

St Emilie's Catholic Primary School

ANNUAL SCHOOL PRIORITIES 2013 – 2014



Catholic Identity - School Priorities 2013 in Review

- We investigated the **VISION AND MISSION** QCS component, which looked at the extent to which St Emilie's mandates, encourages and practically incorporates the Catholic faith into the classroom and school community.
- We continued to implement and refine the 'Parish Based, Family Focused, School Supported' model for the St Emilie de Vialar sacramental program in partnership with key parish leaders.
- We sought to meet the needs of families by incorporating a mid-week Parent/Child Workshop in addition to the existing Saturday afternoon timeslot.
- Our school vision will be more prominently displayed in classrooms and other appropriate buildings in 2014.
- All classes now have a picture of St Emilie within their prayer/sacred space. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit being focused on is also visually represented. We are looking to incorporate other faith symbols within our school grounds in the future – hopefully harnessing the artistic talents of Father Chien who is also a talented sculptor.
- We have maintained the authentic implementation of the St Emilie's Catholic Primary School Evangelisation Plan – Fruits of the Holy Spirit focus across the school. Each Fruit is highlighted for a 4-5 week period with emphasis made in the newsletter, staff communications and during 3-Way Interviews. Our new LED sign will also allow our focus to be highlighted within the wider school-parish community.

Catholic Identity - School Priorities in 2014

- In 2014 we will be investigating the **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION** QCS component which looks at the extent to which staff integrate Catholic Social teachings into the classroom, with a special understanding of respect for individual differences and the provision for the marginalised.

- It also looks at the extent to which environmental practices are incorporated and how school community members – students, staff and parents are encouraged to be part of the decision-making process.
- This component follows on from our Vision and Mission component and aligns well with providing more service learning opportunities, highlighted as a need by students and staff during our whole school focus on Social Justice in Term 3 2013.

Education – School Priorities 2013 in review

- We investigated the **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT** QCS component which looked at the extent to which the staff provide a pastoral staff-student relationship environment where there are learning opportunities in which all students can participate to achieve their potential.

We believe we have a strong pastoral dimension within our school with the needs of individuals being identified and catered for. This is validated by our survey data with students, staff and parents ranking this area highly. With the introduction of research based whole school assessment tools, we are confident in our knowledge of student's strengths and challenges. The development of mixed level data teams to analyse data and plan targeted learning experiences is also seen as a positive outcome of our 2013 initiatives and will continue to inform and strengthen our teaching and learning into the future.

- We investigated the **VISION FOR LEARNING** QCS component which looks at the extent to which St Emillie's nurtures relationship with the community to benefit the children and the degree to which these relationships are organized and monitored for transparency to the community. We have been working towards the alignment of the Australian Curriculum, the Early Years Learning Framework and the NQS (National Quality Standards) documents and have continued to consolidate our whole school Science environmental focus, using our Banksia Bushland and maintaining quality community partnerships. The introduction of our Open Nights and the Kindy/PP Play Dates offer parents the opportunity to see their child in the classroom context, view samples of their child's work, experience activities first hand and hear all about their child's learning.
- We have continued to further Integrate ICT across the curriculum with every student and staff member being encouraged, supported and challenged along the way. Staff and students have been provided with expert support and opportunities for personal development. We are beginning to see real creativity, connection and growth with classroom and shared devices becoming another tool for learning. A new MOW with 16 Macbooks has been ordered and will be available for class use in 2014.
- In response to student data, we have been implementing the NPP Numeracy focus of Mental Computation and have seen quality improvement in individuals and cohorts.
- Our practice in the areas of critical and creative thinking and the Inquiry approach to learning has been further developed and advanced. We have also refined our knowledge in the area of thinking skills across all learning areas.

Education – School Priorities in 2014

- In 2014 we will be investigating the **ASSESSMENT** QCS component, which looks at the extent to which the school's assessment policy is comprehensive, understood and shared in the school community.

Community – School Priorities 2013 in review

- This year we investigated the QCS component **ENGAGEMENT WITH FAMILIES** QCS component which looks at the extent to which the school values, includes and supports all parents in their children's lives.

- We have ensured that our policies and practices celebrate families as valued and active partners in student's experiences of schooling. We are investigating ways of ensuring more effective communication with non-English speaking parents.
- We see our Parent Night, Open Nights, 3-Way Interviews as positive ways we engage our St Emilie families.
- We continue to refine the implementation of the 'Parish Based, Family Focused, School Supported' model for the St Emilie de Vialar Sacramental Program and provide a solid connection to the parish for our families.
- Through the review of the Quality Catholic Schooling Framework component Engagement with Parish and Church, we have continued to strengthen communication with the Parish and organised for the sharing of resources and facilities. We have established a positive relationship with our new Parish Priest, Father Chien and continue to nurture community ties through Leadership involvement with the Liturgy Committee and Parish Pastoral Council.
- Through the review of the Quality Catholic Schooling Framework component Cultural Diversity we have continued to recognise, value and respond to the diversity of cultures within the St Emilie's School Community.

Community – School Priorities in 2014

- In 2014 we will be consolidating actions associated with the various aspects of Community including Engagement with Parish & Church, Wider Partnerships and Engagement with families.

Stewardship- School Priorities 2013 in review

- This year we investigated the QCS Component **ACCOUNTABILITY & COMPLIANCE** which looks at the extent to which the school understands the role of the system, the government, the church and the community, and the extent to which the school articulates, implements and accounts for requirements of these bodies.
- Using information and feedback from the School Audit, compliance reports, Annual Reports, Staff records, COSI and other Census' St Emilie's has met system requirements and those relating to government requirements (State & Federal), the church and community.

Stewardship – School Priorities In 2014

- In 2014 we will be investigating the QCS components relating to **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING** which looks at the extent to which staff participate in professional development and the extent to which this professional development has been researched to provide relevant, innovative and collaborative learning to add to student achievement and **STAFF WELLBEING** looking at the extent to which the school establishes a healthy workplace environment upheld by effective staff development and a transparent recruitment process.