

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

2017

SERVICE. LEADERSHIP. JUSTICE.

Together in Christ



Our Lady of Victories Primary School, SHORTLAND

15 Lovell Parade, SHORTLAND 2307

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About the Annual School Report

Our Lady of Victories Primary School is registered by NESAs as a member of the Catholic system in the Diocese of Maitland - Newcastle.

The Annual School Report provides parents and the wider community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The Report describes achievement of school development in 2017 and gives information about 2018 priorities.

This Report is a legislative requirement under the Schools Assistance Act, 2008.

The information in this Report is complemented by the Catholic Schools Office website and school websites where other publications and newsletters can be viewed or obtained.

Messages from Key School Bodies

Principal's Message

The year of 2017 was a year of consolidation. It was a year that staff worked hard at practising skills they had learned around a differentiated curriculum and an extended maths program.

The orientation for Kinder changed slightly this year with guest speakers from the Catholic Schools Office giving some input into the benefits of play in the early learning of their children. The Early Learning Framework is being supported by the Parents and Friends Association with a donation to develop learning play areas in the school.

Staff again attended in-service on Gifted Education and will be exploring how this can be better served in 2018 and beyond. The provision of a Leader of Mathematics with our School Improvement Plan is also able to assist in the delivery of a program which will challenge our Gifted Mathematicians.

This report highlights some of the many successes experienced by the children and community of Our Lady of Victories.

We acknowledge Awabakal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we learn.

Gerry Vandermaat - Principal.

Parent Body

The Parents and Friends Association worked hard to support the learning and developmental needs of the children at Our Lady of Victories Shortland. We were able to support the school with the purchase of a new branded marquee for use at school and promotional events, and also assisted with the cost of infants school book week excursion to Wallsend Library.

The Association also provided a social occasion for new families and teachers at a "Meet and Greet" evening at school. We also hosted the school disco which encouraged families to socialise as well as the children.

It has been another busy year with many activities, events and fundraisers hosted by the P&F including:

- Revision of canteen opening days and menu
- Cleaning of canteen and floors
- Letter to Hunter Valley Bus Company to review bus route to include a direct bus for students living in growth estates
- Election BBQ & cake stall
- Easter Parade and Easter raffle
- Mother's Day Stall
- Father's Day Stall
- Disco and canteen
- Mid year raffle
- Bunnings BBQ's and Cake Stall
- Christmas concert raffle and canteen

The funds raised through these events have meant we could continue to save towards a playground upgrade which we committed up to \$30,000 at our February meeting. The Association has been working closely with the staff, students and the Catholic Schools Office to develop preferred options which are now with a specialist landscaper to develop scope of works. We hope to see this goal come to fruition in 2018.

I would like to thank the P&F executive for their tireless efforts over the year in not only planning and running many fundraisers but also promoting the sense of community and pride in our school. Equally thanks goes to all of the general members of the P&F for their commitment to our school community and to all who have volunteered, baked cakes, donated items, worked in the canteen and much more, without

these contributions from families we would not have been unable to achieve all that we have.

Kylie Westaway - President, Parents and Friends Association

Student Body

What I like about our school is that all the teachers are so caring and helpful and that all the students are so well behaved. We take pride in wearing our uniform and enjoy our sport time. So that's what I like about the great OLV.-- *(Immanuel- School Captain)*

As a student of Our Lady of Victories,I enjoy my time at school because all of the teachers are kind and caring and our students are just as much. All excursions we have been on, have been lots of fun and educational, such as Fighter World, ANZAC Museum, and lots more memorable experiences. As a school captain I have had the opportunity to represent our school at the Project Compassion Launch, the ANZAC Dawn Service amd Catholic Schools Week. I really enjoy being at OLV. -- *(Zoe- School Captain)*

SCHOOL FEATURES

History of the school

Our Lady of Victories Primary School was established by Fr Roley Smyth with three Sisters of Joseph (Mary Cecily, Matthew and Marguerite) originally being named St Joseph's in 1957. It started with an initial enrolment of 81 in a range of classes from Kinder to year 4. It grew steadily over the subsequent years and reached a total of more than 300 in classes Kinder to Year 6 during the sixties.

