

# 2023



Our Lady of Victories Primary School



# Message from key groups in our community

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## Principal's Message

Now that COVID is well and truly behind us, the challenges of bringing together a disjointed community was an important focus for Our Lady of Victories in 2023.

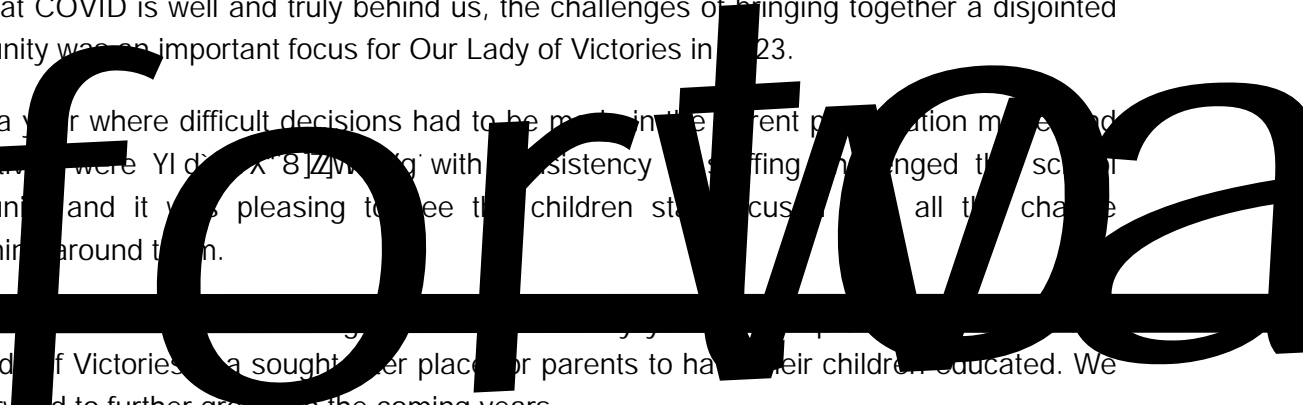
It was a year where difficult decisions had to be made in the current position and alternative options were explored. Working with consistency and staff managed the school community and it was pleasing to see the children start to focus on all the change happening around them.

Our Lady of Victories has sought other places for parents to have their children educated. We look forward to further growth in the coming years.

The end of the year was a chance to celebrate our successes and we finished looking forward with a strong and vibrant community.

## Parent Body Message

2023 was a year of change in regard to how families engage with the school.



This coming year we look forward to events such as: Continuing to run the Easter raffle, A chŷfīg Day and : Uŷfīg Day stalls, annual disco, end of year party and Christmas raffle. The way these events are being organised and run is also evolving. To build a sense of connection and community among parents the school is supporting each class to organise and run a social or fundraising event. We are looking forward to seeing the connections and engagement this builds.

Thanks go to the outgoing P&F executive for their exceptional efforts in promoting a sense of community and pride in our school, including their fabulous efforts towards fundraising for the educational needs for our children. Thanks goes to all general members of the P&F for your commitment to our school community and the association, those who have volunteered their time to work in the canteen, wrap raffle prizes, attend A chŷfīg Day/: Uŷfīg Day Stalls, and putting together various social events over the last 12 months. All efforts are appreciated and are what brings us together as a school community.

Our Lady of Victories Parent Body

Student Body Message

I like to be part of Our Lady of Victorious because it is a fantastic school. I like Everything there. Here are the following reasons why.

Firstly, I have awesome friends who always make me happy. We talk during break times and play socc 165.94 574.04 Tm(canteen, )TJETBT/Fedurin5 Tf0/F2 xnth

(Maxwell - Yr 6 Student)

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## School Features

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### *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.

The spirit of the Sisters of St Joseph is still evident in the school's commitment. Our Lady of Victories School is committed to developing a Catholic Faith Community. 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 made during 2018 with the support of Parents & Friends fund raising activities to support the new learning initiatives in Kinder in 2019 as well as widen the playground experiences for the rest of the school.

### *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. The school caters for all children from Years Kinder to Year 6. After Year 6, families may choose San Clemente High School, Mayfield, to continue their children's Catholic education.

# 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	LBOTBe145 2276 58881 Tm	Boys]ET

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# Staffing Profile

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## Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2023:

Total number of staff	21
Number of full time teaching staff	10
Number of part time teaching staff	6
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 Act 2004. Accreditation at the levels of Highly Accomplished and Lead teacher are voluntary. The number of teachers within the Diocesan Schools System (systemic schools) at these levels is as follows:

- Conditional 107
- Provisional 69
- Proficient 1887
- 4 Highly Accomplished teacher
- 1 Lead teacher

Additionally, there are approximately 10 teachers who are currently actively engaged in the submission process at the higher levels of accreditation. Teacher status at individual schools can be sourced directly from the School.

