

2023

105FD

About this report

St Joseph's Primary School (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), Maitland-Newcastle. The Annual School Report (the 'Report'), provides parents and the wider community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. Additionally, the Report complements and is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the School community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the learning

grounds to exercise in at school. Last year was the first full year of enjoying our new school play equipment. This has been great for our school. We loved Kindergarten transition when we got to meet the new Kindies for 2024. We loved participating in our school Masses and

School Features

In 2023, St Joseph's School experienced significant growth in enrolment. We ended the year with 60 children from Kindergarten to Year 6 enrolled from Coolongolook in the North to Medowie in the South. We had three classrooms - K/1, 2/3/4 and 5/6. Each year, our senior students transition to St Clare's High School Taree or Catherine McAuley Catholic College Medowie, for their secondary education.

In 1955, the Sisters of St Joseph came from Lochinvar to Bulahdelah and opened a Primary School. In 1957, the grades were extended to include secondary classes. These continued until 1966, when the secondary campus closed. While in Bulahdelah, the Sisters lived in the Convent adjacent to the school. The Convent was built in 1926. Today, the Convent is listed as a heritage building. Unfortunately, in February 2023 the convent suffered an arson attack and was burnt beyond repair. The Myall Coast Parish and the school are now in discussions about the future of the convent building site, keeping in mind the local heritage listing.

A new Primary School was built and opened on the site in 2006. The school is nestled under the beautiful Alum Mountain. Our school crest signifies our Catholic heritage and links to

Student Profile

Student Enrolment

The School caters for students in Years K – 6. Students attending this School come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities. The following information describes the student profile for 2023: Additional information can be found on My School website.

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
39	22	2	61

* Language Background Other than English

Enrolment Policy

The [Enrolment Policy](#) applies to all school enrolments within the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. School authorities

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Staffing Profile

Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2023:

Total number of staff	12
Number of full time teaching staff	3
Number of part time teaching staff	4
Number of non-teaching staff	5

Total number of teaching staff by NESA category

Teachers at this School are either accredited as conditional, provisional or proficient as defined by the NSW Teacher Accreditation

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Summary of professional learning at this school

Governance: Annual staff induction training (including WHS Site Induction) and Governance paperwork. Principal also undertook mandatory governance training throughout 2023.

Religion and Staff Spirituality: Planning to

Catholic Mission, Caritas and Catholic Care are a focus for our school's social justice initiatives. Each year we hold a Mission Fun Day where the students run a Mini Mission Fete with all fundraising going to Catholic Mission. We also held other fundraising events through Lent with money raised going to Caritas (e.g. St Joseph's Day).

St Joseph's implements the Diocesan K-12 Religion Syllabus. Religion is timetabled for 150 minutes per week and units include curriculum differentiation and a variety of learning activities to encourage deep knowledge and thinking and creative responses. This year, staff have taken part in formation opportunities around the Pedagogy of Encounter and taught the new Kindergarten units in the RE Syllabus. Our staff spiritual formation day was held in December to work on embedding our vision and new mission statements. This happened after consultation with our students, families and parishioners.

Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

The School provides an educational program based on and taught in accordance with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) syllabuses for Primary Education. The Key Learning Areas (KLAs) are English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education.

The Curriculum is structured around the outcomes and content for each learning area and general capabilities for learning across the curriculum including literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology, critical and creative thinking, ethical behaviour, personal and social competence and intercultural understanding.

Religious Education: Religious Education takes place in both the formal and informal curriculum of the classroom and school. The formal curriculum deals with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values related to religion and faith. As the children move through their schooling, their capacity to understand concepts and the teachings of Jesus and Church grows and develops. The new Religious Education curriculum covers four areas of learning: Faith, Story, Witness, and Wisdom.

Other Key learning Areas

All content from the Key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics, Science, HSIE, Creative Arts, PDHPE is governed by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and can be found on their website <https://educationstandards.nsw.ed.au>

English: Daily English Blocks of 120 minutes includes activities with the strands of Speaking and Listening, Reading and Viewing, Writing and Representing and Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation. This year in English, our focus was Writing - improving the pedagogy and outcomes of the children K-6. We also had reading fluency pairs in Term 4 to develop the student's fluency and accuracy when reading.

Mathematics: Daily Mathematics Blocks of 60 minutes include learning focuses across the following strands in Years 3-6 - Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geography, Statistics and Probability and Working Mathematically. K-2 Mathematics followed the new NSW curriculum and the content strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Space and Statistics and Probability.