In 2007 the school celebrated 50 years of Catholic Education in Shortland. In 2011, a community hall was constructed at Our Lady of Victories with funding from the Federal Government BER program. Major renovations for the classrooms were completed at the end of Term 2 in 2016.

Playground upgrades were investigated during 2017 and will be installed in 2018.

Location/Drawing Area

Our Lady of Victories draws from areas within the Parish of Wallsend/Shortland. Children from the suburbs of Shortland, Birmingham Gardens, Wallsend, Fletcher, Maryland and surrounds may be enrolled at Our Lady of Victories. After Year 6, families have a choice of San Clemente High School, Mayfield, or St Pius X High School, Adamstown, to continue their children's Catholic education.

Catholic Identity and Mission

Catholic Imagination and Spirituality

The spirit of the Sisters of St Joseph is still evident in the school's commitment to providing the best education possible for all its students, allowing all to have the opportunity to attain their personal best. Our Lady of Victories School is committed to developing a Catholic Faith Community. The school focuses on the faith formation of young people and promotes and fosters respectful, honest, caring and loving relationships with God, with self and with others. Our Lady of Victories educates its students in the tradition of the Catholic community through the implicit teaching of Religion. Faith experiences are enriched and developed through prayer and liturgy experiences, e.g. daily prayer, Liturgies of the Eucharist, Liturgies of the Word, curriculum units of work, celebrations of Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day, ANZAC Day and Our Lady of Victories Feast Day.

Family, Parish and Diocesan evangelising and catechesis

Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church is on the same site as the school and Fr Dom Carrigan has an active involvement in the liturgies and the spiritual life of the school. A close and committed relationship is maintained between the school and the parish by actively participating in the parish-based Sacramental programs and the school leading Friday parish Masses twelve times in the year. In 2017, several special liturgies were held at Our Lady of Victories School for the school and wider community. These were Shrove Tuesday 'Burning of the Palms' Liturgy, Ash Wednesday Liturgy, ANZAC Day Liturgy, Holy Week Liturgy and Remembrance Day Liturgy. The school also organised Masses to mark special occasions, such as the Beginning of the Year, Our Lady of Victories Feast Day, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day and Year 6 Graduation. The children from the school, who enrolled in the Sacramental Program, participated in Sacramental Masses and Liturgies throughout the duration of the program. Diocesan involvement during 2017 included participation in the Called to Serve Mass, Catholic Schools Week Mass, Diocesan Catholic Mission Mass and attendance at various other Diocesan celebrations.

Christian Discipleship

Our Lady of Victories Primary School acknowledges the importance of religious and faith development programs for both staff and students. The school participates actively in prayer to support each other and the families of the school and wider community. Daily prayer is encouraged as a constant expression of the development of the faith journey of all students and staff at Our Lady of Victories and is practiced in either formal or informal prayers. Each week begins with the whole school community assembling for a Liturgy of the Word. Each day begins with the whole school community praying the School Prayer together. The staff gathers one morning each week to pray together. During 2017, the staff continued to update their Faith Education Accreditation. Teachers attended courses to fulfil requirements to meet ongoing accreditation expectations. The Sacramental Programs were conducted after school and formed part of the school and parish faith development. In Term 4, Year 5 students took part in a 'Buddy' training program and a 'Leadership' course in preparation for their roles as school leaders in 2018.

