



St Patrick's School

St Arnaud

2022

Annual Report to the School Community



Registered School Number: 227

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Minimum Standards Attestation

I, Trinity Johns, attest that St Patrick's School is compliant with:

- All of the requirements for the minimum standards and other requirements for the registration of schools as specified in *the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)* and the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic)*, except where the school has been granted an exemption from any of these requirements by the VRQA
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2022 school year under the *Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth)* and the *Australian Education Regulations 2013 (Cth)*
- The Child Safe Standards as prescribed in both Ministerial Orders in effect in 2022:
 - Ministerial Order No.870 - Child Safe Standards, Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools, in Semester 1, 2022;
 - Ministerial Order No.1359 - Implementing the Child Safe Standards, Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises, in Semester 2, 2022.

30/03/2023

NOTE: The School's financial performance information has been provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available for the community to access from their website at www.acnc.gov.au

Governing Authority Report

The Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) is now in its second year of governance of schools. In 2022 two additional schools - Damascus College and St Francis Xavier transferred their governance to DOBCEL, a total 58 schools in the Diocese are governed by DOBCEL.

Across our diocese, schools governed by DOBCEL provide distinctive Catholic education from the Murray to the Sea. This support is operationalised by Catholic Education Ballarat and is responsible for the implementation of DOBCEL strategies, policies and procedures, and overseeing the day to day running of our schools.

The role of DOBCEL is to lead, provide service to, and partner with schools to enable every student to flourish and every student, staff member and family to experience the presence of the risen Christ in our schools.

We recognise the extraordinary servant leadership of all our school staff, leaders and Principals during 2022 as they supported their school communities through a myriad of challenges that included staff shortages, covid disruption, implications of widespread flooding and Enterprise Bargaining negotiations. We recognise the commitment and focus all school staff give to the students and families in their care in the spirit of the Gospels. Their commitment has been unwavering.

We thank families for their commitment to partnership with our schools in Catholic Education again in 2022 to support all our students to flourish.

Tom Sexton

Executive Director

Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited

Vision and Mission

Vision

As partners with parents in Catholic Education and open to God's presence, St Patrick's school pursues fullness of Life for all its students and the school community.

The school ensures the care, safety, wellbeing and protection of its students in keeping with the catholic tradition, which celebrates the sanctity and unique dignity of each person.

Mission

We journey towards this vision through:

- proclaiming and witnessing to the Good News of Jesus Christ
- ensuring quality learning that promotes excellence and fosters the authentic human development of all
- living justly in the world, in relationship with each other and in harmony with God's creation
- exploring, deepening and expressing our Catholic identity in diverse ways
- enabling each one of us to reflect more fully the image of God
- ensuring that the dignity of each person is a priority through effective stewardship of the school environment and its procedures and practices

School Overview

St Patrick's Primary School is a Catholic school offering a faith-based education for primary aged children. We are constantly monitoring our literacy and numeracy practices and are excited by the growth that we are seeing in our children.

Our school values wellbeing above all other facets of school life. We employ restorative practices in order to foster and maintain positive relationships among all members of the school. Our afternoon program, along with rotations on Tuesdays and Fridays, ensures that all our students have the opportunity to develop their sporting, artistic and musical talents.

Ours is a Faith Community, which includes our Parish Priest, Father Gerry Prunty, and parents, as well as the staff, students and volunteers that work with us. We are proud of our catholicity, but we welcome all students regardless of their religious status. Our Christian Values support parents in raising children who are capable of making positive behavioural choices.

The staff at our school prepare academic, sporting, artistic, social, musical and spiritual experiences for our kids. We aim to teach the core curriculum in a variety of ways in order to cater for different learning styles. Our classroom floor plan enables variable group learning. A typical day's experience at St.Pat's will include whole group learning, small focus groups, the use of technology, social opportunities, sporting or other physical challenges, creative tasks, and some reflective/spiritual time. The school has excellent facilities. We have added wonderful play and sheltered areas to our grounds, providing all-weather access for both sport and recreational play.

Principal's Report

St Patrick's has enjoyed a fun and memorable 2022! We began the year by welcoming 17 prep students and several new families into our school community. We ran six productive classes and offered the students a variety of subjects and teachers to learn and engage with. We integrated several new literacy programs, such as Sounds-Write and Misty to improve both our reading and writing skills. This led to many academic gains and saw the school achieve very pleasing Naplan results.

