



Sacred Heart Primary School Highgate

School Performance Data 2025

Information relating to Schools

The following information is an Australian Government requirement and pertains to the 2025 calendar year.



Contextual Information

Sacred Heart Primary School is a Catholic, co-educational parish school comprised of approximately 240 students from Pre Kindergarten to Year 6.

Sacred Heart is a multicultural inner city school community, serving the areas of Highgate, Mt Lawley, Perth, East Perth and Maylands. Founded in 1897 by the Our Lady of the Mission Sisters, the Sacred Heart School motto of "**Faith, Truth and Loyalty to Gospel Values**" embodies the tradition and lifelong learning of the students of Sacred Heart Primary School, Highgate.

The School offers a holistic education embracing the intellectual, spiritual, emotional, social and physical development of all students. Christian values support the pastoral care programmes throughout the life of the community. Student leadership is developed through the Student Councils and class meetings. Literacy and Numeracy are strongly promoted with quality class teaching supported by the early intervention programmes of support. Digital learning is integrated across the curriculum. Specialist teachers enrich student learning in Science, Visual Arts, Music, Italian and Physical Education. Sacred Heart Primary School is actively engaged in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival and Interschool Sporting Carnivals, and has been recognised at system, state and national levels, for its commitment to outstanding STEM education and the STEM Design Process that operates in all classes.



History

Matthew Gibney (Bishop of Perth from 1887-1910) had a vision to open a school on Highgate Hill. He reserved two acres of land to be set aside for a church and school both to be dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He believed it was important for people to be educated in their faith and that Catholic schools were the appropriate place for this to happen.

Timothy Quinlan, MLA and a Catholic layman, suggested that the school could be operated by the Sisters from the Order of Our Lady of the Missions. Subsequently, discussions were held with the Superior General, Mother Mary of the Holy Rosary, who visited Perth on her way home to New Zealand from France. It was decided that the Sisters would open a school.

The Sisters were strong women who were ahead of their time. They had a strong passion for missionary work, which emanated from their founder, Euphrasie Barbier. "The strength, the passion and joyful perseverance which is the driving force behind the lives of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions came from their conviction that they are united with Christ. They know that they are not alone. They are united with him in a bond of love." (United for Mission, Anne Fry, 1997)

Five Sisters from small rural communities in New Zealand; Sister Mary St. Irene, Sister Mary St. Eudoxie, Sister Mary St. Gregory, Sister Mary St. Martina and Mother Mary St. Genevieve arrived at Highgate on Tuesday, 12th October 1897. The school opened on 25th October 1897 with thirty eight students. By the end of the first week, twenty four more students enrolled and a piano had been purchased, beginning a long tradition of music education at Sacred Heart. The Sisters were confronted by the challenges of harsh conditions, driving heat, flies, mosquitoes, and minimal resources. However, they were sustained by their belief in God, and their call to mission. The school offered both Primary and High School places and operated in a timber and iron church building before moving to a convent school building in 1899. From 1914 to 1980 the school operated in the purpose built parish building. The High School moved to Sorrento in 1980.

In 1996 the school was faced with the real possibility of closure. Through a concerted effort by the school community of the time, the school remained open. Major renovations were carried out in the early 2000's to bring the school facilities to what we now enjoy. The convent and school buildings are listed on the State Register of Heritage Places.

Since its inception, more than two hundred Sisters have been a part of the Sacred Heart community, and today, their legacy continues courtesy of a dedicated lay staff. With a lay principal and staff, the school continues to keep close to the original spirit and ministry of service that the founding Sisters established. The school enjoys a very close relationship with the Parish. Sacred Heart Primary School is highly regarded by school and parish families, and a significant number of the school's students are second and third-generation members, whose parents and grandparents were students of the school. The teaching and non-teaching staff are hard working, and committed to providing a high level of pastoral care and quality education to the students. The school's Leadership Team consists of the Principal, and an Assistant Principal (covering the roles of Administration and Religious Education), who also leads the Junior and Upper Clusters. This team is also supported by a Curriculum Co-ordinator and an Early Years Co-ordinator.

There are specialist programmes in the areas of Music, Physical Education, Visual Arts, Italian, and Science. The school is well resourced in all areas, and also enjoys the advantage of being able to host a provider of After School Care in the Hall facility, for access by parents of the School Community.

The contribution of parents in the school is strongly encouraged and is a feature of Sacred Heart Primary School.

