

2023



## About this report

---

St Cecilia'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





## School Features

---

St Columban's is a K-6 school accepting children from Maitland, Mayfield East, Mayfield West, Warabrook, Tighes Hill, Islington, Carrington, Wickham and Hamilton North.

Founded by the Dominican sisters in 1917, our school has a deeply embedded history and presence in the local community. Our motto "Truth" is taken from the Latin "Veritas", which is the Dominican ideal. To be true to self, true to others, and true to God. Students are taught to be seekers of truth throughout their lives.

We share important and valued links with our local Dominican schools who are Corpus Christi at Waratah, St Dominic's Centre, Mayfield and San Clemente at Mayfield, as well as a Dominican connection with St John the Baptist at Maitland and ASC at Mary's Campus, "A UjhUbX"

We share this tradition and a strong association with San Clemente High School which is located on the adjacent site. Transition to high school is made much easier for our Year 6 students through this relationship. We offer a well developed Kinder transition program which includes regular visits to the Kinder classroom and a 'buddy' program to assist our youngest students in starting their school journey. Children beginning Kinder spend their first 5 weeks of school at the Kinder classroom.

## Student Profile

---

### Student Enrolment

The School caters for students in Years K Ë 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
77	87	59	164

\* Language Background Other than English

### Enrolment Policy

The [Enrolment Policy](#) applies to all school enrolments within the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. School authorities manage local enrolment processes and procedures in a manner consistent with the rationale and guiding principles articulated in this Enrolment Policy and accompanying [Enrolment Procedures](#). It aims to:

- ï Set direction for school procedures and practices for enrolling students into Catholic primary and secondary schools within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.
- ï Establish a common, consistent approach in enrolment practices.
- ï Assist the system of Catholic schools to:
  - provide schooling, where possible, for children of Catholic families who seek enrolment
  - cater for the individual needs of each child equitably within the constraints of the available teaching and material resources
  - encourage parents enrolling their children in Catholic schools to give support to parish and school life, especially in education in faith.

### Student Attendance Rates

The average student attendance rate for 2023 was 89.90%. Attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group						
Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
89.14	90.76	89.83	88.82	89.59	90.16	91.03



## Staffing Profile

---

### Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2023:

Total number of staff	21
Number of full time teaching staff	8
Number of part time teaching staff	6
Number of non-teaching staff	7

### 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 staff member is highly valued. Professional learning can take many forms including whole school staff days, subject specific in services, meetings and conferences and a range of professional learning programs provided by the Catholic Schools Office (CSO). The School takes responsibility for planning, implementing, evaluating and tracking of its staff professional learning and individual staff members take responsibility for their ongoing professional development. All teachers have been involved in professional learning opportunities during the year related to improving student outcomes.



## Summary of professional learning at this school

Staff continued their focus on teaching and learning in Mathematics in 2023. Staff attended a whole day inservice on developing scope and sequences for the new K-6 Mathematics syllabus along with attending a variety of Mathematical professional development to support implementation of this new curriculum within the classroom. Staff attend regular professional learning on pre and post assessment and how they could use data to inform their practice and differentiate for their students.

Staff participated in a System wide Formation Day, Reimagining Joy which focused on finding God and joy in the everyday. This was facilitated by Dr Michele Connolly rsj, current Associate Professor of Biblical Studies within the Catholic Institute of Sydney and University of Notre Dame. She helped us examine how rich and life-giving Scripture can be, revealing a God whose story intends to renew our lives and calls us to actively engage with the world.

Year 2 and Year 3 teachers attended professional learning on the new Religious Education Curriculum, pedagogy of the Catechism.

An online training course in Interventions to Support Students with Significant Reading Difficulties, strategies for use with students with significant Reading Difficulties. This learning took place over 3 twilight sessions.

Staff at St Columban's participated in the Rock and Water program which is a program for young people to build their self-awareness, increase self-confidence and social functioning. Students learn to stand strong, negotiate using verbal approaches, walk away from trouble, consider alternatives to aggression, and develop understandings about who they are, their intuitive feelings and their personal direction. Rock and Water aligns with our PBL (positive behavior for Learning) framework.



the history and beliefs of the church, the life of Jesus and social justice. We are preparing our students to be lifelong learners - just like St. Dominic.

We witness to our faith by engaging in social justice activities which teach students about our responsibility as Christians to reach out to the less fortunate. Students are involved in Mini Vinnies to assist our local community. Senior students organise an annual Mission Day fundraiser and send proceeds to Catholic Mission to give aid to those in poorer nations around the world. Students engage in whole school spirituality days where there is often a strong theme of social justice and helping those in our wider community, most recently making bags for the Mission to Seafarers. As a broader school community, we celebrate St Dominic's Day



a voice. In term four the staff attended a spirituality retreat on how to pray. We continue to receive professional development and roll out of the new religious education program.

A number of students participated in Tournament of the Minds - (TOM) a program for all primary and secondary students providing the opportunity to solve authentic, open-ended challenges that foster creative, divergent thinking whilst developing collaborative enterprise, excellence and teamwork. Our students competed Challenge in the discipline of Language and Literature. Our Team won their category in Hunter Region division and represented us at the State finals in Sydney placing second and were awarded "HONOURS".



i  
i  
i  
i

NAPLAN RESULTS 2023		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	67%	64%
	Reading	71%	74%
	Writing	67%	66%
	Spelling	58%	69%
	Numeracy	58%	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

the



## 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



limited to) setting the sacred space and leading prayer and liturgy; deciding on PBL focuses and rewards; UbX fundraising ideas for those less Zfhi bUHY"

In the physical space our Library received a fresh coat of paint new carpet in the infants' classrooms, all infants rooms were installed with interactive televisions. Our deck received a bright coat of paint and a storage box for outdoor passive play. Students engaged with Up and Up, and an indigenous artist Jakeob Watson to design a school mural which incorporates the 4 Dominican pillars, significant indigenous artefacts specific to our area and our PBL mascot Bluey the Blue Tongue Lizard,

### Priority Key Improvements for Next Year

Staff will implement the new K-6 Mathematics and English syllabus. Aligning the new Mathematic pre assessment data to targeted learning new curriculum.

Staff will be provided with professional development which will build self-efficacy and assist teachers to feel more confident in explaining and using elements of prayer and liturgy in the classroom and incorporate them effectively into their teaching.

Introduce a ÎK Ungi to DfUmi series including Lectio Divina, Visio Divina, Ignatian Examen, Christian Meditation and other Catholic prayer and meditation forms through the gWcc Ig RE News which is sent out to teachers each week.

Staff will participate in the Twilight Formation- The work of the people: A workshop on Liturgy and Prayer. 4. During Stage PLTs work, participate in professional learning and discussion around liturgy and how we celebrate and why.

All infants classes will receive new windows replacing the existing opaque windows with clear windows allowing more light into the WUggfcca "

Rock and water will be embedded in our PBL and students K-6 will receive regular lessons developing their self awareness and regulation skills.

## Community Satisfaction

---

Consultation with parents, students and teachers is valued and sought. Their feedback contributes to the planning and the achievement of improved outcomes for students. This year, the School has used a variety of processes to gain

the classroom, given him leadership roles which he talks about with such pride. They have been understanding with financial difficulty earlier in the year and never made me feel judged. I'm very thankful to the community of this school who have impacted my boy so much. It's given him a great lead up to high gVcc""

### Student satisfaction

Students at St Columban's are encouraged to participate in the faith, academic and cultural life of the school. The 2022 TTFM survey indicated that our

"Our school is working hard on the LLC Learning agenda. Our goal of focusing on Religious Education in the next improvement plan is a good one. . "



