St Thomas’ Primary School
Achievements 2015

These achievements reflect the Strategic Renewal Framework for Catholic Schools 2012 – 2016 which details collaboratively developed Archdiocesan educational priorities and strategic intents that provide direction to the school renewal process.

St Thomas’ School operates in a complex and ever-changing environment. We engage in visioning and planning knowing that the changing external environment requires us to be both focused on the outcomes we wish for our school as well as being flexible and responsive to change.

Deliberate consideration has been given to the priorities of Brisbane Catholic Education’s Strategic Renewal Framework. This plan means that our community has a clear direction for the period 2012 - 2016. This report presents a summary of the significant achievements which have been implemented from this plan, throughout 2015.

Mission and Religious Education

2015 Achievements

- Staff were engaged in professional development on “The Three Worlds of the Text” and on better understanding of the “line of sight” documents in RE.
- We celebrated our inaugural St Thomas’ Foundation Day to mark our beginnings, traditions and history as a school community.
- The Catching Fire framework continued for staff with inclusion of additional teachers during 2015.
- RE planning each term this year included co-planning with EORE (Executive Officer Religious Education) to ensure teachers understand the intent of the Achievement Standard.
- We had a highly successful validation of the school’s RE program. This is inclusive of a newly developed school Scope and Sequence for the teaching of RE with all planned units now published on the school portal for shared access.
2015 Achievements

- We commenced class walk throughs to gather data regarding the success of the implementation of the Visible Learning strategies.
- Involvement with an assessment timetable to gather student data that is specific, appropriate and timely was commenced.
- Professional development for both the Visible Learning team and staff in the areas of Feedback, Data, Learning Intentions, Success Criteria, Learner Characteristics and Pedagogy to support Visible Learning was undertaken.
- Regular meetings were conducted throughout 2015 with the Visible Learning Team both at the school and cluster level.
- There was further involvement with understanding the BI tool to successfully analyse teaching and learning data.
- A Kids Matter team was formed to investigate and develop a St Thomas’ Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Program.
- We launched the Kids Matter program with a community breakfast.
- The Helping Hands student group trained in playground peer mediation to assist in the Early Years play areas during lunch break.

Strategic Resourcing

2015 Achievements

- After thorough investigation. We commenced online distribution of our weekly school newsletter Thomatalk.
- Planning was finalised in late 2015 for the introduction in 2016 of the Parent Portal.
- The implementation of this Portal will provide an extra, secure platform for communication within the school community.
- Strategies gained through the initial Coaching PD were utilised by teachers in supporting teaching colleagues.
- Teachers took their initial step in offering peer feedback to a colleague with a focus on one aspect of their professional goals set for 2015.
- All staff attended a PD on the “Power of Positive Doing and Collaboration and Team Work” to support positive staff relationships.