*There exists a **Sacred Heart Primary School Advisory Council**, and its function and responsibility is to oversee the financial management of the school, and prepare for strategic and future planning, and the **Sacred Heart Primary School Parents and Friends Association**, which is the body through which parents can make a more formal contribution to the life of the school, through fundraising and the development of social networks.*

School Improvement Plan- Key Goals

- Provide quality teaching and learning experiences for all students, that are relevant, engaging and future focused.
- Maintain a consistent approach to pedagogy within all year levels, and ensure technology is embedded into daily classroom practice, to support literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students.
- Adhere to the staff constructed Charter for Early Childhood Education, and implement it consistently, to ensure compliance with all system requirements (National Quality Standards).
- Maintain and enhance the physical environments to ensure they are well maintained, inviting and conducive to effective learning.
- Continue with the school's implementation of the Evangelisation Plan, with an emphasis on Staff Formation.
- Enhance Parental engagement and thus, ensure parents become active in their child's learning and their faith formation

Financial and Infrastructure Report

2025 School Budget (Annual Financial Statement)

Income	Budget Actuals (\$)	% of Income	
<i>Tuition fees/ Private Income</i>	669 399	2.31	
<i>State Government Grants</i>	480 517	15.3	
<i>Australian Government Grants</i>	1 751 604	55.7	
<i>Australian Government Other</i>	44 647	1.4	
<i>Capital Income/Building Levy</i>	146 583	4.7	
<i>Trading Income</i>	37 425	1.2	Pre K and OSHC
<i>Other (Interest)</i>	14 441	0.4	
Total	3 144 614	100	
Expenses	Budget Actuals (\$)	% of Income	What is included in this expenditure?
<i>Tuition expenditure</i>	2 402 383	82.8	Includes-all teaching staff and support staff wages and oncosts
<i>Administration/General expenditure</i>	498 164	17.2	Includes-all admin staff wages and oncosts, and all running costs electricity, water etc
<i>Capital expenditure</i>	0	0	Includes all building repairs, contracts, furniture and IT hardware expenditure
<i>Trading expenditure</i>	0	0	Costs associated with operating Pre K
Total	2 900 546	100	

School Advisory Council Chair's Report 2025

Sacred Heart Primary School continues to deliver a high-quality Catholic education and flourish as a faith-filled, high-performing and deeply connected community, guided by a shared commitment to the wellbeing and growth of every child.

The School Advisory Council works collaboratively with Principal, Tanya McGuire and Assistant Principal, Carolyn Perlini to oversee school planning, financial stewardship, policy guidance, and strategic direction. Throughout 2025, the Council, comprising Treasurer Nick Muriale, elected members: Liam Holloway, Jessica Gibson, Aneta Petkoski, Layla Mehravari, and Parents and Friends Association representative, Jade O'Brien, met regularly to review school priorities, monitor progress against the School Improvement Plan, consider future risks and opportunities, and ensure decision-making remained firmly focused on the best interests of students, staff and families.

A key focus for the Council this year was Digital Citizenship. Recognising the increasing digital responsibilities faced by children and families, the school partnered with ySafe to deliver a whole-school Cyber Safety Day for students, staff and parents. This proactive initiative reinforced respectful and responsible online behaviour and reflected our strong commitment to working in partnership with families in this evolving space. We look forward to continuing this important work in 2026.

Sacred Heart also undertook the CEWA QCESR School Review, a key governance milestone. Council members participated in this process, which provided independent affirmation of the school's strong culture, high-quality leadership and the staff's deep knowledge of each child. The feedback received will inform future planning, and the Council will monitor progress against identified priorities.

The Council has also begun future-focused conversations around potential statewide changes to Kindergarten program offerings. While these discussions are in early stages, we are committed to ensuring Sacred Heart is well positioned to respond to any shifts in early years programming.

Faith and Catholic identity remain at the heart of school life. Reverent liturgical celebrations, strong parish partnerships, and meaningful sacramental experiences continue to shape students' spiritual growth. The Council congratulates all students who celebrated the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Confirmation, and extends sincere thanks to Father Mark Payton and staff for their thoughtful preparation and care. We also warmly welcomed our new Parish Priest, Father Chris Alambe, and look forward to a strong, collaborative relationship in the years ahead.

Financial stewardship is a core responsibility of the Council. Throughout 2025, we carefully monitored enrolments, fee management, and the school's financial position to support long-term sustainability while enabling high-quality learning experiences. We sincerely thank School Finance Officer Linda Robertson for her professionalism and diligence in managing the school's finances in partnership with CEWA.

