

2023



Holy Cross Primary School



## Message from key groups in our community

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### Principal's Message

Holy Cross forms part of an authentic, faith-filled

Something to PLAY – we were able to purchase brand-new musical instruments this year to go hand in hand with the Holy Cross music program. We will be sure to see some little rockstars come out of their shells in 2024!

Something to LEARN – we purchased programs for the students, Spelling and Maths Mastery, which has come with great success for our students. We also collaborated with staff and helped purchase Electricity & Circuit Robotic Class Kits for hands on Science and Tech learning for 2024.

Something to TOUCH – the Henny Penny hatching program seen a lot of love for circle of life. The kids were in awe of the hatchlings and were able to look, touch and learn all about them.

Something FUN – We hosted events such as an Ice-Skating night, Colour Run and a School Disco. These events were such a hit with the students, they will return next year, without a doubt!

All these goals would not have been reached without a wonderful energetic team behind the scenes. I would like to give some very special mentions to the executive team who have all done a magnificent job throughout the year taking time to organise events, set up fundraisers, attend meetings, run the canteen, and uniform shop, collaborate with staff and so much more!

### Student Body Message

As student leaders at Holy Cross, we have really valued the opportunity to take on a captain's role within the school. Our Principal led us in demonstrating servant leadership.

We were part of fundraising opportunities such as the Father's Day Stall, Socktober and many more. One of my fondest memories was raising money for a backpack bed for a homeless person.

Leading the school has been a great thrill and privilege and I will miss Holy Cross.

As our school Facebook page says "HCG is the place to be".

SCHOOL CAPTAIN 2023

## School Features

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Holy Cross forms part of an authentic, faith-filled Catholic community, where high standards of education ensure that improving the educational outcomes for every student is paramount. Holy Cross follows the Making Jesus Real framework, with a Positive Behaviours for Learning "twist". This has seen the disciplinary issues reduce by over 35% in a two year period (15% this year alone!)

Our Mission Statement dares us to walk with Jesus as a people of action, in a place of peace for a future filled with inspired learners. At Holy Cross Primary School, Glendale, we pride ourselves on offering children the highest quality education within the context of a caring Catholic community. We pride ourselves at Holy Cross on knowing every student, with Lyn Sharratt's "Clarity" at the centre of our focus, we know all the "faces on the data". Not only the data, but we know all about our children's interests, what makes them tick and how we can help them learn to their optimum.

Our school's Mission Statement focuses on challenging students to strive for success in all areas of school life, to become lifelong learners and achieve their personal best. To maintain high standards in literacy and numeracy, class timetables are aligned across the school, emphasising the integral role of English and Mathematics. These key learning areas are uniquely timetabled to maintain the best possible use of human resources to support best practice.

Additional teaching staff include a Learning Support teacher who provides expertise in additional needs, including extending student academia and gifted education. A Pedagogical Mentor, who works alongside teachers to give them the best possible support and to build capacity, as well as seven Learning Support assistants who provide in-class support for teachers, enabling greater access to differentiated learning.

A Gifted Education Mentor (GEM) provides professional and learning support to gifted learners and their teachers, across the school.

An Aboriginal Education Teacher and an English as an Additional Language or Dialect teacher, raises awareness and supports the school community in celebrating our indigenous and multicultural heritage whilst assisting the academic growth and cultural development of our Indigenous students.

Our bubblers were a significant improvement to the school this year and have definitely

brightened up the environment. We added chickens to our school and incorporate a community and family feel to our surroundings. Holy Cross is an inviting school where all are welcome, feel they belong and every child MATTERS.

Our major SPDC project, the outdoor learning space, was completed early this year at a significant cost to the Diocese. It has provided students and teachers with an excellent opportunity to incorporate outdoor learning, as well as gives the school a wonderful street presence on Lake Road. We wish to thank the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle for the grant, as well as any other bodies and agencies responsible.

