



Infant Jesus School

History of Infant Jesus School

Revised: 2020

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Infant Jesus School was established in 1954 by the Dominican Sisters to support the Catholic families in the Parish to pass on the faith and to provide a quality Catholic Education.

The first School was opened on a site in Walter Road and was called St Paul. The school opened with an enrolment of 22 children. The two teachers in charge of the school were Sr Joseph and Sr Dominic. In 1956 the Carmelite Fathers took over the Parish. By the end of 1960 the School in Walter Road had become too small and was unsuitable as children were now enrolled in the School from Year 1 to Year 7. Late in 1960 a 4-acre block was purchased at the corner of Smith and Russell Streets and a new building was built at a cost of 14 500 pounds. The new School had four classrooms and was built in plain white bricks. In 1964 the Parish Pre-Primary was built. This was followed in 1967 by the development of the tennis courts at the school. By 1965 there were 230 children enrolled in the school.

In 1975 the first Lay Principal was appointed to the School. Mr John Hollands joined the staff, which included two Dominican Sisters, eight Lay Teachers and a full time Secretary. Up to 1980 the School was co-educational to Year Four. The boys then moved across to St Marks. Also, during the 1980s a four-year-old kindergarten was established and held once per week in the Pre-Primary Centre. The Pre-Primary staff supervised this programme until the Pre-Primary program expanded to five sessions per week. From 1981 the boys were able to stay at the school and complete their Education to Year Seven.

In 1982 an official opening was held for the multi-purpose room and two story classrooms. In 1985 Italian lessons began for the whole school. In 1986, for the first time in thirty years, Infant Jesus School opened without the Dominican Sisters. This was the end of an era.

By 1986, the School had a Principal, twenty-four staff members (nineteen teachers). This increased to thirty-one staff members (twenty-two teachers) and 535 students. In 1996, Mr Viv Theseira was appointed Principal of Infant Jesus School.

On 13 September 1996 there was the blessing and official opening of the new administration block, sheltered undercover area and the expansion of the School Library. In 1998, Kindergarten classes began. In 1999, the undercover area was named the 'Brosman Undercover Area' in honour of Mr Brosman who bequeathed a large amount of money to the School. Late in 2003, shelters for top floor classrooms and a covered walkway were completed.

In 2004, the School celebrated its 50th year of Catholic Education. The major event was an Open Day. There are lasting memories of the School's 50th Anniversary, which include an Anniversary Wall and a Time Capsule, which will be opened during the School's 75th celebrations in 2029.

In 2005 Mrs Fran Italiano was appointed Principal of Infant Jesus School.

During 2007, many changes occurred within the Catholic System in Western Australia. This resulted in the restructuring of the Catholic School System with Year 7 children being relocated to a secondary campus. With this move primary schools extended their focus to Early Childhood needs within the community and the provision of resources to support the Catholic community they serve. This change

enabled Infant Jesus School to provide a Three-Year-Old Kindergarten Program. Parents were offered one session of two and half hours per week, on a full cost recovery basis, as there were no funding allocations for this age group. Classes began during Term Three 2007.

A Capital Development Plan was approved by the Catholic Education Office during 2007/8. The plan catered for a complete rebuilding of the school. The building of the new school was completed within five years. The Schools administration was relocated to Smith Street.

During 2008 the Infant Jesus Parish implemented Parish Based, Parent Focussed, and School Supported Sacramental Program. This program focuses on the parents as the first educators of their children and the key role of supporting their children to grow in their Faith.

The beginning of the 2011 school year was significant as the first stage of the new school rebuild was completed. The children in Years 3 – 6 enjoyed moving into the eight new classrooms. The community was very proud of the new Library Resource Centre and the fully enclosed hall. The next stage of the rebuilding of the school commenced during 2011.

Late in 2012, the new administration, Year 1 & 2 classrooms and Kindergarten & Pre-Primary classrooms were completed. The program provided for impressive nature playgrounds which were built in the Early Years to reflect the changing attitudes and thoughts about the importance of children playing in natural environments.