Sacred Heart celebrated an extraordinary year of achievement across learning, co-curricular programs, and community life. Highlights included the CEWA QCE Merit Award for the "Digging Deep: Building Futures" STEM initiative, transformative City-Country partnerships in Broome and Kalgoorlie, outstanding sporting performances across Interschool Carnivals, and vibrant cultural events such as the Spirit of the Arts Festival. These milestones, alongside strong academic growth and wholehearted community engagement, reflect a school culture grounded in faith, innovation, and pride.

Our teachers and staff remain the heart of Sacred Heart. Their dedication, energy, and genuine care ensure each child's academic, co-curricular, and social experience is positive and engaging.

By inspiring students to strive for their personal best each day, they exemplify the strength and spirit of our community. Sacred Heart has been exceptionally fortunate to have such a remarkable team guiding, supporting and teaching our children this year. We also acknowledge the retirement of Groundsman, Mr Ian Watson, whose warmth, humour, and beloved “Howdy Cowdy” leave a lasting legacy.

I extend my thanks to Tanya and Carolyn for their visible, compassionate and aspirational leadership, and to my fellow Advisory Council members for their time and thoughtful governance, and to outgoing Council member Nick Muriale, thank you for your dedicated service over the past three years, including two years as Council Treasurer.

The Parents & Friends Association is warmly recognised for their tireless commitment, creativity, and generosity in strengthening community connections through events, fundraising, and service. Signature occasions such as the Welcome Event and the beloved Mother’s Day and Father’s Day breakfasts reflect the care and spirit they bring to school life. We sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to the P&F’s achievements, both over the years and throughout 2025. They truly are the heart of our school.

Welcome to the 2026 School Advisory Council: Jessica Gibson (Deputy Chair), Liam Holloway (Treasurer), Aneta Petkoski (Secretary), Layla Mehravari, and Melissa Vinci. Thank you for your service and duty to the School, we know that Sacred Heart will enjoy continued success under your leadership.

Finally, the Council thanks our families for the trust you place in Sacred Heart and for your ongoing partnership in your children’s learning, faith formation and wellbeing. 2025 has been a year of steady progress, strong community connection and future-focused planning. Sacred Heart continues to be a place of warmth, excellence and faith, and the Council looks forward to continuing this important work together in 2026.

Marina Maidment
Chair, Sacred Heart Primary School Advisory Council

Professional Engagement

Staff Retention:

At the end of 2025, Sacred Heart Primary School in Highgate farewelled the following teaching staff who continued to access to Parental Leave.

- One Ongoing full time Teacher

Teacher Qualifications and Workforce Composition

In 2025, Sacred Heart Primary School in Highgate employed 10 full time and 4 part time Teaching Staff, and 2 full time and 8 part time Non-Teaching Staff. Collectively, the qualifications held by teachers, including the number of teachers who hold these qualifications are:

Diplomas	Bachelors	Masters
1	12	1

Staff composition:-

- 2 males, 22 females,
- 10 non- teaching staff, 14 teaching staff
- 0 indigenous staff members

Key Student Outcomes

Student attendance:

All Student attendances are monitored by teaching and administration staff. It is a legal requirement for parents to forward a written note of explanation for any student absence.

Parents are required to notify the School of their child's absence-(this is to be done in writing via email to the Class Teacher, via the school website's absentee note, and prior to the school day commencing, or, you may directly email the to the School Office (admin@shpsh.wa.edu.au).

This notification to the school is required for **each day** that your child is absent. A Medical Certificate for illness longer than three days, is required.

In the event that you may have forgotten/ neglected to notify the teacher or school that your child is absent from school, (which on occasion, can happen in the busyness of the working day), you will receive an automatically generated SEQTA text message to your listed mobile, alerting you to the information that your child is not on the school premises or in class.

Hence, all late arrivals to class, must be signed in at the School Office, as the Class Roll is taken at the commencement of the school day (8.40am), and this leads to a text message being generated if your child has arrived after this.

Upon receipt of this SEQTA text message, parents are required to respond to the School, either by calling the School Office (9253 2500) or reply to the SMS text message. In the event that no response has been received by recess, you will be called by the School Office staff, and this is to ensure a child is not at risk. (eg. involved in an accident, or has not arrived safely to school). This is a system requirement, and the school Audit involves the reporting of Attendance data. However, more importantly, it is to ensure student safety, and assists in determining if undertaking a welfare check is necessary.

The average number of students attending school each day in 2025 is represented below.