Religious Education and Curriculum

At Our Lady of Victories Primary School, the teaching of Religion is an essential element of our week. Each week 2½ hours teaching time is allocated to Religious Education. Religion lessons are student centred and permeate all areas of the curriculum. Information technology is recommended and used when and where possible. Teachers implement the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan K-12 Religious Syllabus using the units of work provided by the Catholic Schools Office. In June 2017, Year 6 students took part in a Religious Education Literacy Assessment, from the Sydney Catholic Schools Diocese, which assesses students' knowledge and understanding in the following Religious Education domains: Church, Scripture, Sacraments, Liturgical Year, Prayer and Beliefs. The purchase of resources to support the teaching and learning of Religion is ongoing.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

At Our Lady of Victories we always seek opportunities to reach out to those in need in both our local and wider community. Our actions, both at school and the wider community, are central to our school's

philosophy and values. A Mini Vinnies group was formed during Term 2, comprising of students from Years 3-6. The group met every Monday at lunchtime under the facilitation of the school's Pastoral Care Worker. Visits to St Joseph's Nursing Home at Sandgate by the Mini Vinnies group and stage groups, were organised for each term. These visits involved a short concert for the residents of the Home followed by a 'meet and greet'.

Each year we support Project Compassion, Catholic Mission and St Vincent de Paul Society. The generosity and commitment of the students and their families reflect their awareness of the needs of others. We take very seriously our commitment to social justice and are very proud of our efforts in this area.

Student Profile

The table below shows the number of students in each of the categories listed.

LBOTE*	SWD*	Indigenous
21	10	2

*Language Backgrounds Other Than English (LBOTE); Students With Disabilities (SWD)

Enrolment policy

Our Lady of Victories Primary School follows the guidelines provided by the Catholic Schools Office *Enrolment Policy 2013*. This Enrolment Policy has been devised in order to accommodate the needs of families seeking a Catholic education. It aims to set direction for school procedures and practices for enrolling students into Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and to establish a common, consistent approach in enrolment practices and assist the system of Catholic schools to provide schooling, where possible, for all Catholic children who seek enrolment, cater for the individual needs of each child equitably within the constraints of the available teaching and material resources and to encourage parents enrolling their children in Catholic schools to give support to parish and school life, especially in education in faith.

Copies of the Policy are available from the school, or from the Catholic Schools Office website. Parents concerned about school fees should ensure they make contact with the school. Diocesan provisions (including standard discounts for those with a Health Card) exist to help in this area, and the Principal can also exercise discretion where genuine need exists.

Actual Enrolments 2017

Scholastic Year	Number of Students
K	19
Year 1	10
Year 2	12
Year 3	16
Year 4	21
Year 5	15
Year 6	18
Total	111

Student Attendance - K to 6 - PDF

Percentage of student attendance by Year level and school average for 2017

K	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	School Average
93	93	93	91	90	94	93	92

Managing Student Non-attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents and guardians, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. The compulsory years of schooling is age 6 to 17. Principals and school staff, in consultation with students and their parents, will usually be able to resolve issues relating to non-attendance. While parents should be reminded of their legal obligations under the Education Act, (1990), the welfare of the student must be the focus of this consultation. The most effective means of restoring and maintaining regular school attendance includes sound attendance monitoring practices and regular follow-up of unexplained absences by contacting parents promptly. Resolution of attendance difficulties may require a range of additional school based strategies including student and parent interviews, reviewing the appropriateness of the student's educational program, development of a school-based attendance improvement plan, referral to the school counsellor or outside agencies and support from school - based personnel. If a range of school-based interventions has been unsuccessful, support may be requested by referring individual cases of unsatisfactory attendance to the Catholic Schools Office.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Student Welfare Policy

An atmosphere of mutual respect, care and understanding is a feature of Our Lady of Victories school life and, student welfare is a high priority at the School.

Our Lady of Victories Pastoral Care worker provides excellent support for students, teachers and families. The students themselves have relished the Pastoral Care worker's presence.

The most popular student welfare programs offered were:

- Kindergarten and Year Six Buddy program;
- Bounce Back which is aimed at building resilience
- Garden Grubs and Chicken Wranglers;
- Lunch play group – once a week;
- Daily Craft Classes at lunch time
- Year Six camp - offering opportunity for personal challenges, group work, leadership skills as well as outdoor fitness activities;
- Pastoral Care Worker – open door policy, supporting all students, families and staff;
- Seasons for Growth Program – to assist children overcome grief experiences;
- Cool for School program which supports the school's strong approach to Anti-Bullying.
- Year Six to Year Seven Transition Program.