Human Society and Its Environment: History and Geography (90 minutes each week), encourages students to study relationships between people, cultures, languages, with a special focus on civics and citizenship.

Science and Technology: (90 minutes per week), helps students understand their environment, both man-made and natural, by investigating, designing, making and using technology.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education: helps students develop self esteem, social responsibility, personal fitness, fundamental motor skills and the ability to make informed decisions about health and lifestyle choices.

Creative Arts: Students participate in dance, drama, music and visual arts through creating and making their own works. This year was the first year where COVID hasn't restricted our work in Music,

Student Performance in Tests and Examinations

NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia participated in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The purpose of NAPLAN is to provide information to parents and teachers about the achievements of students in literacy and numeracy. The test provides a measure of the student's performance against established standards and against other students in Australia. Each year the results are analysed by the school to inform teaching with a view to improving student performance.

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards with 4 levels of achievement to give teachers, parents and carers clearer information on how students are performing:

- Exceeding: The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- Strong: The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- Developing: The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- Needs additional support: The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

The percentage of student achieving at Exceeding and Strong proficiency standards in NAPLAN at St Joseph's Primary School for 2023 is reported in the table below.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2023		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 3	Grammar and Punctuation	67%	54%
	Reading	33%	67%
	Writing	100%	76%
	Spelling	33%	61%
	Numeracy	100%	65%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2023		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	64%	64%
	Reading	73%	74%
	Writing	73%	66%
	Spelling	45%	69%
	Numeracy	64%	68%

Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

Pastoral Care Policy

The School's pastoral care and student wellbeing policies guidelines and procedures are informed by the [Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy](#).

The Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy 2022 aims to provide a framework for the policies, programs, resources and practices implemented at system and school level with the purpose of supporting and enhancing the wellbeing of students, and all within its school community. It refers to the overall climate of care that exists within a Catholic school.

The environment is designed to be safe and inclusive, one that promotes academic rigour. A high priority is given to building and maintaining positive and caring relationships between staff, students and parents, and the wellbeing of all.

Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy

The School's policies and procedures for the management of student behaviour

Complaints Handling Policy

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has established a [Complaints Resolution Policy](#) which is implemented by our school and all systemic schools in the diocese. The rationale for the policy is that within the reality of the schooling experience, it is recognised that, from time to time, misunderstandings and differences of opinion will occur, and that these need to be resolved satisfactorily. Addressing such matters within a framework of dignity, respect and truth can provide powerful opportunities to model the love of Christ in the reality of our contemporary world. CSO monitors the implementation of this policy.

The full text of the [Complaints Resolution Policy](#) may be accessed on the School's website, the administration office or at the CSO website.

Initiatives promoting respect and responsibility

At St Joseph's there are many activities that promote respect and responsibility. The children are active in the school and wider community.

Some activities include:

- Art club, creating mosaics, gardening, wellbeing visits with our Pastoral Care Worker;
- Visits to the local Pre-School and taking part in activities;
- Catholic Mission and Caritas Fundraisers such as Mission Day, Project Compassion, and the Catholic Care August appeal;
- Stewardship of Creation and Laudato Si: National Tree Day, World Environment Day – planning and coordinating student activities, school vegetable garden;
- Make Jesus Real activities in peer support groups;
- Wellbeing initiatives from our Aboriginal Education Worker;
- Deepening student understanding between Catholic and Aboriginal Spirituality -
- NAIDOC celebrations and National Sorry Day liturgy.

School Improvement

The School implements the system's review cycle of improvement which outlines the processes and benchmarks for creating the culture and practice of continuous improvement with students as the focus. Strategic Improvement Plans are future focused documents that map the School's directions, aimed specifically at improving educational and wellbeing outcomes for all students through the following areas:

- Catholic Identity and Catholic Curriculum
- Learning and Wellbeingic

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Financial Statement

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 2023 year is detailed below:

Recurrent and Capital Income 2023	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants ¹	\$1,142,965
Government Capital Grants ²	\$0
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$325,648
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$126,998
Interest Subsidy Grants	\$7,894
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$41,686
Total Income	\$1,645,191

Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2023	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$82,780
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$1,150,816
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$525,156
Total Expenditure	\$1,758,752

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
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END OF 2023 REPORT