Kindergarten	Pre Primary	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
89.91%	92.38%	85.95%	87.14%	90.63%	92.87%	91.91%	88.67%

Overall School Attendance for 2025- 89.93%

2025 NAPLAN Information

YEAR 3

31 students, 0 Aboriginal, 9 LBOTE (Language background other than English)

Year 3	All Australian Schools Mean	Sacred Heart School Mean	Percentage of students achieving at or above National Minimum Standard	
			2024	2025
Reading	402	460	100%	100%
Writing	414	465	100%	100%
Spelling	405	463	100%	100%
Grammar & Punctuation	408	472	100%	100%
Numeracy	405	445	100%	100%

Reading

Australian Schools	Top 20%	Middle 60%	Bottom 20%
Sacred Heart	41.9%	54.8%	3.2%

Writing

Australian Schools	Top 20%	Middle 60%	Bottom 20%
Sacred Heart	45.2%	51.6%	3.2%

Spelling

Australian Schools	Top 20%	Middle 60%	Bottom 20%
Sacred Heart	29%	71%	0%

Grammar & Punctuation

Australian Schools	Top 20%	Middle 60%	Bottom 20%
Sacred Heart	29%	71%	0%

Numeracy

Australian Schools	Top 20%	Middle 60%	Bottom 20%
Sacred Heart	35.5%	58.1%	6.5%

2025 NAPLAN Information

YEAR 5

25 students, 0 Aboriginal, 0 LBOTE (Language background other than English)

Year 5	All Australian Schools Mean	Sacred Heart School Mean	Percentage of students achieving at or above the National Minimum Standard	
			2024	2025
Reading	492	537	100%	100%
Writing	480	515	100%	100%
Spelling	487	517	100%	100%
Grammar & Punctuation	497	526	100%	100%
Numeracy	492	521	100%	100%

Reading

Australian Schools	Top 20%	Middle 60%	Bottom 20%
Sacred Heart	36.4%	54.5%	9.1%

Writing

Australian Schools	Top 20%	Middle 60%	Bottom 20%
Sacred Heart	34.8%	56.5%	8.7%

Spelling

Australian Schools	Top 20%	Middle 60%	Bottom 20%
Sacred Heart	21.7%	73.9%	4.3%

Grammar & Punctuation

Australian Schools	Top 20%	Middle 60%	Bottom 20%
Sacred Heart	26.1%	69.6%	4.3%

Numeracy

Australian Schools	Top 20%	Middle 60%	Bottom 20%
Sacred Heart	33.3%	61.9%	4.5%

Value Added

Sacred Heart Primary School in Highgate offers a wide variety of opportunities outside the classroom, which allow students to grow and develop. Such activities include:

- Leadership Camp Year Six
- Leadership Camp Year Five
- STEM Partnership Trips to Goldfields and Kimberley regions
- Community Service activities
- Catholic Performing Arts Festival – Choral opportunities and Festival entries
- Angelico Arts Exhibition
- Founders' Week celebrations
- Interschool Athletics Carnival
- Interschool Swimming Carnival
- Interschool Cross Country Carnival
- ANZAC Day Service (School Liturgy)
- ANZAC Day Services- Local Communities RSL Mt Lawley and Mt Hawthorn
- National Sorry Day Liturgy and Reconciliation Week/NAIDOC activities
- Excursions
- Incursions and Performing Artists' visits
- Gallery Visits
- Missions Fundraising

Secondary School Destinations

The **2025 Year 6** students went to the following schools to continue their education.

Secondary College	Boys	Girls	Total
Mercedes College	0	3	3
Perth College	0	2	2
Chisholm Catholic College	0	2	2
Trinity College	3	0	3
Mt Lawley Senior High School	1	0	1
John Curtin School of Arts	0	1	1
Total	4	8	12

Satisfaction

Parent, student and staff satisfaction

The school uses a range of different approaches to determine the degree of school satisfaction. These different approaches have included :- surveys, focus groups, various meetings and workshops for parents and staff, and student participation, via Student Leadership Councils. Feedback has formed the basis for the development and ongoing implementation of the current Sacred Heart Primary School strategic directions and annual school priorities.

Staff are provided with multiple individual, cluster level and whole school opportunities to shape the direction of the school, and their own professional learning.

Recent data from these sources, indicate a positive level of satisfaction with Sacred Heart Primary School and its structures.

Financial Information

The ACARA website www.acara.edu.au hosts the My School profile of Australian schools. Visiting this site gives further comparative information including financial data.