OUR LADY OF MERCY PRIMARY SCHOOL
GIRRAWHEEN

SCHOOL LEVEL PLAN
LOW SES SCHOOL COMMUNITIES NP

2013

KEY CONTACT AT SCHOOL: Drew Jago
PURPOSE OF NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP IN LOW SES SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Funding provided through the Commonwealth Government Smarter Schools National Partnership Program, along with co-investment from the Western Australian education sectors and schools, is designed to build the capacity of Western Australian schools to contribute to the achievement of the following five higher level outcomes:

- All children are engaged in and benefitting from schooling
- Young people are meeting basic literacy and numeracy standards, and overall levels of literacy and numeracy achievement are improving
- Schooling promotes the social inclusion and reduces the educational disadvantage of children, especially Indigenous children
- Australian students excel by international standards
- Young people make a successful transition from school to work and further study

The Catholic Education Office National Partnership for Low SES School Communities;

- Aims to improve literacy and numeracy achievement across all years of schooling
- Provides a focus on strategies which will raise attendance and allow students who move between schools to be tracked and supported
- Supports schools to raise the resilience and engagement of students
- Aims to assist in up skilling staff, particularly Aboriginal Teacher Assistants
- Is contextualised in whole school improvement initiatives
- Links closely to initiatives in other National Partnership Programs
- Where involving schools with Aboriginal students, especially in the Kimberley, aligns to key policy strategies such as the ‘Closing the Gap’ strategy and the ‘Indigenous Education Action Plan Draft’.

Reporting in this National Partnership will occur against key reforms and milestones and will include qualitative and quantitative data which describe the degree of participation, the key processes and important outcomes, especially those that relate to improved student achievement and attendance.
**School Profile**

Our Lady of Mercy Primary School is a Catholic co-educational and multicultural school catering for children from Kindergarten to Year 6. Our school continues on with the work of the Sisters of Mercy - the school motto of Integrity and Gentleness and Religious Education forms the basis of our daily life. We have specialist teachers in Music, Art, Physical Education, Dance and Movement, Italian and Library. We have literacy and numeracy coordinators, a Reading Recovery teacher (Second Wave) and an EMU (Mathematics) coordinator who assist students who may be struggling, particularly with their literacy and numeracy skills. The school offers specialised programs in Mathletics (Years 4-6) and Lexile Reading to support classroom literacy and numeracy. A range of extra-curricula activities in the Arts, which include Wakakirri, school band, guitar lessons, and Physical Education including basketball and soccer training which help to develop the physical and educational needs of the students. Our staff are dedicated to catering for the development of the whole child - intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Our Vision is to build a collaborative learning community in which people reflect a love of God and a love of one another.

**Involvement and Support in Specific Low SES Projects**

**Extension of Bluearth Program**

The Bluearth Program has a proven record in developing social, emotional; interpersonal, personal and physical attributes of students. This typically leads to students who are healthier, more engaged and exhibiting increased attendance rates. This project provides financial and other support to participating schools. The financial support allows for visits to the school by accredited Bluearth trainers as well as support to train other staff members.

The specific outcomes of this project relate to enhanced interpersonal, personal, health and engagement outcomes which are recognised as being essential for improved learning.

**Targeted Initiatives: Non-Kimberley Schools**

To further expand the Extending the School Day model, this project will enable an extension of the type of services available for students and parents alike.

At Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, their project is titled *Meeting Children’s Oral Language Needs*. The focus of this project is on:

- Speech Therapy Screening for all Pre-Primary children, that is conducted in partnership with Curtin University
- Ongoing teacher training and mentoring in areas such as classroom language programs and, English as a Second Language teaching and assessment
- Parenting/early play sessions with siblings one, two or three years of age, incorporating structured play based sessions.

The specific outcomes of this project relate to raising student achievement and reducing educational disadvantages, through the use of additional ‘wrap-around’ services in the school and local communities.

**Funding**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific National Partnership Project</th>
<th>Low SES School Communities NP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australian Government Funding Allocated</strong></td>
<td>$45,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Western Australian Co-investment – CEOWA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>School Co-Investment</strong></td>
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