

2022

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About this report

St Columban's Primary School (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and

Message from key groups in our community

Principal's Message

I am delighted to present to you the annual school report of St Columban's Catholic Primary School. Our school vision truly encompasses all that we strive to achieve: "Inspiring all to reach their full potential, within a diverse community, through the richness and Truth of Christ's message".

The purpose of this report is to celebrate the many achievements of our school and outline our plans for continued improvement.

Children at St Columban's are welcomed into a small community where their individuality is acknowledged, celebrated and respected. Our strong positive reputation in the local area is built on our approach to pastoral care, social justice, student welfare and striving for excellence in all we do.

Our staff focus on building a culture of learning continued with our involvement in the Diocesan Leading Learning Collaborative. This has been a very exciting initiative that has built a common language and increased capacity of both students and teachers.

Our school continued to build strong, positive relationships within the Parish and our parent community. We are proud of the community we have built at St Columban's. We work together to ensure that our students grow into strong, confident, faith-filled contributors to society.

Parent Body Message

As our son graduated Year 6 this past week, we've had plenty of time to reflect on his journey at St Columban's. What an amazing time it has been for our family.

Our son came to St Columban's from a school in Queensland. A change in custody arrangements meant that he would be living in our care full time. Before the arrangements came into effect, we had already identified St Columban's as our preferred school. There was a family history associated with the school, however we also wanted to ensure that our son would be well supported and not just become a number in the school system. A smaller school, a positive structure of both teachers and support staff, along with a few familiar school friend faces ensured that he would be off to a great start.

Throughout his years at St Columban's, his teachers were very supportive in his schooling. Feedback and suggested guidance were regularly given, allowing us to monitor learning and behaviour outside of school. Regular feedback from our son's counsellors at the school also assisted us. The counselling service was extremely valuable, providing him with another

outlet to talk and help navigate his way through life, both inside and outside of school. We are very appreciative of the time, effort and care that the teaching, support

Service Leadership Team

As the Service Leaders of St Columban's in 2022, we have helped in many activities. We often assisted in the canteen on Wednesdays and Fridays, their busiest days. We helped Miss Di Santo prepare a Mini Vinnies store in Term 2.

At the beginning of Term 4, Ms Nunn prepared a game for the whole school, and we assisted her by making soccer balls with plastic bags and socks in aid of Socktober and Mission Week. After the game, we were able

The main activity we contributed to was the sports shed maintenance. This involved having to keep it clean and tidy, distribute the equipment at break times and make sure that the equipment was returned undamaged at the end of breaks.

Another activity was assisting with the distribution of fish and chip orders during Lent and on Mission Day in October.

We were also involved with most sport activities, for example, the Sports Carnivals when we had to guide students to their respective races and assist with packing up of equipment.

The organisation of the leadership teams this year provided the opportunity for every Year 6 student to build on their leadership skills, with the four groups being Study, Service, Prayer and Community. – Will Springthorpe

School Features

St Columban's is a K-6 school accepting children from Mayfield, 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

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 2022: Additional information can be found on My School website.

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
76	99	59	175

* 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

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Staffing Profile

Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2022:

Total number of staff	20
Number of full time teaching staff	7
Number of part time teaching staff	8
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 101 teachers
- Provisional 50 teachers
- Proficient 1862 teachers
- 1 Highly Accomplished teacher
- 1 Lead teacher

Additionally, there are approximately 4 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 2022. We participated in a highly successful, collaborative day of learning with staff from St Columba's, Adamstown, which focused on strategies to improve student learning and thinking.

Staff also participated in a Formation Retreat which focused on ways of praying. This was facilitated by Ryan Gato from the Catholic Schools Office and his knowledgeable presence ensured a productive experience for all.

