

2023



St John the Baptist PS

## About this report

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St John the Baptist PS (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards

## Message from key groups in our community

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### Principal's Message

St John the Baptist Primary School is located in Maitland and provides a nurturing Catholic education for our 395 students. Our school prides itself on our strong Catholic identity, shown through our vibrant sense of community. We recognise and celebrate our Dominican heritage, honouring the contributions of the sisters to our school's history.

Throughout 2023, the school celebrated Masses and liturgies with the Parish Priests from our local Chisholm Region Parish. Year level Mass at St Mary's Chapel occurred throughout the year and as a whole school we celebrated key events within the Catholic faith including Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

St John the Baptist holds high expectations for student learning and growth and provided opportunities to showcase this throughout the year through open classrooms, showcase assemblies, and debating, public speaking and spelling / maths bee at a regional level. 4 students participated in the diocesan Virtual Academy, emphasising our commitment to catering to the diverse learning needs of all students.

Throughout the year, we remained dedicated to enhancing teaching practices through the implementation of Lyn Sharratt's explicit teaching methodologies and data-driven decision-making processes, Peter Sullivan's approach to mathematics and Michael McDowell's feedback pedagogical practices. Pedagogical mentors were engaged to support staff development, particularly in the area of mathematics, resulting in increased student engagement and active participation in learning.

### Parent Body Message

St John the Baptist has an active P & F Association contributes enormously in their partnership with the school. An example of this involvement is the large number of parents who organise and/or participate in fundraising and social events throughout the year. Communication with parents is maintained through formal information sessions, the school website, the Compass parent portal, formal and informal parent meetings, school newsletter, school Facebook account and regular P&F meetings.

It has been a positive year for the St John the Baptist's Parents and Friends' Association (P&F), who looked for ways to re-build community connection after recent restrictions. We supported many and varied opportunities for parent involvement in school life (e.g. Grandparent's Day, Open classroom, Welcome BBQ and Christmas Family Night) and we managed to raise approximately \$11, 000 through fundraising initiatives which included the



## School Features

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St John the Baptist Primary School is prominent in the local community and offers a sound Catholic education for the 395 students who are enrolled. We have a strong Catholic identity and an atmosphere of warmth and care pervades our school community. Our parent body is an enthusiastic and vibrant group that work together in many class and whole school endeavours to assist in the education of their children and foster community spirit.

At our school, we follow in the footsteps of Saint Dominic, who was a tireless seeker of truth, wisdom, and compassion. Guided by our Catholic faith and Dominican values, we strive to create an environment where every child feels valued, loved, and inspired to reach their full potential. We celebrate our Dominican heritage and recognise the contribution made by the Sisters to the history of St John's since 1856. We were the first Dominican School established in Australia and therefore the oldest Dominican School in Australia and first school in the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese.

Our Catholic identity in the form of Gospel values forms the basis upon which our educational perspective is shaped. The Catholic identity of St John the Baptist Primary School is clear and apparent to all, from the prayer at the beginning of each school day to the final words spoken to the students before they go home. Indeed, the many signs and symbols, the visible traditions of the founding Dominican Sisters and the many prayerful celebrations serve as constant witness to the Catholic ethos of the school.

Our dedicated team of educators is committed to providing a well-rounded education that goes beyond textbooks and exams. We aim to foster a deep sense of moral responsibility and empathy towards others, encouraging our students to become compassionate leaders in our ever-changing world. Providing a meaningful and inclusive learning program, St John the Baptist caters for the intellectual, spiritual, emotional, social and physical dimensions of all students. Strong programs in each Key Learning Area are delivered to all students. A highly structured combination of professional development opportunities, access to quality teaching resources and experiences, as well as an increased emphasis on student wellbeing and parent engagement has been developed to increase student readiness for and engagement in learning. Curriculum differentiation ensures that the learning is tailored to meet the needs of all students.

St John the Baptist has high expectations of its students, they are encouraged to be active participants in their learning journey, embrace the challenges, ask questions, and pursue knowledge with curiosity and enthusiasm. We believe that every student is unique and that each student has something valuable to contribute to our school community.

Over the years many additions have been made to

# Student Profile

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## 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



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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	36
Number of full time teaching staff	15
Number of part time teaching staff	8
Number of non-teaching staff	13

### 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

The Professional Learning in 2023 was delivered in a systematic and planned way at staff meetings and pupil free days based upon our Strategic Improvement Goals.. Staff participated in Professional Learning Team Meetings (PLTs) regularly throughout the year where data was analysed, and plans made to support student growth once a fortnight. Twice a term staff participated in case management meetings, analyzing particular students learning style, engagement and growth and developing a plan to better cater for the learning of the student.

The focus for Professional Learning in 2023 was Numeracy, influenced by Peter Sullivan and continual improvement of pedagogical practice through 'Clarity' by Lyn Sharratt. In addition, we continue to use the Assessment Waterfall as a basis of the Professional Learning.

The schools twilight meetings and professional development days covered the following content:

- Faith Formation Opportunities
- Analysis of PAT Reading and PAT Maths data
- Introduction of K-6 syllabus- Mathematics and English
- Risk Management and Incident Reporting training
- Teacher Accreditation and Maintenance- new policy and procedures
- CPR & Emergency Care
- Implementing 'Launch, Explore, Summarise' within Mathematics
- Review of Positive Behaviour for Learning within St John the Baptist
- Trauma informed Practices
- Diabetes management training

# Catholic Identity and Mission

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Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-

- End of year school awards recognising students for Christian living, exemplary school spirit, and service to the community, reinforcing the values of our Catholic faith.