The students had the privilege of attending many incursions, such as The Zoo

Comes to You, Jon Madin musical performance, African Drumming and visits from our local police and ambulance service. Out of town, the older students enjoyed the Elvis Exhibition and Jumpz in Bendigo, the Ballarat Wildlife Park and the Pinnacle in Halls Gap. Our major camp was a week-long stay in

Canberra, which saw our Years' 4 to 6 students join with St Mary's Donald and visit special landmarks, such as Questacon, Parliament House, Canberra Zoo,

Australian Mint, The War Memorial, Arboretum and several playgrounds and swimming pools.

Our sacramental program saw us host St Mary's and St Joseph's for Catholic

Education Week, run a special Baptism for students and organise a Colour Run to raise funds for Caritas during Mission Month.

We held many sporting events including our own athletics, cross-country and bike rally. We had 11 students attend the Black Ranges Athletics and 6 for

Cross-country. Several went onto to compete in the Greater Western Region

Track and Field event in Ballarat. Following this, one student went onto compete at a state level in Melbourne for shot put. We had success in both the

Summer and Winter sports, winning both the A and B grade shields for T-ball and Football with the help of students from St Mary's Donald. Our football team went onto to compete in the Black Ranges Winter Sports in Stawell and did so proudly.

Our annual musical appears to get bigger every year! This year students performed Alice in Wonderland at the St Arnaud Town Hall. Both showings were at capacity and the show was an absolute delight for all ages.

Our ever-growing staff group have shown tremendous commitment to our students and community this year and should be proud of their achievements.

A special mention must go to Mrs Frances Scarce who celebrated a very big milestone of 50 years teaching at St Patrick's. This is a monumental effort and achievement!

We look forward to another fun-filled year of learning in 2023! May God bless you all.

Catholic Identity and Mission

Goals & Intended Outcomes

To connect our classroom RE classes to the parents. Our SRC data indicated that the parents don't value the teaching of RE as highly as the students and staff appear to value it. We therefore have a need to engage the parents more in the subject.

Achievements

In 2022 we continued to work with Father Gerry Prunty. Gerry enjoys working with schools and has been really accessible to St Patrick's

We had some staff members complete their RE accreditation.

Our students continue to connect with our RE classes and talk positively about the activities associated with the subject.

VALUE ADDED

Student-led activities:

- Raise money for Caritas
- Fund-raising colour run
- Fund-raising and awareness bike ride for the planet

Masses for:

- Opening Mass/ badge ceremony
- St Patrick's Day
- Ash Wednesday
- Mid-year class Masses
- School Graduation

Liturgies for:

- ANZAC Day
- Mother's Day
- Father's Day
- Sacraments
- 5 students Baptised in school ran Liturgy

Learning and Teaching

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Our Teaching and Learning Structure continued similar to 2021. Our classes were broken into three different areas (Prep, One -Three and Four/ Five/ Six). This allowed greater flexibility for students to work in small groups and for teachers to work with each other in a more collaborative environment.

Achievements

Our teachers reported that the new planning opportunities and meeting structures are an improvement on how we managed curriculum development in the past.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

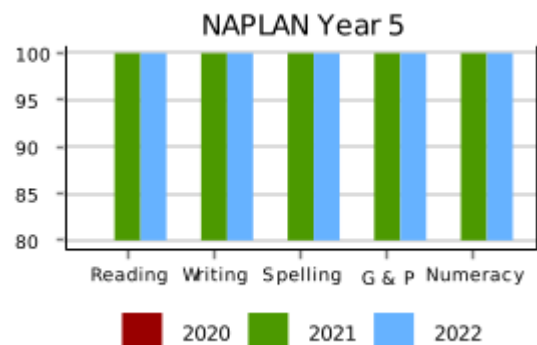
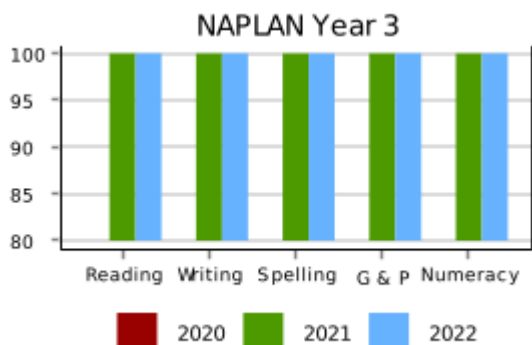
Our NAPLAN results improved quite significantly in 2022. This is following significant growth in our own PAT-R and PAT-M data.