Late in 2013 the new school oval and refurbishment of the Early Years Centre was completed. After an extensive building program the school was transformed into a brand new environment.

From the beginning of Term One in 2014 the OSHC Club began operating from the Early Years Buildings. This before school and after school care provided on the school site, was an invaluable resource to those parents who were in full-time employment.

In 2014 the community celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Infant Jesus School. This was commemorated with the official opening and blessing of the school. To better reflect our heritage the school buildings were named after significant people in our schools history. The buildings became;

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| • Dominican Learning Centre | ~ | The Library |
| • Carmelite Gathering Place | ~ | The School Hall |
| • Saint Catherine Early Learning Centre | ~ | Early Learning Centre |
| • Saint Rose of Lima Centre | ~ | Year 1&2 |
| • Saint Thomas Aquinas Centre | ~ | Year 4-6 |
| • Holy Child Jesus Centre | ~ | Support Rooms |

The naming of these buildings was instituted with a mosaic project that every member of the school community participated in to create a name plate for each of the school buildings.

At the anniversary celebration evening, the school's pictorial history was unveiled highlighting the events of the past sixty years.

2014 also saw a greater focus on the implementation of technology into the school curriculum, with the use of personal digital devices aimed at enhancing the learning to assist with a rapidly changing technological and information rich world. By integrating and immersing the Information and Communication Technologies into all areas of the Australian Curriculum students were greater engaged to develop as life-long learners.

The focus of Christian Service also continued to be a part of the school curriculum throughout 2015, with children from our Year Six Leadership Program organising and raising significant funds to support local and international agencies. The highlight was a Fun Run for Nepal, which raised over \$12 000 for people in an earthquake that devastated Nepal.

The Music Program at the school has gone from strength to strength with the Infant Jesus School Band achieving significant success in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival by being awarded the P&F Federation Award in the Primary Concert Band section.

After many years of a building program, which prevented major events occurring at the school, the P&F Association spent tireless hours organising a School Fete. This was a huge success with many past and present community members coming to school to take the opportunity of seeing and experiencing the new learning environment.

During 2016, the church and the school community focussed on the Year of Mercy. This special Jubilee Year encouraged us all to understand more fully how Jesus Christ, in His words and actions, reveals the mercy of God.

Mrs Fran Italiano resigned from her position in June 2016 and a new principal was appointed. Mr Paul Hille commenced as school principal from Term Three in 2016.

The start of the 2017 school year saw a new focus for Infant Jesus School. This new direction culminated in the development of a new school prospectus that clearly articulated a new vision for the school. The launch of the schools nine key drivers allowed the school to re-energise and have new direction for the future. These drivers (Catholic Learners, Nurtured Learners, Play-Based Learners, Contemporary Learners, Motivated Learners, Life-Long Learners, Innovative Learners, Connected Learners & Leaders as Learners) were established to assist in the focus of how to provide a world-class Catholic school where there are opportunities for all students, staff and parents to flourish.

In 2017 Infant Jesus School was recognised as an Apple Distinguished School. This prestigious award was granted to the school for its innovation and technology program and one-to-one iPad program. The selection of Infant Jesus School as an Apple Distinguished School highlights our success as an innovative and compelling learning environment that engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment. Our acceptance into the Apple Distinguished School Program exemplified our aspiration to strive to become A LEADIng Learning School.

An exciting new initiative in 2017 was the development of our Innovation and Technology room called iLab. Planning for this facility began in 2016 when the old computer room and library space was viewed differently. The School Board, along with the staff of the school were motivated to make this space 'exceptional' and a wonderful learning environment for our students. This learning environment where students and teachers come together and learn new skills and are not fixed by a set of materials and spaces. It provides many opportunities for learning to be enhanced through collaboration and project-based work. We called this space - iLab. This new room created many opportunities for children, parents, and teachers to spark their curiosity.