All children were encouraged to participate in school activities. The school supported all programs to ensure no child is excluded due to socio-economic or physical constraints.

Discipline Policy

The school Behaviour Management Policy clearly outlines the Rights and Responsibilities of all children at Our Lady of Victories both in the classroom and on the playground. It clearly sets out the consequences of making the right and wrong choices. Corporal punishment is not practised at Our Lady of Victories. Our Lady of Victories does not promote the use of corporal punishment by parents in relation to school discipline.

Copies of the Behaviour Management Policy are given to all new students and are available from the office and the school website. It was last reviewed in 2008. The Student Behaviour Management Policy is available on the School Website by clicking on the Policies Button or by request from the office.

No changes have been made to the policy since 2012 but this policy is to be reviewed in 2018.

The full text of the School's Student Discipline Policy may be accessed on the School's website or at the administration office.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Catholic schools have the responsibility to promote cultures of trust, cooperation and respect in the lived experience of the Catholic Christian setting. Bullying in a school mitigates such a culture and inhibits the development of positive relational outcomes for the common good of students, teachers and caregivers. *Our Lady of Victories Primary School Anti-Bullying Policy* is reviewed regularly and is available on the school website.

Complaints and Grievances

The school has formal written protocols in place to address complaints and grievances. These protocols are in line with the Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy (2013), developed to provide a consistent

approach for all Diocesan schools. This policy aims to address the concerns of Parents / Carers and the wider community. These concerns may include children's learning, behaviour and welfare, school organisation and management, student health and safety issues. A copy of this policy and the informative parent brochure is available from the school office, school website or is available on the Catholic Schools Office website.

School Improvement

School Improvement Plan

Mathematics was the focus area for 2017. Our School Improvement Plan provided resources and planning opportunities for teachers to improve their Maths teaching and programming. Our target was to improve our Maths scores by 1 Band for the children in Year 3 & Year 5. in two years. Our plan also provided for the inservicing of Executive staff in the area of Gifted Education which will be a focus in our School Improvement Plan for 2018. Bounce Back a pastoral program looking at developing the resilience in children was introduced in 2017.

School Academic Priorities

Key improvements achieved this year	Key improvements for next year
Strong results in the 2017 NAPLAN results reflect an improvement in the area of writing and our goal of improving achievement in this area in the NAPLAN was achieved. This was achieved by sustaining a dialogue among teachers about the strategies and tools for assessing writing. These skills were incorporated into their programming and teaching in this area. The provision of a Leader of Maths also enhanced the cooperation and planning in collaboration.	In 2018, we are looking to continue improvement the growth of the children in the Top Band of the Maths NAPLAN. This has been identified as an area of concern and we intend to develop an enrichment class for these children as well as in-servicing staff to better develop differentiation for these children. OLV will also become a GEL school within the Gifted Education Framework of the Diocese.
The school continued a lead teacher role in Mathematics. Teachers were given opportunities to fully engage with the analysis of NAPLAN Maths; to develop Maths programs and Scope and Sequence to develop skills in this area. Teachers attended Professional Development in the teaching of Maths. The Leader of Maths worked closely with teacher to improve their skills. This will be further developed in 2018.	It is intended to deepen the understanding of a Professional Learning Community so as to develop mentoring programs and structures aimed at providing goal setting opportunities for executive and teachers. To achieve this, it is intended to in-service the executive in PLC and PP&D strategies. The Lead Teacher in Maths will support teachers by participating in team teaching, planning opportunities and in-service activities.
The school's Catholic Identity has always been a strong focus for the staff and children. Retreats for staff and children were provided. Year 5 attended a leadership retreat to develop and explore the skills required for being leaders of the school the following year. The staff commitment to their vocation was challenged at a one day retreat. These activities have strengthened the Catholic Identity of the school.	In 2017, the area of Gifted Education will be explored in depth. it is intended to provide a support structure to facilitate a "whole school" approach to Gifted Education. It is intended to investigate suitable programs and liaise with cluster high schools to provide the direction for enriching the Gifted child in a school setting. Staff Inservice will occur to assist them in differentiating their delivery for children with special gifts.

