

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Thamarrurr Catholic School
Wadeye, Port Keats**



OLSH Thamarrurr Catholic School

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thamarrurr Catholic School (OLSHTCS) is located at Wadeye (Port Keats) about 400kms SW of Darwin. Wadeye is an Indigenous community of 2500 people who come from 20 clan groups and make up 3 broad ceremonial groups across a broad geographical area known as the Thamarrurr region.

Thamarrurr is a term which describes the way in which senior people of the different clan groups in the region would meet periodically to preside over issues of ceremony, use of natural resources, economic transactions and minor law and justice matters.

The Kardu Diminin people are the traditional owners of the land on which the Wadeye township is situated. Wadeye was founded as a Catholic mission in 1935 by Fr. Richard Docherty MSC, originally located at Werntek Nganayi (Old Mission). The town was relocated to its current location in 1938 due to the lack of water and space for an airstrip.

In 1941 the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart sisters arrived and established a school to teach the children basic skills. OLSHTCS is the largest

single employer in the community of Wadeye with over 115 staff with 35 of these being teachers. There are a high number of local indigenous staff as teachers, assistant teachers, literacy workers and ancillary staff. Current enrolment is over 700 catering for children from Pre school to Year 12.

Primary and Secondary education are delivered on two campuses situated in close proximity and boasting a number of new, refurbished and proposed classrooms and facilities, including library, manual arts building, mechanical workshop, hospitality centre, science block, IT laboratory and art room.

OLSHTCS is a bi-lingual school where instruction in the first three years of schooling is in the student's first language, which is Murrinhpatha. The use of English as a Second Language strategies is an important underpinning feature of all curriculum areas. The school also has a Literature Production Centre for language resource production and this serves as a cultural link between school and community.

OLSHTCS offers a range of VET options and alternative pathways for secondary students and also takes part in projects of national significance including Growing Our Own, Leading Aligned Numeracy Development and Strong Foundations.

OLSHTCS also offers a student nutrition program providing breakfast, morning tea and lunch for all students.



Teaching & Learning

- Teachers work closely with an Indigenous assistant teacher who knows and understands the students, families and their relationships
- Both teachers and assistant teachers bring A range of skills in a spirit of active and mutual participation in the teaching and learning process
- ‘Learning Together’ sessions are on-site meetings where staff learn and plan in a cooperative group providing opportunities to develop teaching skills and to gain or share knowledge about cross-cultural situations and the school curriculum
- All students learn using English as a second or additional language. Teachers are provided with introductory and on-going support for teaching ESL
- Religious Education is a key priority for Indigenous people in Indigenous Catholic Community Schools
- Professional Learning is provided for teachers to deliver school designated approaches to literacy and numeracy



Community Facilities

- Well equipped store — groceries, general items
- EFTPOS and ATM facilities
- Fruit and vegetable shop
- Butcher
- Takeaway shop
- Shire office
- Police Station with night patrol
- Post Office -Commonwealth Bank agency
- Centrelink office
- Health Clinic with two doctors
- Crèche
- Mechanical workshop and fuel outlet
- Next G mobile and wireless internet coverage
- Television and radio coverage
- Swimming Pool and sport and recreational activities program
- Local football competition
- Women’s Centre – screen printed material, clothing and handicrafts
- Boat ramp

Teacher Benefits

- Paid removal costs and storage costs for 2 years
- Airfares for you and your family
- Vehicle delivery costs
- Salary packaging
- Special teaching allowance for all teachers and a district allowance paid to employees with dependants
- Free health care and remote tax benefits
- Free housing in a range of 1-3 bedroom furnished units and houses with most contents provided
- Free electricity, gas, water and contents insurance
- Food freight costs reimbursed
- Special study leave arrangements and access to the Study Incentives Program
- Laptop computer supplied
- 10 days sick leave and 10 days personal leave per year
- Portable long service leave
- 1 day per term for private business
- 3 FOILS per year– travel and accommodation