## 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.

At St. John the Baptist Primary School, Maitland, we are committed to providing a comprehensive educational program that nurtures the academic, social, and spiritual development of our students. Our curriculum is designed in accordance with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) syllabuses for Primary Education, ensuring alignment with state standards while also emphasizing the values and principles of our Catholic faith.

Our curriculum encompasses the following Key Learning Areas (KLAs), structured around outcomes and content for each learning area:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Creative Arts

In addition to the KLAs, our curriculum emphasizes general capabilities such as literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology, critical and creative thinking, ethical behavior, personal and social competence, and intercultural understanding.

Religious Education is an integral part of our curriculum, reflecting the Diocesan K-12 syllabus. Our teachers undergo professional development in Programming and Assessing Religious Education, incorporating creative pedagogical strategies such as Godly Play. We prioritize Religious Education in programming and teaching, ensuring that our students deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith.

At St. John the Baptist, we offer specialised programs and supports to meet the diverse needs of our students:

Gifted Education Mentorship: Students identified as gifted receive enriched classroom experiences and may participate in the diocesan Virtual Academy.

Individualised Support: Students needing assistance in specific areas receive support through individual or small group interventions, tailored to their needs.

Inclusion Support: Students with special needs receive support both in classrooms and on the playground, with opportunities for their holistic development.

We believe in providing holistic education, which includes a wide range of co-curricular activities such as overnight excursions, public speaking and debating initiatives, creative arts pursuits, and sporting events.

The educational program at St. John the Baptist Primary School is designed to empower students academically, socially, and spiritually. We are committed to providing a rich and inclusive education,

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# Student Performance in Tests and Examinations

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## NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia participated in the National Assessment Program

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NAPLAN RESULTS 2023		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	86%	64%
	Reading	86%	74%
	Writing	82%	66%
	Spelling	82%	69%
	Numeracy	74%	68%



## 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.

### 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, Exclusion and Expulsion Procedure](#). The dignity and responsibility of each person is promoted at all times along with positive student behaviours whilst ensuring respect for the rights of all students and staff. Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this School. The School does not sanction administration of corporal punishment by School persons and non-School persons, including parents, to enforce discipline in the School. Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the School's website.

### Anti-Bullying Policy

The Catholic Schools Office has established an [Anti-Bullying Policy](#) which is implemented by our school and all schools in the diocese. It provides a framework for school communities to work together to prevent and address issues of student bullying, in order to build respectful relationships that respond effectively and sensitively to the needs of each person. The CSO monitors the implementation of this policy.

The full text of the Anti-Bullying Policy may be accessed on the School's website, the administration office or at the CSO website.

## 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

Catholic values and meaningful initiatives, we strive to empower our students to become compassionate and respectful individuals who positively contribute to society

## 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

In Catholic Identity and Catholic Curriculum, we focused on developing a strong Faith formation plan for staff over the next 3 years that will challenges, develops and engages staff with their own faith within a Faith filled and Eucharistic Community. In addition, we were perceptive we continued to build links with the Parish organising several events together including the Eucharistic Procession and Parish Masses.

*School Improvement Goal 2023 – Catholic Identity and Catholic Curriculum:* By the end of 2023, there will be a 15% positive growth in TTFM responses to the priority of and

## Priority Key Improvements for Next Year

### Catholic Identity and Catholic Curriculum

- Whole school links to our Catholic story and Dominican Tradition
- Implementation of new Religious Education Curriculum for Kindergarten – Year 3.

### Teaching and Learning

- Implementation of new English and Mathematic curriculum from Kindergarten – Year 1
- Implementation of 'Clarity' by Lyn Sharrett
- Review of pedagogical practices by implementing research completed by Michael McDowell
- Implementation of Technology Plan including iPad for all staff members and 1:2 / 1:1 device per child at the school

### Sustainability

- Review and reimplement of Positive Behaviour for Learning
- Staff development in Trauma Based Processes
- Focus on Wellbeing for staff and students



Their responses to the Tell Them from me survey indicated that they have a strong sense of belonging and they believe they have positive relationships and bullying isn't a issue with the students. They would like to see more extra-curricular activities offered at school and be given the opportunity to have specialised sport instructors in school.

### Teacher satisfaction

The staff of St John the Baptist value the strong Catholic identity of their school. They work closely and collaboratively to offer the best teaching and learning environment for their students. They have undertaken significant professional development to ensure they are providing the best education for our student. The teachers expressed that St John the Baptist is inclusive and there is a definite learning culture present in the school. They have expressed that they are able to work collaboratively and they value parent engagement with the students' learning. The collegiality of staff reflects positively on the tone of the school. St John's has a combination of very experienced teachers and young beginning teachers, all of whom share their expertise, talents and skills for the good of all the students at our 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 2023 year is detailed below:

Recurrent and Capital Income 2023	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants <sup>1</sup>	\$3,627,634
Government Capital Grants <sup>2</sup>	\$0
State Recurrent Grants <sup>3</sup>	\$979,896
Fees and Private Income <sup>4</sup>	\$995,805
Interest Subsidy Grants	\$0
Other Capital Income <sup>5</sup>	\$286,047
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,889,382</b>

Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2023	
Capital Expenditure <sup>6</sup>	\$1,720
Salaries and Related Expenses <sup>7</sup>	\$4,308,762
Non-Salary Expenses <sup>8</sup>	\$1,563,300
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$5,873,782</b>

### 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.