In 2017 twenty-five exemplary educators from Xiacheng District Education Bureau of Hangzhou (China) visited our school. They were very interested in studying our teaching and learning program, discussing some of our teaching techniques, as well as inquiring how we were able to integrate technology into the curriculum to enhance student learning and student outcomes. After some discussion with the principal of Sports Park Campus of Hangzhou ChangJiang Experimental Primary School a Sister School relationship was investigated and agreed upon in November. The two schools established a sister school relationship for the purpose of enhancing the students' international awareness and mutual understanding, skills for cross-cultural communication, and starting bilateral visits by the students and staff.

In 2019 Infant Jesus School was re-appointed as an Apple Distinguished School. As a school we continue to explore ways to use technology to enhance teaching. A small team worked together with all staff and students to create a video reflecting the innovative use of technology to enhance learning across the curriculum. This video submission was viewed around the world by other schools. This success was recognised by members of Apple, who presented Infant Jesus with an Apple Distinguished School plaque for 2019-2021, which is displayed in the front office. This recognition is particularly rewarding to our school community as there is only 400 schools world-wide recognised as an Apple Distinguished School.

2019 also saw the introduction of several new initiatives to make our school standout and become even more ready to keep that "love of learning" alive:

i-Achieve

- **i-Achieve** is a whole school initiative that looks at improving individual and whole school performance. All children are encouraged to always achieve their best in all learning areas across the school curriculum. The teachers will look at the progress children are making during the year

to ensure that they are continually looking for ways that they can improve. i-Achieve will be seen in the work in the classroom and in activities outside the class. This initiative ensures that children in all year levels become highly motivated and life-long learners.

i-Read

- The **Principal's Reading Challenge** called **i-Read** is an initiative to inspire all children to love books (reading) and be highly motivated readers and successful literacy learners. This program provides an exciting opportunity for all children to be further engaged in reading enabling them to set individual goals and to monitor their own progress. i-Read will assist in further developing excellent comprehension skills (school focus area) that will then be applied across all curriculum areas to improve outcomes and enable all children to flourish.

i-Perform

- **i-Perform** is a Performing Arts program specifically designed for Year 1 – Year 3 students, giving these children the opportunity to explore the creative arts in small group settings. This new initiative has been created as a way to provide Year 1 – 3 students' the opportunity to extend their creativity and performance skills in the areas of drama and speech, improvisation, role-play, performance, poetry and movement – to name a few. Children worked in small groups with Miss Condipodero throughout the year and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to extend their gifts and talents

This year also saw the school take the opportunity to update the school uniform. It had been a consistent topic of conversation at both School Board and P&F Association Meetings. A small sub-committee was established to look at what needed to change to ensure that our students had a uniform that that was recognizable and well presented. Therefore, 2020 will be a transition year with students moving to the new uniform. It is envisaged that all students will be in the full School Uniform by the start of the 2022 school year.

Over the course of Term One, the staff developed a set of Behaviour Expectations based around our Core Values of Uniqueness, Respect and Excellence. These 'Behaviour Expectations' apply not only to our students, but also to the staff and parents within our school community as they identify and convey the beliefs that positively influence our behaviour and the way we interact with individuals, groups and communities. They also represent the deepest beliefs and sentiments to which we can aspire, and they shape our school community.

The following core values guide our behaviour at our school:

We value Uniqueness – this means we:

value every person as having been made in the image and likeness of God (CCC 27)

We value Respect – this means that we:

Treat others as we would want to be treated (Luke 6:31)

We value Excellence – this means that we:

'No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lamp stand, so that those who enter may see the light!' (Luke 8: 16)

We have discussed each of these values and expectations with the children and explained what this looks like in our school. A copy of the School Values – Behaviour Expectations are included in this newsletter. I encourage you to discuss these with your children.

This year the school board saw the need to further develop the school staffroom for our growing staff to further meet their needs. This building program will be completed for the start of the 2020 school year.