St Bernard's Catholic School

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT – 2010

School Name:	St Bernard's
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Principal's Forward

St Bernard's Catholic School, founded by the Sisters of St Joseph, shares in the educational mission of the church as part of St Bernard's parish.

Our vision is that learning is child-centred, where children are prepared as life-long learners to meet challenges as compassionate Christian members of our community.

Our mission is to develop and nurture an environment where children learn about themselves, their world and God by working in partnership with families, staff and the parish community, by valuing the diversity of all members of our community, and by experiencing and living a Christian life in the Catholic faith.

Our school motto - Your Light Guides - describes both the path to life as shown to us by Jesus Christ, as well as the guiding light of knowledge.

Each year priorities from our School Renewal Plan are developed and implemented throughout the year.

Value-Added by School

See attached report at end of report on Achievements for 2010 relative to School Renewal Plan Goals.

School Profile

St Bernard's School is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane. It is a co-educational Primary School with total enrolment of 402 students - 202 girls and 200 boys.

Curriculum Offerings

While religious education is a priority the Key Learning Areas of English, Maths, Science, H & PE, SOSE/History, Art (Prep - Yr 5), Music (all years), and LOTE (Japanese Yrs 6 & 7) are taught.

Information Communication Technologies integrated throughout all year levels

I.T. teacher to support the development of skills.

Employment of part-time teaching staff in the areas of Library and ESL (English as a Second Language) Part-time Support Teacher Inclusive Education teacher and Guidance Counsellor employed

First Steps - Reading inservice undertaken by teachers as a way of improving teaching pedagogy

Part-time Literacy Support Teacher employed

Part-time Curriculum Support Teacher employed

Part-time School Chaplain

An outdoor education program undertaken by Year 7 students

All year levels participate in a dance program during one term.

Extra Curricula Activities

Instrumental music/band program

Junior and Senior choirs

Drama lessons

Cooking lessons

Netball

Touch football

Soccer

Cross-country training

Interschool sports

Faith Friends with parish

How Information and Curriculum Technologies are used to assist learning

Data projector and laptop in each classroom

Electronic Interactive Whiteboards in each classroom

Laptop program for each teacher

Weekly ICLT lessons in computer lab.

Whole school wireless network

Integrated I.T. learning activities across all KLAs - integrated into planning and learning of class units

Creation of Learning Objects and multimedia projects

Social Climate

St Bernard's is a welcoming community with many families of various cultural backgrounds.

Staff are highly supportive of not only the learning environment but the school as a whole.

With the employment of part-time Guidance Counsellor and part-time School Chaplain there is much support for the students. Focus is on promoting school-wide positive behaviour with friendship group activities for some students on a number of days. Homework support occurs one afternoon a week to support students by members of the parish.

Other activities which occur throughout the year include:

P & F Association monthly meetings, School Board monthly meetings

Welcome BBQ, Working Bees

Spring Fair, Trivia Night, Christmas Carols Night

Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day morning teas

Morning teas after class masses and liturgies

Sports Day, Swimming Carnival, Cross-Country carnival

Band introduction and celebration nights

Parent / Teacher nights, B.E.R.N.I. positive behaviour support

Year 7 performance, Under 8's Week activities

Student Discos

Whole school assemblies, Easter celebrations, ANZAC Day celebrations

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Satisfaction of the school has been gathered through various methods. Data gathered from internal reviews and during an external review of the school has provided valuable information indicating a high level of satisfaction. At parent/teacher information nights and parent/teacher interviews information is gained. Parents and Friends Association and School Board meetings are utilised to gain information regarding the school. Student Council (Year 7s) meetings are another way that information is gathered. Constructive comments by school community members highlight areas requiring attention.

Parental support of the school is high. Interaction by staff with parents is demonstrated in one way by staff turning up to school Working Bees and also working on stalls of the Spring Fair.

Involving parents in their child's education

Parental involvement at the school is encouraged. Processes to involve parents in their child's learning is frequently initiated by the class teacher inviting parents to an evening information session which gives an outline of the coming year. School newsletters are forwarded to parents regarding activities at the school while most teachers forward home monthly newsletters pertaining to their child's class activities.

Weekly school newsletters are available from the school website. While written communication to parents occurs there are many informal opportunities to inform parents of activities.

Some ways parents are involved include:

Parent/teacher information evenings and interviews, teacher availability for other meetings, class newsletter, reading helpers, craft activities, sporting activities or coaching, Class Convenors, classroom helpers, homework helpers, on excursions, group rotations, Under 8's Week, and special class events.

Parents are also encouraged to join the whole school at liturgical celebrations and weekly whole school assemblies.

Staff Profile

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff
Headcount	25	15
Full time equivalents	20.1	8.6

Highest Level of Attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	
Masters	2
Post Graduate Diploma	7
Bachelor	13
Diploma	3

Expenditure on teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2010 was $36200
The major professional development opportunities were as follows:

- First Steps - Reading
- Australian Curriculum - English
- Australian Curriculum - Maths
- School Wide Positive Behaviour Support
- Religious Life of School - Charism of St Bernard
- ICLT - Use of interactive strategies in the classroom

Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was 97.2 % in 2010.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2009 school year, 96% of staff were retained by the school for the 2010 year.
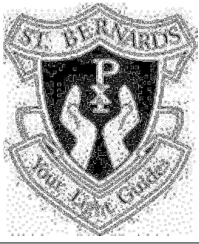
Key Student Outcomes

Attendance
Student attendance - 2010 The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2010 was 93 %.

Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Domain	Measures		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7	Yr 9
Reading	Average score for the school in 2010		392.2	484	546.2	
	Average score for Australia in 2010		414.3	487.3	546	573.6
	For the school percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2009	98.1%	91.5%	100.0%	
		2010	88.5%	92.0%	96.3%	
Writing	Average score for the school in 2010		416.9	503.2	550.6	
	Average score for Australia in 2010		418.6	485.2	533.4	567.7
	For the school percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2009	92.7%	91.7%	100.0%	
		2010	92.3%	92.2%	100.0%	
Spelling	Average score for the school in 2010		407.4	482.9	557	
	Average score for Australia in 2010		399.2	487.1	544.6	564.3
	For the school percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2009	100.0%	91.7%	100.0%	
		2010	92.3%	92.2%	98.1%	

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OUR VISION

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OUR MISSION

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"Your Light Guides"

Religious and Evangelising Mission of Schools / 1

Achievements of 2010

Implement the Religious Life of School document and examine elements

Investigate life of St Bernard and St Mary MacKillop

Examine characteristics of a charism

Development of school charism drawn from life of St Bernard and St Mary MacKillop

Select aspects of charism presented at weekly whole school assemblies

School promotion of parish sacramental program

Weekly/fortnightly meetings of admin staff with parish priest

School choir to sing at parish Mass on Palm Sunday and special events

Staff attendance at workshop on prayer and ritual

Goals

To develop and implement a charism throughout the school based on the life St Bernard and St Mary MacKillop.

To successfully address different elements of the Religious Life of the School document into the school charism.

For the school to be further involved within the parish.

Student Learning Outcomes / 2

Goal

That whole school curriculum plans align with the new national curriculum and other best practice pedagogical approaches

Achievements of 2010

Teaching focus on Literacy

Staff participated in First Steps – Reading inservice

Inservice on new Australian curriculum

Professional conversations regarding curriculum occurred among staff and with other schools

Planning occurred within year levels

New Maths curriculum examined

Support for specific identified students given with programs developed

Utilisation of support of Advisory Visiting Teachers

Achievements of 2010

Playground incident data examined

Staff discussion regarding trends evident

BCE Student Behaviour personnel utilised

Staff discussion for school involvement in School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program

Implementation of Phase II of program

Pro forma devised to collect playground incident information

Playground data reviewed

Professional development specifically addresses learning priorities

BCE staff engaged for professional development days on Literacy

Goal

To provide positive behaviour support for students across the whole school, classroom and playground.

Staff Support / 4

Goals

For staff to engage with new Queensland College of Teachers professional standards

To develop a strong learning community

Achievements of 2010

BCE consultant engaged for staff in-service regarding school vision and mission and its correlation with staff interaction

Induction program carried out for new staff

Professional development for staff on teacher performance with relation to QCT professional standards

Inservice on goal setting for teachers

Utilisation of BCE personnel for in-service and continuing support

Staff review of school Vision and Mission Statement

Partnerships and Relationships / 5

Achievements of 2010

Term curriculum overviews presented to parents

Articles published in school newsletter regarding curriculum issues

School formal report revised

Input obtained from parents through school regarding policies developed

Development and revision of policies

Employment of School Chaplain / Pastoral Worker

Consolidation of Class Convenor role

Goals

Improve written communication regarding curriculum programs

Refine reporting procedures about student progress

Improve communication between school and home

Expand School Board policies with respect to changing regulations and needs

Information, Communication and Learning Technologies / 6

Goal

To embed, and further develop, ICLT learning and teaching practices within all curriculum key learning areas for all students

Achievements of 2010

Audit conducted of I.T. resources

New desktop computers purchased in readiness for I.T. lab

Audit of teacher laptop use

Computer hardware purchased through use of National School Pride funds

One digital still camera purchased for each class

Interactive Whiteboards purchased and installed in each classroom

Achievements

Budget reviewed

Review of physical layout of school

Devise feasible plan which complies with BER guidelines

Dialogue with architect, carry out tender process, engage builder

Constant dialogue and review of project with builder and architect

Organise building opening ceremony

Audit needs of classrooms

Develop prioritised list of required classroom resources

Purchase resources when possible and within budget to address needs

Staff attendance at "Creation…We Care" professional development

Daily school practices audited with regard to paper usage

Strategies devised and implemented to reduce

Goals

To implement revised Master Plan

To complete BER Project

To resource classrooms

To implement sustainability practices where possible

Renewal and Quality Assurance / 8

Goal

To implement monitoring of school processes and to successfully carry out internal review practices

Achievements of 2010

Acquittal of school financial records

Acquittal of financial support received for BER project

Administration staff member attended monthly Finance Council meetings or reports provided to Finance Council

End of year report furnished to School Board

Input at monthly Parents and Friends Association meetings regarding school renewal progress