ST JOHN’S SCHOOL
RANGEWAY

SCHOOL LEVEL PLAN
LOW SES SCHOOL COMMUNITIES NP

2013

KEY CONTACT AT SCHOOL: Maureen Barrett
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

St John's School is a single-stream Catholic co-educational parish school catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 6, with an enrolment of 230 students. The school is located close to the regional centre of Geraldton. St John's School was established in 1969 by the Presentation Sisters with the St John's Parish. The focus of St John's School is to provide quality Catholic education to all students. The school is centred on Christian values whereby all members treat each other with respect and dignity. The school community works together to nurture the whole development of each child and to provide pastoral care for each person.

The School’s Mission Statement is to:

1. Provide a Catholic, caring, supportive environment in which students can grow in God's likeness.
2. Develop each individual spiritually, academically, physically, socially and emotionally to his or her full potential.
3. Assist the development of self-esteem and respect for others, so that each of our students becomes a positive, contributing member of the community.

St John's School is characterised by its strong sense of community and tradition and has maintained the character of a small country community school. A number of families have had 2 to 3 generations of their family attend the school. The cultural heritage of each person and of all cultures is valued and embraced.

St John's School has a strong emphasis on catering for children needs and talents, offering a variety of experiences and learning opportunities and well established programmes to develop the whole person. The emphasis on effective Literacy development is embedded in well-established Literacy programmes based on RAISe (Raising Achievement in Schools) principles. Early Intervention programs have been a feature of the school's education strategy in recent years, through the use of PIPS, Observation Surveys, Reading Recovery and Early Intervention Support teacher in the Pre-Primary to Year Two classes.

Alternative structures for the teaching of Mathematics in Year 3 to Year 6 include a Split Gender Mathematics programme for Space and Measurement, Targeted Mathematics groupings across Years 5-6 and the use of the Mathletics programme from Year 1 to Year 6. St John's School implements the Primary Connection Science program and specialist programmes in the areas of Art, Music, Cultural Studies and Information and Communication Technology. The integration of ICT within the school and classroom is a strong component of the learning experiences within the school.

Involvement in local school and community sport is a feature of the school, with staff and parents generously giving their time to coach a number of netball, soccer, football, hockey and cricket teams. A specialist teacher is employed to implement the Blue Earth Physical Education programme. The children from Years 1-6 participate in daily fitness 4 mornings a week and in a rotation of sporting activities on Friday afternoons.

The School Board and Parents and Friends' Association have a strong commitment to the school maintaining a welcoming and aesthetically pleasing presentation and high quality facilities and resources to meet the needs of members of the school community.

Involvement and Support in Specific Low SES Projects

Intensified Literacy Support

This project provides additional support to Low SES schools to improve levels of Literacy and Numeracy. A Geraldton Regional Office consultant visit Geraldton schools on a planned cycle to provide in situ support and training. The specific outcomes of this support will be to
increase levels of literacy and numeracy across all years, but with a specific focus on those students at or below benchmarks and in early years of schooling.

**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 St John’s School, their project is titled *Early Literacy Intervention: Pre-Primary – Year 2.* The focus of this project is on:

- Identifying significant Literacy needs in the Early Years
- Up skill staff to be better able to provide Literacy programmes suited to the specific needs of the students.
- Increase collaboration and transition was developed between the Reading Recovery teacher and classroom teachers to ensure the skills and strategies learnt in Reading Recovery were continued when children returned to the classroom literacy programme.
- Effective use of data to identify children’s learning needs and as a basis for differentiating the curriculum to cater for children specific learning needs.

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>$43,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Western Australian Co-investment – CEOWA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School Co-Investment</strong></td>
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