



Marist Sisters' College, Woolwich

**Annual Report
to the Community, 2005**

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Marist Sisters' College, Woolwich (MSCW) is registered and accredited by the Board of Studies (NSW) and managed by the Catholic Education Office, Sydney, the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990.

The Annual Report to the School Community for this year provides the school community with fair, reliable and objective information about school performance measures and policies, as determined by the Minister for Education.

The Report also outlines information about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance to the school community during the year, and the achievements arising from the implementation of the school's Annual Development Plan.

Accordingly, the Report demonstrates accountability to regulatory bodies, the school community and the Catholic Education Office, Sydney.

This Report complements and is supplementary to school newsletters, portfolios and other regular communications. This report has been checked by the school's Regional Consultant and meets the requirements of the Education Act 1990. This report has been forwarded to the Board of Studies and is available on the school's website.

The Regional Consultant monitors the processes undertaken by the school to ensure compliance with all NSW Board of Studies requirements for Registration and Accreditation

The contents of this report will be discussed at the Parent Information and at the Parents & Friends Meetings throughout the year.

Further information about the school or this report may be obtained by contacting the school on 9816 2041 or by visiting the website at www.mscw.nsw.edu.au

Sr Fidelis McTeigue

PRINCIPAL

February 2006

DATE

CATHOLIC LIFE AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This school follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student texts, *To Know, Worship and Love*, as authorised by the Archbishop of Sydney, George Cardinal Pell.

MSCW's mission statement reflects its being a Catholic school in the Marist tradition:

Making a difference through Marist education – a compass for life.

The college proudly proclaims its Marist heritage in the way it integrates its pastoral care of the girls with the learning and teaching environment it provides for them .

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

This school follows the Board of Studies syllabus for each course offered (as required for Registration and Accreditation under the Education Act 1990) and implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Education Office.

MSCW operates as a place of education of girls. The college's daily reality integrates the following:

- Pastoral care that aims to provide a safe environment in which girls can develop as citizens with values that will enrich the communities of which they become members. The Houses at the college are integral to the college's achieving this aim.
- A learning and teaching environment that aims to have each girl involved actively in her learning, and to have all teaching staff members continuing to explore the ways they teach the girls.

MSCW is committed to lifelong learning. The girls are equipped with an armoury of learning strategies that cross the boundaries of syllabi, and the staff are provided with ongoing opportunities to develop as learners and as teachers.

MSCW is committed to the development of the girls. The curriculum - both implicit and explicit - always is open to be extended, whether it be with the introduction of new courses, restructuring of existing courses, or presenting new experiences for the girls. The following courses are offered in:

Year 7: Religious Education, English, Maths, Science, History, Technology Mandatory, PDHPE, Music/Visual Arts, Philosophy, and Sport

Year 8: Religious Education, English, Maths, Science, Geography, Technology Mandatory, PDHPE, Music/Visual Art, Dance/Drama, Languages, Sport

Years 9 & 10: Religious Education, English, Maths, Science, History/Geography, Commerce, Dance, Drama, Computing Studies, Design & Technology, Food Technology, Textiles Technology, Digital Media & Photography, Music, Visual Art. PASS, Personal Development, Italian, Spanish, French, German, Information Services, and Sport.

Year 11& 12: Religious Education, English Standard, English Advanced, English Extension 1 & 2, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth & Environmental Studies, Senior Science, Economics, Geography, Italian, Spanish, Ancient History, Modern History, History Extension, Dance, Drama, Visual Art, Music 1, Music 11, Music Extension, Information Processes, Information Technology, Hospitality, Food Technology, Textiles & Design, General Maths, Mathematics, Extension Maths 1 & 2.and TAFE courses. In Year 11, Ceramics, Photography, Sport Lifestyle and Sport are offered as well as the above courses.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN STATEWIDE TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

THE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE 2005

Performance Bands		English Literacy	Mathematics	Science	Australian History	Australian Geography
Band 4,5,6	School	85%	58%	83%	79%	66%
	State	68%	52%	70%	65%	61%

In their 2005 School Certificate Examinations, students achieved well. There were State exams in English/Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Australian History and Geography.