Academic Achievements

Academic excellence is valued at Our Lady of Victories. We encourage children to participate in the University of NSW Competitions in Maths, English, Science and Computers as well as Debating and the Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition. Those children who have a skill in the areas of Art, Maths, English and Science are invited to attend a four week enrichment course held at San Clemente High School for Year 6 students. Two children from each Stage participated in the Regional Public Speaking competition held at Corpus Christi, Waratah and one child came third in the Early Stage 1 section and went onto

represent the school at the Diocesan Finals. Our Debating Team also won the Regional Competition and represented at the Diocesan Finals. A Year 5 student was the winner of the Newcastle Permanent Building Society Maths Competition for Year 5 in the Hunter

Cultural achievements

Our Lady of Victories offers weekly music lessons to interested children in piano and guitar. There are a number of children who participate and share their learnt skills with the community at masses, assemblies and special occasions. The school employed a singing/choir teacher to teach A Cappella singing and the children and staff presented a wonderful Christmas Carols night for the community in our new hall using the new stage lights provided by parents fundraising. Other students participated in the weekly dance lesson and performed on various occasions for parents and the wider community. One student auditioned successfully for the 2018 Diocesan ASPIRE production to which Year 5 and 6 will attend.

Sporting achievements

In 2017, children from Our Lady of Victories participated in a Soccer Gals, weekly Gymnastics and Tennis, Swimming and Athletics carnivals and a weekly swimming program. Children from these were selected to represent the North Region of Schools in the Diocesan Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. One girl was selected to represent the Diocese at the Polding Athletics Carnival. One boy was selected to represent the Region at the Diocesan Tennis Trials.

Student Achievements

Performance in National Testing

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. An analysis of these results assists School planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

The tables below show the percentages of students who achieved particular skill bands in numeracy and the aspects of literacy. The School results shown are compared to students nationally. Literacy is reported in four content strands (aspects): Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. Numeracy is reported as a single content strand.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2017		% of students in the top 3 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 3	Reading	93.75%	73.90%	6.25%	10.00%
	Writing	87.50%	74.40%	0.00%	7.50%
	Spelling	75.00%	68.80%	18.75%	13.10%
	Grammar	81.25%	75.00%	6.25%	10.50%
	Numeracy	75.00%	67.10%	0.00%	11.40%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2017		% of students in the top 3 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 5	Reading	53.33%	63.00%	26.67%	14.60%
	Writing	20.00%	47.90%	26.67%	19.40%
	Spelling	46.67%	63.00%	6.67%	14.10%
	Grammar	46.67%	59.90%	20.00%	17.50%
	Numeracy	40.00%	57.60%	13.33%	14.60%

Staffing Profile

Staff Qualifications

Qualifications and Experience	Number of Staff
I. Teachers with teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR).	11
II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications	0

Workforce Composition

Number of Staff	
Total teaching staff	11
Total non-teaching staff	6
Grand total	17
Percentage of teachers who are indigenous	0

Teacher Attendance

95%

Teacher Retention

100%

Professional Learning Undertaken

One teacher has completed a Master's degrees in Theological Studies and 2 teachers are undergoing study of a Master in Educational Leadership.

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

The opinions and ideas of parents, students and staff are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving improved outcomes for students. This year, the School has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, students and staff.

Parent Satisfaction

The parents of children at Our Lady of Victories seems very satisfied with the service provided by the school. They often accept invitations to attend celebrations and liturgies with their children and are supportive of school activities. The Parents and Friends Association meets every month and is vital and well attended, considering the small size of the school. Parents seem enthusiastic to support the needs of the school.