PROPORTION OF STUDENTS MEETING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS					
NAPLAN TESTS	2020	2021	2020 – 2021 Changes	2022	2021 – 2022 Changes
	%			%	
	*		*		
YR 03 Grammar & Punctuation	-	100.0	-	100.0	0.0
YR 03 Numeracy	-	100.0	-	100.0	0.0
YR 03 Reading	-	100.0	-	100.0	0.0
YR 03 Spelling	-	100.0	-	100.0	0.0
YR 03 Writing	-	100.0	-	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Grammar & Punctuation	-	100.0	-	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Numeracy	-	100.0	-	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Reading	-	100.0	-	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Spelling	-	100.0	-	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Writing	-	100.0	-	100.0	0.0

* There are no NAPLAN results to report in 2020 as the Australian Government decided that due to the COVID-19 pandemic NAPLAN Assessments would not take place.

** Data cannot be reported for this year as the number of students that sat the test was below 5 and the data has been suppressed for privacy reasons in accordance with the ACARA NAPLAN data reporting provisions.

*** No students sat the NAPLAN tests in this year level and in one or both of the relevant years.



Student Wellbeing

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Our intention was to:

- Provide support for students to settle back into the school environment and assist with concerns regarding COVID
- Provide support for vulnerable families and unsupported families in our school community
- Connect with the school families in some way

Achievements

We completed our wellbeing centre in 2021. Throughout 2022 we were able to utilise this building for many different purposes. Some students require breakfast while others use it for explicit social activities, designed to teach children to form and maintain relationships. The 'Green Area' (Grade One - Three) were able to use these facilities for weekly rotations of cooking/ library visit and meditation/ mindfulness sessions.

Several staff have been assigned wellbeing tasks as part of their role at school. We have two LSOs that monitor breakfast and uniform/tidiness.

A teacher has part of his role to run wellbeing sessions for small groups of selected students.

VALUE ADDED

Events held in 2022

Bendigo Jumps and Elvis excursion

Ballarat excursion

Private Speech Therapist employed by the school

Sounds-Write program

Whole school musical

100 days of school celebration for preps

Prep tours

Book fair

Athletics Day

Footy Card Friday

Footy Colours Day and lunch order provided by the school

Flu Vaccination clinic

Baptism Gatherings

Art Installation workshop at school

Black Ranges football
Police Visit
Catholic Education Day- BBQ lunch
African drumming performance
Parent Teacher Interviews
Mother's Day event
SchoolCross Country
Green Area - weekly cooking, wellbeing and town library visits
ANZAC day celebration
CARITAS colouring competition
CARITAS colour run
Naplan
Softball
Black Ranges swimming competition
Ash Wednesday Mass
Pancake day
Junior area trip to the gardens
Beginning of the year Mass
Book week parade and activity day
Canberra Camp
Little Paddy program
End of year MassGraduation
Prep day out
Pool Party

STUDENT SATISFACTION

Our student SRC data from 2021 appeared to indicate that the students are reasonably satisfied. Of 25 questions, our students responses were lower than the 50th percentile in only four areas. Of particular concern was cyberbullying which we have responded to 2022 and made this a particular focus in our IT sessions.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Our office staff were responsible for school attendance record collection. Any low attendance was noted and the Principal liaised with the families of concern.

Our attendance records were kept in line with the guidance from Catholic Education Ballarat.

AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE BY YEAR LEVEL	
Y01	88.4%
Y02	88.2%
Y03	86.4%
Y04	85.8%
Y05	84.1%
Y06	84.2%
Overall average attendance	86.2%

Child Safe Standards

Goals & Intended Outcomes

St Patrick's continued to assess its Child Safe culture in 2022 and support families by:

- Opening classrooms and ensuring that we have a culture of being open and visible at all times
- Supporting families by improved communication and connection
- Continuing to educate our staff through online professional development and professional conversations

Achievements

- We have designed, applied for and received funding for a much more purpose-built Child Safe toileting facility to be built in 2023.
- We ensured that Child Safe issues were incorporated on our staff meeting agenda.
- We have improved our Handbook and our staff induction process to ensure Child Safe behaviours are understood and are part of the culture of the school.
- We've installed extra video cameras around the school and advertised their use and presence.
- We have embedded the of policies and commitments into every day practice
- We have reviewed and developed a sound understanding of the Implementation of Ministerial Order 1359 and the new 11 Child Safe Standards
- Completed professional learning of teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers and ensure all visitors hold current WWCC and are signed in appropriately.
- Continued Implementation and reviewing of 'PROTECT, Identifying and Responding to all Forms of Abuse in Victorian Schools'
- Continually look at strategies to establish a culturally safe environment
- Ensure equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected
- Promote and ensure the safety and wellbeing in the physical and online environments of the school
- Engagement and involvement of Families and communities in promoting child safety through the newsletter
- Child safety - Risk Management practices and complaints handling processes are in place.

Leadership

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Our school has been consciously decentralising the decision-making and formalising a leadership structure and team, rather than having all decisions made by the Principal. As we move from being a school of less than 30 students to a bigger organisation with 110, we needed another structure. In 2022 we moved to having a Principal supported by two Acting Principals with other leadership roles.

Achievements

The school was able to utilise its new leadership structure and allow the school to function without the Principal on-site. This was needed for professional development and professional leave necessities along with other occasions when the Principal was not available.

EXPENDITURE AND TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING	
Description of Professional Learning undertaken in 2022	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sounds-Write • Misty Adoniou- Literacy PD • NCCD training • First aid/ Anaphylaxis • RE accreditation • Speech Pathology • Leading for Learning • Godly Play • RE leadership • Learning Diversity 	
Number of teachers who participated in PL in 2022	15
Average expenditure per teacher for PL	\$1200

TEACHER SATISFACTION
<p>We completed SRC surveys in 2021. The teachers indicated that, for Student Management and Pastoral Care, we are in the higher 25% of schools. For Curriculum Processes, we were a little lower, coming out at the 50th percentile.</p> <p>For staff wellbeing, the results were all at or above the 50th percentile. All areas were a little lower than the results from the previous survey.</p>

Staff feedback from staff surveys indicate that:

- staff feel a real strength of the school is that the teachers and LSOs in each learning area have good working relationships and work together to achieve desired learning goals for students
- That they have developed learning communities and have been implementing team teaching in adjacent classrooms throughout the school.
- Staff have been very affirming of the time they have to collaboratively plan and undertake assessments.

TEACHING STAFF ATTENDANCE RATE

Teaching Staff Attendance Rate	91.6%
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ALL STAFF RETENTION RATE

Staff Retention Rate	83.3%
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TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Doctorate	0.0%
Masters	0.0%
Graduate	0.0%
Graduate Certificate	0.0%
Bachelor Degree	57.1%
Advanced Diploma	14.3%
No Qualifications Listed	28.6%

STAFF COMPOSITION	
Principal Class (Headcount)	1.0
Teaching Staff (Headcount)	11.0
Teaching Staff (FTE)	8.4
Non-Teaching Staff (Headcount)	16.0
Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	7.7
Indigenous Teaching Staff (Headcount)	0.0

Community Engagement

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Initially, our goal was to engage the community and form the strongest links possible whilst still feeling the affects of COVID restrictions and limitations of running community/ public events.

Achievements

Our main strategy was to run school activities as normal as possible for the children. These included athletics, a cross-country, bike rally, sporting days, student meetings, buddy activities, book week, among others.

Given that parents were not able to be on-site, we assigned staff to document and promote activities online as much as possible. This was made done publicly (Facebook, group messaging, etc) and by private texts, emails and Face-time to certain parents, especially for significant milestones and achievements.

Physically, we were able to alter events so that they were held in COVID-safe environments.

PARENT SATISFACTION

Parent feedback in 2022 was that:

- The community environment is a big strength, everyone is extremely welcoming and all the families in this small community are very close
- The school regularly offers a hand when needed
- There is an excellent community feel