Based on their results, students were graded within performance bands with 6 being the highest band and 1 being the lowest. To gain a performance band 6 a score of 90+ was required, band 5 - 80+, band 4 - 70+, band 3 - 60+, band 2 - 50+, and band 1 for a below 50 mark.

In each of the five subjects tested, students' results in Bands 4, 5, 6 were in greater proportions than those achieved by all students across the State.

TARGETS FOR 2006

Performance Bands		English Literacy	Mathematics	Science	Australian History	Australian Geography
Band 4,5,6		75%	75%	75%	80%	75%

THE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE 2005

Performance Bands		Studies of Religion 1	English Standard	English Advanced	General Mathematics	Mathematics
Band 4,5,6	School	97%	48%	96%	73%	48%
	State	84%	34%	90%	58%	64%

A band 5 or 6 result means that a student receives a mark over 80%.

In the 2005, 135 students sat for Higher School Certificate examinations in 32 courses of study offered at the College.

The College's results in the 2005 HSC Examination were generally of a high standard. Worthy of special mention were results achieved in Music, Information Processing and Ancient History, where students achieved a proportion of results well above the state average in Bands 4, 5 and 6.

TARGETS FOR 2006

Performance Bands		Studies of Religion 1	English Standard	English Advanced	General Mathematics	Mathematics
Band 4,5,6		93%	32%	98%	82%	75%

SCHOOL FEATURES

MSCW is a Marist Catholic school, and it aims to lead its girls to an awareness of what it means to be a Christian in the tradition of the Catholic community. In 1908 a group of Marist Sisters - French, English and Irish - came to Sydney to begin what we now have, the college here at Woolwich. The naming of both the College's six Houses, and the P.J. Eymard Hall, acknowledges its Marist tradition.

Marist pedagogy is essentially personal and is directed towards the good of each individual. It is 'child-centered' and is based on a deep concern for each of our girls, not in isolation but in the total context of their growth to maturity, providing as far as possible the best possible conditions for their self-affirmation within an environment characterised by a family atmosphere and the Spirit of Mary. The religious teaching and liturgical life of MSCW form the underpinning structure of the school curriculum.

The full text of the school's Vision and Mission Statements may be accessed via the school website www.mscw.nsw.edu.au or on request at the College's Reception.

TEACHER STANDARDS

The following table sets out the number of teachers on this staff who fall into each of the three categories determined by the Board of Studies:

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS	NUMBER OF TEACHERS
1. Those having formal qualifications from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent	73
2. Those having graduate qualifications but not a formal teaching qualification from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent	1
3. Those not having qualifications described in 1 or 2 above but having relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate relevant knowledge.	0

ENROLMENT POLICIES AND PROFILES

MSCW is located in the Inner West Region of the Archdiocese of Sydney, catering for girls from Years 7 to 12. The catchment areas can best be described by a circle drawn around the college. Girls from our feeder schools are given priority in enrolment. Our aim is to enrol 150 girls in each academic year thus creating a ceiling of 900. Currently the school population is 904. Enrolments have been increasing steadily and currently the school is unable to accept all applicants and is at maximum capacity.

The ideal enrolment for MSCW is 150 students in Year 7 but in 2005 there were 182 enrolments in Year 7. This forced us to create an extra stream and this 7th stream will go through to Year 10. 154 students sat for the school certificate and there are currently 145 students in Year 11. This is more than our usual Year 11 cohort of about 125.

RETENTION RATES for Year 9 - 2003

YEAR	Academic Year	Actual and Apparent Numbers of students	Analysis
2003	9	155	
2004	10	153	2 students went interstate
2005	11	137	131 students returned, 14 went to other schools, 3 to TAFE, 5 unknown
2006	12	123	4 students to other schools, 3 to Business College, 1 Overseas, 1 to TAFE, 2 to employment, 3 unknown,

The college community is richly diverse with approximately 46 nationalities represented. The predominant groups are Italian and Lebanese; however, there is a growing number of applications from eastern European families. The College is also enriched by overseas students from China and Korea particularly in the Senior years. About 25% of students are from non English speaking backgrounds.

