



St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School

2019 FUTURE DIRECTION AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROY HILL FOUNDATION

St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School commenced its partnership with the Roy Hill Foundation in 2016. The Roy Hill Foundation provides funding to cover tuition fees and uniforms for Aboriginal students residing in the Port and South Hedland area. It also funds a Homework Centre for Aboriginal students on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon directly after school. The students have two staff members assist them with their homework. They are supplied afternoon tea and then driven home on the school bus. The Foundation also funds a mentoring program called EdConnect to have adult mentors work with students during school time.

Future Direction of the partnership

St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School is very keen to continue the partnership with the Roy Hill Foundation for another three years. The benefits for the students receiving the scholarships are many. They receive a consistent methodology of teaching from year to year. They have access to teaching staff to assist with homework and they are matched up with terrific role models from the EdConnect program.

Advertising

There is a lack of awareness in the public arena that the scholarships are available. The school will place advertisements in our school newsletter, our website and the local paper calling for applicants for a Roy Hill Foundation Scholarship. In addition, we will ask Lauren Greatorex, our Aboriginal Teacher Assistant, to liaise with the Aboriginal families and groups in the community.

Scholarships

In 2016/17 scholarships were available to 20 students. St Cecilia's has only ever had a maximum of 17 students accept scholarships during this time. After discussion with the Foundation, it was decided to reduce that number to 15 recipients. This is a good number and I propose that the scholarships be limited to 15 students, per year, for the next three years.

The costing for the scholarships is listed in the table below. As can be seen, the cost varies depending on which Year level a student will be in. The cost will also vary from year to year as the Catholic Education Commission WA sets fees at the end of each school year for the year ahead. The percentage increase is based on a parents ability to pay. The increases in the past five years have varied from 4% to 10%.

Textbooks, Booklists (stationery) and one set of formal and sport school uniforms are also included in the costings to give a total for the year.

An exact overall cost can't be determined until all scholarships are offered and accepted.

Scholarship Amounts				
Year level	Core Scholarship Amount	Text Books/ Stationary	Formal and Sport Uniforms (1 set each)	Maximum available for each student per school year only
Kindergarten	\$1355.00	\$160.00	\$232.00	\$1747.00
Pre-Primary	\$2,453.00	\$189.00	\$232.00	\$2874.00
Year 1 - 6	\$2,453.00	\$295.00	\$259.00	\$3007.00

Preference for the scholarships will be given to the children of the founding families of the school (Clarke, Dann, Kelly, Murphy and Pianta). Local language groups (Kariyarra, Ngarla, Nyamlu, Nyiyaparli and Palyku) of the Pilbara region, then followed by other Aboriginal families. Families must be supportive of the student's education, and the student must demonstrate a commitment to education by attending school for a minimum of 90% of the time. (Consideration will be made for family issues). If attendance falls below this, without a valid explanation, then a meeting will be called to discuss the concern. Failure to rectify the issue could result in the scholarship being revoked.

Homework Centre

During 2018 student attendance at the Homework Centre varied from ten to sixteen students. The centre gives the students an opportunity to work in a small group situation with one to one tutoring being available. I propose to keep the Homework Centre operating on a Monday afternoon (Years One to Three) and Wednesday afternoon (Years Four to Five). However, in 2019 we will open the program to all our students, with preference given to Aboriginal students first and then others who would benefit from a small tutorial group, as recommended by staff. To monitor the effectiveness of the Homework Centre, we would conduct pre and post-testing each term, in the area of each students need.

The Homework Centre operates eight weeks per term and the costings for the Homework Centre are as follows:

	Monday	Wednesday
Staff member x 2	\$42.50/hr x 2	\$42.50/hr x 2
Bus driver + Assistant	\$42.50/hr x 2	\$42.50/hr x 2
Afternoon tea	\$10.00	\$10.00
Total per day	\$180.00	\$180.00

Total per term		\$2,880.00
Total per year	4 x terms	\$11,520.00

The school contributes toward the cost of running the Homework Centre each year. This is made up of a monetary amount and the cost to run the school bus. Most afternoons the bus travels over 40 kilometres to drop students off at home.

EdConnect

The EdConnect program at St Cecilia's took some time to get running. This was due to a lack of personnel at St Cecilia's who were available to coordinate the program. After a discussion with Jeanette Hasleby and the EdConnect company, the school decided to appoint a coordinator, paid by the school. The program has doubled in number with four students now having mentors.

The school has more students waiting to be matched with mentors. EdConnect has appointed a coordinator in the Pilbara and I believe the program will continue to expand and be a valuable asset to the school and community in general.

Family Meetings

Another area of the proposed development is the inclusion of families in the schooling process. This can take place through get-togethers/yarns, outside of school grounds. St Cecilia's could arrange to collect families in the school bus and take them to a pre-arranged meeting place for discussions about their concerns, desires and expectations for their children. I propose the meetings be attended by the Principal, Assistant Principal and the Aboriginal Teacher Assistant or whomever the families are comfortable meeting with. These meetings will be designed to set common goals for student achievement.