# 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
70	62	31	132

\* 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:

- Set direction for school procedures and practices for enrolling students into Catholic primary and secondary schools within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.
- Establish a common, consistent approach in enrolment practices.
- 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








## Summary of professional learning at this school

The main professional learning conducted at Holy Cross was around Professional Learning Teams. On a twice-termly basis, staff were released for half days to utilise "best practice" pedagogy, data analysis and moderation techniques with their students. As a result, teachers became more engaged in student's strengths and areas for improvement. This led to more specific teaching programs and a more thorough and rigorous curriculum being undertaken in classrooms, K-6.

Staff also completed professional learning on fluency in mathematics, the science behind why fluency is important to



## 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.

The teachers at Holy Cross provide a rich and purposeful curriculum fulfilling NESA requirements. Not only is the teaching across key learning areas of a high standard, the school also offers expertise from external providers. Each class

# 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

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NAPLAN RESULTS 2023		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctua7aA		

# 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

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## 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

Students at Holy Cross continued the Making Jesus Real Program, titled, "Highway Heroes". On a fortnightly basis, each class took ownership of "teaching" the school a specific learning goal, revolving around our school's five expectations, which are clearly displayed



A school psychologist was granted a 0.2FTE allocation by the Catholic Schools Office to work with Holy Cross Glendale, to facilitate higher-level mental health issues experienced by students, to work with families and liaise with teachers and other like-minded professionals.



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Improvement of writing - in particular, improvement of grammar, punctuation and spelling. Our students, your children, have WONDERFUL ideas and GREAT arguments when writing, we just need to work with them to get it down on paper / laptop in the best way possible. The improvements so far have been AMAZING, now it is time to consolidate.

Fluency in Mathematics - Fluency is one of the greatest predictors of a student's future success in mathematics. A student who is fluent in number not only "knows" their facts, but "knows" why they work and in multiple and frequently different situations

Wellbeing - Staff and students - I have said this many times to a parent. If a child feels safe and nurtured in the school grounds then they are more likely ready to learn, and our teachers can weave their "magic" and teach them.

At Holy Cross, we have been working with Bronwyn Thoroughgood, who has a Trauma-informed background and works at the Catholic Schools Office. She has been delivering sessions to our staff this year on ways in which we can

# 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 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

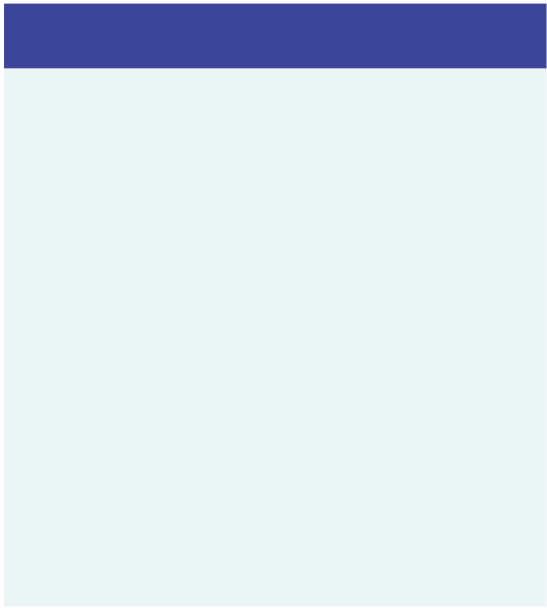
Parental satisfaction was generally high at Holy Cross. We always have welcomed positive feedback through the community.

# feedback

Further work will be undertaken on the ever increasing morale of the staff. This year, the inception of Professional Learning Team Meetings gave staff a greater sense of togetherness, an openness to speak in a forthright, yet professional manner, to listen to concerns and to solve problems amicably.

The greatest indicator of the high levels of satisfaction amongst staff is the minimal turnover at the end of 2023.

One staff member is leaving due to travel and the other has ceased their contract to obtain permanent employment outside the Diocese.



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END OF 2023 REPORT