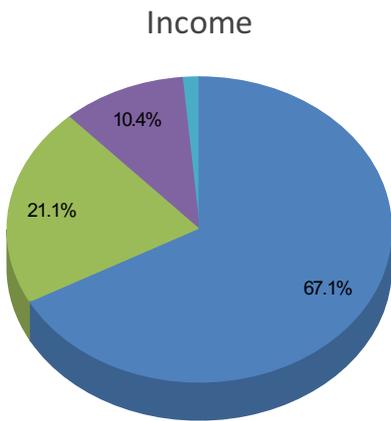
Student Satisfaction

I am very satisfied with Our Lady of Victories. It has many events like the Year 6 Camp and it is a lot of fun being here. I rate the school 8.5 out of 10. *(Joseph - Year 6)*

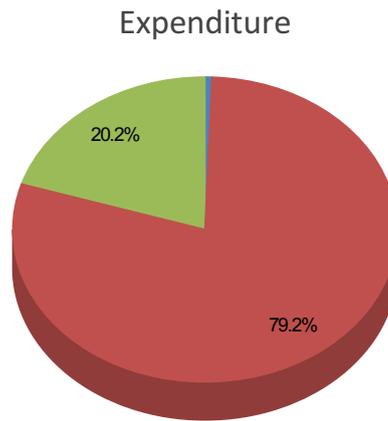
It is an absolute pleasure to be a student at OLV. From my caring peers to the fantastic teachers , I can truly say that this is a kind school. I enjoy every minute of learning and playtime because it is so exciting to learn new things and discover some of the nicest people. *(Sienna - Yr 6)*

Staff Satisfaction

The teachers and staff at Our Lady of Victories work collaboratively in their stages to plan and program their work. They are generous with their time when it comes to meeting with parents and working with the children in their care. Our Lady of Victories encourages open and timely communication between teachers and parents. The teachers work collaboratively to enhance the learning across stages and to ensure the well being of all children.



- Commonwealth Recurrent Grants (67.1%)
- Government Capital Grants (0%)
- State Recurrent Grants (21.1%)
- Fees and Private Income (10.4%)
- Other Capital Income (1.4%)



- Capital Expenditure (0.6%)
- Salaries and Related Expenses (79.2%)
- Non-Salary Expenses (20.2%)

This School Financial Information is based on the detailed information provided to the Commonwealth Government in the Commonwealth Financial Questionnaire. School Financial Information for the 2017 year is detailed below:

RECURRENT and CAPITAL INCOME	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants ¹	\$1,250,154
Government Capital Grants ²	\$0
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$393,553
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$194,018
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$26,676
Total Income	\$1,877,538

RECURRENT and CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$10,493
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$1,388,547
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$353,625
Total Expenditure	\$1,752,665

For the 2017 year the Our Lady of Victories Primary School received \$13,137 as Interest Subsidy. Our school community is appreciative of the support it received from the NSW State Government under the Interest Subsidy Scheme

Notes

1. Commonwealth Recurrent Grants includes recurrent per capita grants and special purpose grants.
2. Government Capital Grants includes all capital grants received from the Commonwealth and State Governments.

3. State Recurrent Grants includes recurrent grants per capita, special purpose grants and interest subsidy grants.
4. Fees and Private Income include Archdiocesan and school based fees, excursions and other private income.
5. Other Capital Income includes building levy fees and capital donations used to fund Capital Expenditure.
6. Capital Expenditure includes expenditure on School Buildings, and Furniture and Equipment.
7. Salaries and Related Expenditure includes all salaries, allowances and related expenses such as superannuation and workers compensation insurance.
8. Non-Salary Expenses include all other Non-Salary Recurrent Expenditure covering resources, administration, operational expenses, utilities, repairs and maintenance.

Report Access and Publication

This report is available to members of the school and wider communities. Copies will be supplied to the Catholic Schools Office, NESA, The Parents and Friends Association, the Parish Priest and to all parents.

Copies of this school's Annual School Report are available to the general public. Persons wishing to access a copy of the report should contact:

Our Lady of Victories Primary School

SHORTLAND

Phone: 4951 1003

For further information relating to the Diocesan Policy please refer to: <http://mn.catholic.edu.au>