

27th August 2024

Response to Government Inquiry into Discrimination and Bullying in Tasmanian Schools

This submission addresses the particular areas of (b) and (d) of the terms of reference: (b) inquire into and report upon the measures necessary to prevent and remedy discrimination and bullying in Tasmanian schools in regard to students and staff (d) examine and recommend what efforts are being made and should be made towards meeting those obligations by Tasmanian schools in regard to students and staff

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is a Kindergarten to Grade 6 school located in Launceston, educating 445 students.

· Our school is a safe place for students because

Our school community actively promotes and seeks to make our school a safe place. We aspire to welcome all students regardless of their background. We make provision for children who require special consideration.

We reflect on what takes place in our school and use those learnings to make changes.

· We welcome families who seek the education we provide

Our school openly advocates for a diverse and inclusive community. Our demographics are a reflection of society by the nature of the broad range of families that enrol in our school community.

 \cdot We have zero tolerance for bullying. We use the following program/s to encourage respect, courtesy and consideration for others

The programs we use to support the children in our school include

- UR Strong
- Frendezy
- Eddie Rice
- RADAR

Children are taught specific skills within these programs and more.

· We welcome families from the margins

Our community is made up of many cultures and broad demographics. No family is turned away from Sacred Heart because of where they come from.

· We provide fee assistance for families in genuine need by

From the commencement of the enrollment phase families are openly encouraged to seek assistance with fees. This includes follow up communication to see how we can assist. We actively advertise fee relief.

• We believe that student well-being comes from being accepted and welcomed and from experiencing success in learning. All of our education programs are aimed at these goals. Specifically, we utilise the following programs and structures...

- PBS
- Ruler
- Circle of Life
- MJR

 \cdot Our religion classes teach everyone about God's plan for our happiness and the importance of every person and \ldots

Within our religion classes all children are taught the importance of love. Love for themselves, their environment and one another. We actively promote social justice. Class masses and liturgies are a connection with the parish that complements the teachings of our school.

 \cdot We support pastoral care in our school by

Pastoral care is supported at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School by

- Vertical Pastoral care groupings
- Well Being Teacher
- Play Therapy
- Counselling
- RADAR Team
- Whole school celebrations Red Day, Green Day, Feast Day
- Buddies

· Parent/Guardian Feedback

'I really appreciate you taking the time to call today. It is so nice to have the support of the school community and one of the reasons I always wanted the boys to get to go to a catholic school, like I did.'

Listening to current families at an enrollment interview for their soon to be Kinder child this comment was made.

'I love the family and community feel about Sacred Heart. The children love coming to school because of how they feel.'

· Student Feedback

• I like my school because

'I love my school because I can be me amongst all of my community.'

'I love my school because we have so much fun together. Even the sad times, like when teachers died, we did them together.'

• The teachers at my school ...

'The teachers at my school care. They care about me and everyone.' 'The teachers take their time to know you and your interests.'



Brent Wilson Principal Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School