The full text of this school policy may be accessed via: the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy, the Archdiocesan Policy on the Enrolment of Students with Special Needs (<http://www.ceo.syd.catholic.edu.au/cms/Jahia/site/ceosydney>) and the MSCW Enrolment Requirements that are available at the Student Office.

There were no changes made to this policy during the year.

STUDENT WELFARE

MSCW's Pastoral Care Policy is based on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Care document *Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools (2003)*, Marist Sisters' Philosophy of Education, and the principles of restorative justice and due process.

The full text of this school policy may be accessed via:

- The Archdiocesan Pastoral Care Policy for Catholic Schools (2003)
- the college's enrolment form
- the College Diary
- the school administration office.

There were no changes made to this policy during the year.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

The school bases its Discipline Policy on the document *Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools (2003)*. The policy is based on procedural fairness and is discussed with students on a regular basis. Information on the policy is also included in the college diary.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school.

The full text of this school policy may be accessed via the College Diary, the MSCW Enrolment form and the school administration form. There were no changes made to this policy during the year.

COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES RESOLUTION POLICY

The college has developed a policy on resolving concerns and complaints.. This policy is based on procedural fairness. It recognises that parents and caregivers must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive, conciliatory environment.

The procedures are based on the integral nature of the Houses to the College, and complaints and grievances begin with the girl's tutor. The Tutor is the first contact for parents who wish to ask questions, to complain, or to seek clarification. If grievances cannot be handled at that level the process moves on to the House Co Ordinator. In the event of further concerns from parent/guardian the matter will be referred to the Assistant Principal. In the rare situation of a resolution not being reached the matter will be referred to an external body.

One related area that is covered in a policy is bullying. Extracts from the *Dealing with Bullying* policy appear in the College Diary. The text of the procedures appear under 'Roles' in the Staff Handbook, and details are available from Reception.

The full text of this school policy may be accessed via the school administration office.

This a new policy developed in 2005.

SCHOOL DETERMINED IMPROVEMENT AND TARGETS

For 2006 the college has targeted the following areas from the Catholic Schools - School and Improvement Framework:

- Reporting student achievement
- Provision for the diverse needs of the learner
- ICT Resources
- Planning for improvement.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Catholic Schools are accountable for all monies received. Each year, the Sydney Catholic Education Office submits to the Commonwealth Government a financial statement on behalf of the 148 parish primary and regional secondary schools. This statement details the income and expenditure of each school and for the Archdiocesan system of schools. In addition, the financial accounts for each school and for the Catholic Education Office are audited annually. A summary of the income and expenditure reported to the Commonwealth Government for 2005 is as follows:

INCOME	\$million		EXPENDITURE	\$million	
Parents' Contributions 1	\$ 103.7	19.9%	Education & School Support	\$ 122.5	23.5%
Commonwealth Government 2	\$ 277.0	53.1%	Total Salary Costs	\$ 392.3	75.2%
State Government 2	\$ 106.1	20.3%	CEO Administration & Support 3	\$ 6.6	1.3%
Government Targeted Grants	\$ 17.2	3.3%	Surplus	\$ 0.1	0.0%
Interest and Other	\$ 17.5	3.3%			
Total Income	\$ 521.5		Total Expenditure	\$ 521.5	

Notes

1. Parents' Contributions include Archdiocesan tuition fees of \$49.9 million, School Charges & Building Levy & P&F contributions of \$53.8 million.
2. Income from Commonwealth and State recurrent government grants is received by the Catholic Education Office on behalf of the schools. Staff Salaries are paid from this income.
3. CEO Administration and Support excludes salaries which are included in total salary costs.

Parents' contributions to our school as reported in the school's annual Financial Questionnaire for 2005 was:

Archdiocesan Tuition Fees received	\$ 960,906
School Based Fees	\$ 656,624
Other Income (eg. Parents & Friends, Trading & Building Levy)	\$ 298,833
	\$ 1,916,363