### Professional Learning

The ongoing professional development of each





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and Mission Statements. The staff are able to refer to these during class time and playground time to familiarise the children with both the school's vision and mission statement.

In 2023, the Year 1 class followed the new Religion units of work that were written by the Catholic Schools Office and found them very valuable.

There was a community build up through our Cuppa & Chat where the parents suggested what sort of things they would like to discuss or have further knowledge in.

Throughout the year we celebrated Weekly Monday morning Liturgies, Harmony Day, ANZAC Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Catholic Schools Week, NAIDOC Week, Our Lady of Victories Feast Day and participated in Friday Parish Masses. We had a lot of interested guests join us in all our wonderful celebrations.

We had a number of students participate in our Parish based Sacramental Program with extra help being provided after school for parents and students who wanted to take part in this program.

Our School took part in social justice initiatives such as Project Compassion, Vinnies Sleep-Out, the Catholic Mission Appeal and St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.

## Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

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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.

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Our Lady of Victories honours its commitment to quality Catholic education through its provision of high-quality programs enabling each child to reach their full potential. We are a community of learning characterised by

### *Learning Support*

Quality teaching is provided by exceptional educators at Our Lady of Victories and is very well resourced in terms of equipment and support personnel. Our Lady of Victories provides learning support services and special needs programs, including access to specialists in psychology, occupational therapy and speech pathology.

Providing a meaningful and inclusive learning program, Our Lady of Victories caters for the intellectual, spiritual, emotional, social and physical dimensions of each student. It fosters the wellbeing of all students and other members within its school community so that each person is 'Yá dck YfYX' and challenged to become lifelong learners with optimism and hope for the 'Z h fYI'

Our Lady of Victories aims to provide a fully inclusive mainstream learning environment that reflects the principles of the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) and the Disability Standards for Education (2005). All students are included in the activities of the school community and given opportunities and responsibilities that recognise their value to the community and provide positive learning and social experiences. Our commitment to the practices of purposeful inclusion reflects the Gospel values of respect, equality and social justice. Within a Christian framework, we provide a learning environment that is supportive and responsive to individual needs and differences and that recognises and celebrates the individual 'gh XYbñg' abilities and strengths.

#### WE AIM TO DO THIS BY:

- ¡ helping all students reach their full potential, academically, socially and emotionally identifying individual strengths and needs
- ¡ providing appropriate interventions where necessary
- ¡ fostering the growth of student confidence and independence in learning
- ¡ working collaboratively with parents and other specialists for the benefit of each student.
- ¡ providing the latest technologies to enhance their learning

#### STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY SPECIAL LEARNING AT OUR LADY OF VICTORIES HAVE NEEDS IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- ¡ mental or physical disabilities (primary focus)
- ¡ learning difficulties
- ¡ English as second language (ESL)
- ¡ behavioural difficulties
- ¡ mental health concerns



## 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 'general capability' 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:

- i Exceeding: The 'general capability' result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- i Strong: The 'general capability' result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- i Developing: The 'general capability' result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- i Needs additional support: The 'general capability' 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 Our Lady of Victories 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	71%	54%
	Reading	83%	67%
	Writing	88%	76%
	Spelling	67%	61%
	Numeracy	65%	65%





## Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

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### 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.

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### Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy

The School's policies and procedures for the management of student behaviour are aligned the CSO [Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy](#) and to the [Suspension](#),

## 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

Each fortnight, at our assembly, the teachers recognise students, or group of students, who are actively living our Vision and Mission through their actions. Awards have the reason on them and these can be seen in the awards section of the newsletter.

Our V&M statements also link with our PBL (Positive Behaviours for Learning) focus of I AM SAFE, I AM A LEARNER and I AM RESPONSIBLE in that the same sort of caring, community minded actions are encouraged through this initiative as well. It will be unpacked over time with the students so they know HOW to live our V&M.

We have displayed our V&M Statements with new signage around the school and refer to them regularly at morning assemblies and throughout the day.. Further we respond to positive displays of behaviour by recording these on open display charts around the COLA.

We have a beautiful community at OLV and this will serve to ensure that we instil values that will benefit our community for years to come, and other communities into which our students enter, after they leave us

## School Improvement

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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 Wellbeing

Each year, the School develops a Strategic Improvement Plan indicating the intended key improvements for student learning outcomes. A copy of the school's Strategic Improvement Plan may be obtained from the School administrative office.

### Key Improvements Achieved

During 2023, we focused on revisiting all the key areas of comprehension from K-6. The following areas were: main ideas, inferring, summarising, monitoring, visualising, predicting, connecting and asking questions. After each focus area each class shared activities they did in the school newsletter. Parents were also informed of each area being taught with an explanation to be able to encourage the children to be using these skills when reading at home.

Throughout staff meeting and Deaf staff

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# Community Satisfaction

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Consultation with parents, students and teachers is valued and sought. Their feedback contributes to the planning and the achievement of

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