An online training course in strategies for use with students diagnosed with AD/HD was attended by all staff over 3 twilight sessions. This was very useful

Catholic Identity and Mission

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle participate, under the leadership of the Bishop and in partnership with parents and parishes, in the mission of the Church to provide quality education in the context of a living Catholic Christian tradition. Within this context, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle educate from and for vibrant, welcoming and diverse communities with a particular commitment to the poor; for justice, integrity and peace; and with hope for the future.:

At the heart of everything there is always Jesus Christ.

Catholic schools educate:

- From and for the community of faith
- From and for excellence in learning
- In a rigorous, creative and critical pursuit of truth

(Adapted from: The Catholic School's Office Diocesan Vision Statement, 2016)

St Columban's Primary School has a strong Dominican tradition with over 100 years of history. Students can articulate our charism of using "head, heart and hands" to be the true face of God to others.

Using the four pillars of the Dominican tradition: prayer, study, community and service we are able to integrate the 800-year-old teachings of St Dominic de Guzman into our modern lives and see the ways in which they are still relevant today.

The pillars are part of all we do and are woven through our everyday school activities. Regular prayer, attendance to study, belonging to community and service to others. Regular prayer is part of our Catholic identity. the school community pray together each morning and one class attends parish Mass weekly. Regular liturgies celebrate the liturgical year and important days such as feast days, reconciliation week, Harmony Day, Mothers' and Fathers' Day.

Each October, members of the parish are invited to pray the Rosary with our students each morning.

Attention to study is evidenced in

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

Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

Student Performance in Tests and Examinations

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We will also commence staff learning in cultures of thinking and how a focus on the cultural forces in our school can assist students in becoming creative and critical thinkers, and collaborative problem solvers.

The infant's classrooms, administration block, library and foyer will be repainted and carpeted over the coming year, with new furniture and smart screens also installed in classrooms. The playground deck will also have artwork and storage for resources installed.

The school hall will also undergo a refurbishment.

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 information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, students and teachers. The school undertakes extensive surveying of all stakeholder groups annually. This data is shared with the school community and contributes to the priorities for future planning.

Parent satisfaction

Staff have made use of parent feedback to plan for learning and parental involvement in the school. Parents provided feedback via the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) survey which indicated that the majority of parents feel welcome and included as part of their child's educational journey. Parents also feel that the school provides high expectations of learning and behaviour and that any difficulties are dealt with promptly and fairly.

Overall, the feeling among parents as indicated by the survey is that the school has strong leadership, embedded Catholic culture and a good reputation in the community.

Some parent comments from the survey:

"This school is great! The principal is amazing and welcoming, easy to talk to, including my children's teachers. They make sure we are informed about all the events, the communication is great and teachers are available for quick parent-teacher meetings whenever I need. My children have not experiem3 605.19 Tm[(to)]TJETBT/F3 14.67 d.67 Tf0.75/F3 14.6

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judged. I'm very thankful to the community for the support we have provided my son
much. It's given him a great learning to high school."

Student satisfaction

Students at St Columba's are encouraged to participate in a variety of academic and cultural life of the school. The TTFM survey indicated that our students feel they have the opportunity to develop positive relationships with their peers and staff. They find the lessons and curriculum to be interesting and engaging environments where they feel both challenged and supported.

will help staff develop their thinking and professional skills given we are a single stream school. "

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 2022 year is detailed below:

Recurrent and Capital Income 2022	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants ¹	\$1,974,478
Government Capital Grants ²	\$0
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$575,902
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$320,131
Interest Subsidy Grants	\$0
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$110,148
Total Income	\$2,980,659

Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2022	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$1,140
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$2,156,176
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$662,723
Total Expenditure	\$2,820,039

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 private income.
5. Other Capital Income includes building levy fees and capital donations used to fund Capital Expenditure.
6. Capital Expenditure includes expenditure on School Buildings, and Furniture and Equipment.
7. Salaries and Related Expenditure includes all salaries, allowances and related expenses such as superannuation and workers compensation insurance.
8. Non-Salary Expenses include all other Non-Salary Recurrent Expenditure covering resources, administration, operational expenses, utilities, repairs and maintenance.

