ST MARY'S SCHOOL
NORTHAMPTON

SCHOOL LEVEL PLAN
LOW SES SCHOOL COMMUNITIES NP

2013

KEY CONTACT AT SCHOOL: Justin Tuohy
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 Mary's School, Northamton is a small co-educational Catholic primary school situated 475 km north of Perth. The current enrolment is 80 students from Kindy-Year 7. St Mary's was originally established in 1874 and has a rich history of service by several religious orders; most notably the Presentation Sisters whose involvement spanned 90 years. The first lay principal arrived at St Mary's in 1990. The school uses the RAiSe Literacy (Raising Achievement in Schools) philosophy and is also actively involved in both the Primary Connections Science and First Steps Maths programs. Specialist programs in the areas of Art, Information Technology, Physical Education, Science and Japanese also operate at the school. Information Technology is embedded into all learning areas as there are interactive whiteboards in every classroom as well as a lab which provides one computer per child. An effective early intervention program is also in place. St Mary’s has a vibrant and committed staff, an active and supportive parent body and strong links with the parish and the local town community. Based on the school motto, ‘For God and Country’, the school community is focused on providing a holistic education for all students with an emphasis on their spiritual and academic development.

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, at St Mary’s School their project will focus on further extending their Intensified Literacy Support NPP, by investigating:

How do we ensure that all our students have the necessary comprehension, vocabulary and grammar skills?

The project will look more deeply into the strategies that children need in order to comprehend texts through the use of professional readings, developing our knowledge of best practice and professional development. Essential to all of this is the use of our Key Teachers, Literacy Coordinators and School Support Consultant to help create a program of professional development to address this area of focus in our Professional Learning Community meetings.

In order for this to be a successful program, the school will involve all teachers from Kindergarten onwards to ensure that reading comprehension conversations and terminology, coupled with vocabulary and grammar skills, becomes a focus so that they can build a strong foundation of understanding in all students.

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.
### Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific National Partnership Project</th>
<th>Low SES School Communities NP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Government Funding Allocated</td>
<td>$39,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australian Co-investment – CEOWA</td>
<td>$17,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Co-Investment</td>
<td>$22,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>