan policies are available by enquiring at the school office.

Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

Each year schools are asked to evaluate practices to ensure they are meeting the needs of the school community. All students and parents were surveyed. Of the parent surveys 10 out of a possible 22 were returned. An analysis of the survey revealed the following areas of strength. All parents reported that the school was providing opportunities for parental involvement, the Catholic tradition was taught, the school provided a safe and supportive environment and challenged their child to maximise learning outcomes. There is a strong belief the school strives to meet individual learning needs and shows a genuine interest in the welfare of their child, gives appropriate information about the progress of their child and gives adequate preparation for future education. The survey also indicated parents thought there was generally plenty of communication about activities and events and the buildings and grounds were clean and safe. All students reported they understood their rights and responsibilities at school. Most reported satisfaction in such areas as being helped to understand the Catholic faith and feeling safe at school and were happy with the sporting opportunities provided. Students were also happy that they were encouraged by their teachers and that they had someone to approach if their was a problem. The majority were proud of their school,

felt they were encouraged by their teacher and that the school was preparing them for secondary education. Staff were pleased in all areas of the work environment particularly the dedication and enthusiasm across the school, the efforts to cater for individual needs and the professional development opportunities available to meet these needs. There was a sense that there are many wonderful things happening in our school and we should promote them more widely! Our greatest challenge is falling enrolments.

School Review and Development

Annual School Priorities 2007

The following were selected as major goals for the 2007 school year.

Catholic Identity - That the values and principles underpinning the Catholic Culture of the school were understood and shared by the whole school community.

Policies and Procedures - That a school approach to develop and implement policies and procedures which reflect current best practice and support the best interests of staff, students and parents be developed.

Financial Management - Sound financial accountability and management practices to ensure sustainable and equitable delivery of school services.

Pastoral Care Programs - Develop structures which enhance pastoral and Safe and Supportive Environment objectives including Peer Reading Programme and continue Attitude, Responsibility and Manners programme.

Curriculum Implementation - A dynamic approach to curriculum delivery that caters for, supports and challenges each individual student and a pedagogical approach that is built on action research and innovative practices.

Analysis of Student Assessment - To develop assessment plans/policies for each key learning area and review practices of meeting students learning needs and challenging students through Quality Teaching strategies in line with diocesan objectives.

Projected School Priorities 2008

The values and principals underpinning the Catholic culture of the school be understood and shared by

the whole school community through encouraging greater involvement of students in prayer and celebration.

Staff prayer will be a shared experience of reflection and promote a deeper spirituality within our professional and school context.

Review of sacramental preparation.

Continue to develop the capacity of the school in technology hardware, software and staff expertise, particularly in regard to literacy/numeracy outcomes, through professional development and material acquisition.

Update school resource lists and plant inventory as a tool for future planning.

Maintenance schedule to be reviewed with Occupational Health and Safety in mind.

Development of a School Representative Council as a leadership development initiative, a pathway to school leadership and to enhance the safe and supportive environment capabilities of the school.

All staff and students to be surveyed and participate in resilience training in accordance with National Safe Schools Framework guidelines.

Major Achievements from the 2007 Annual Plan

The following items were selected as major achievements from the 2007 school year.

Updated scope and sequences in line with changed class structure.

Continuation of inservicing for staff in Special Education/Gifted and Talented Education.

Staff attendance of spiritual retreats.

Record keeping – establishment of a school system with responsibility shared by all staff.

School values forum and the development of a new mission statement.

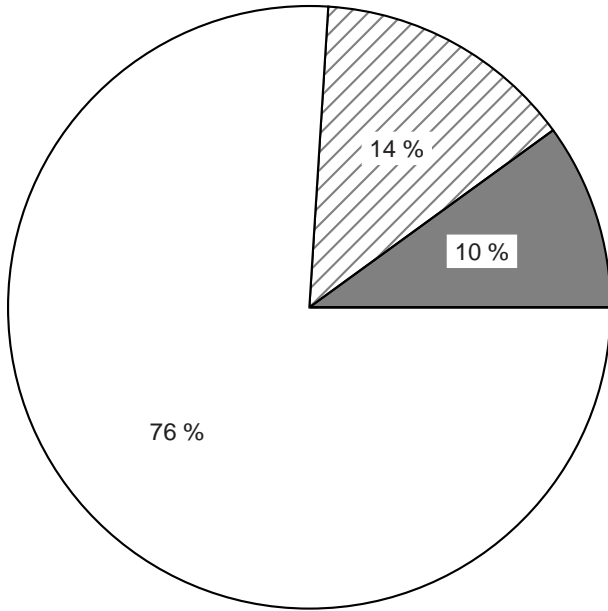
Growth results of Basic Skills Test scores in students from years Three to Five.

Expansion of Attitude responsibility and Manners programme to include Buddies Reading and Community Contact Reading.

Country Areas Programme Digital Portfolios Project - a school based system of student work storage and display.

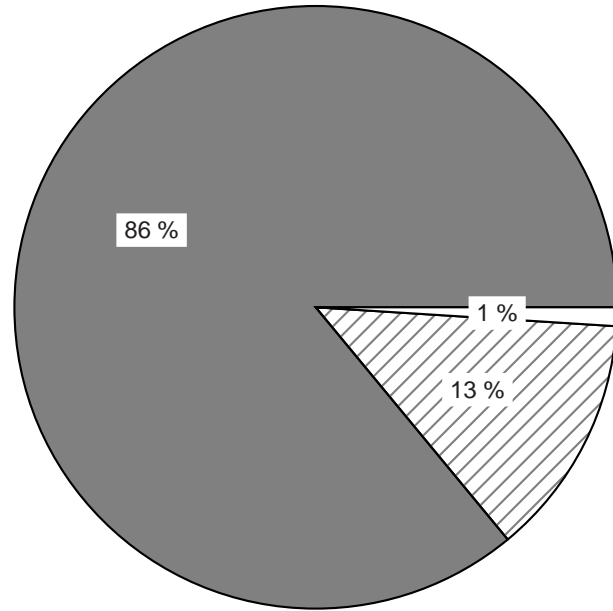
Financial Statement

Income



- fees and private income
- ▨ state recurrent grants
- commonwealth recurrent grants
- ▩ government capital grants
- ▧ other capital income

Expenditure



- salaries, allowances and related expenses
- ▨ non-salary expenses
- capital expenditure

The information in this report has been verified and the priorities endorsed by the Director of Catholic Schools and the school's Diocesan Education Consultant.