

## St Francis Xavier Catholic School

Naiyu, Daly River,

St Francis Xavier Catholic School was established in 1956 by the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and is located in the picturesque Daly River region of the Northern Territory, approximately 220kms SW of Darwin.

The Naiyu Community at Daly River has approximately 500 residents from 10 different language groups. The main traditional language spoken at Daly River is Ngungi Kurunggurr, with the traditional owners of the land being the Malak Malak people. Although traditional languages are still used, the dominant language spoken today is Aboriginal English. St Francis Xavier Catholic School caters for pre-school students through to post-primary education and currently has an enrolment of 75 students. The language of instruction throughout all year levels is English. As 95% of students attending the school are Aboriginal and from a language background other than English, there is a strong emphasis on the teaching and learning of English as a second language.

The school follows the Australian Curriculum, in addition to providing specialized learning programs focusing on Indigenous language and culture.

A Youth Re-engagement program is also being implemented at the school, which provides alternative programs for students who had previously left school and now wish to further their education.

The school consists of 6 classrooms, a computer lab, nutrition kitchen and a well resourced library. A basketball court and under cover area have recently been built and a new culture center takes pride of place in the school grounds.

St. Francis Xavier School has also taken part in projects of national significance, including *Growing Our Own*, *Leading*



Aligned Numeracy Development and Strong Foundations.

The school offers a nutrition program providing breakfast, morning tea and lunch for all students.

### TEACHING AND 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 an Additional Language or Dialect. Teachers are provided with introductory and ongoing support for teaching EAL/D
- ◆ 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

### ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- ◆ Shire Office
- ◆ Takeaway shop
- ◆ Daly River Inn hotel
- ◆ Boat Ramp
- ◆ Annual Merrepen Arts and Sports Festival
- ◆ All weather airstrip
- ◆ Sealed Road from Darwin
- ◆ Excellent fishing

### For more information

Catholic Education Office NT

(08) 89841 400

[www.ceont.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ceont.catholic.edu.au)