



Catholic
Schools Office
DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

2015

SERVICE † LEADERSHIP † JUSTICE
Together in Christ



St Columban's Primary School, MAYFIELD

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About the Annual School Report

St Columban's Primary School is registered by the Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES) as a member of the Catholic system in the Diocese of Maitland - Newcastle.

The Annual School Report provides parents and the wider community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The Report describes achievement of school development in 2015 and gives information about 2016 priorities.

This Report is a legislative requirement under the Schools Assistance Act, 2008.

The information in this Report is complemented by the Catholic Schools Office website and school websites where other publications and newsletters can be viewed or obtained.

Messages from Key School Bodies

Principal's Message

St Columban's School continues to be committed to the implementation of quality educational programs within the philosophy of Catholic Education which guides the Catholic School in its functioning. The school has been participating in the NSW State Action Plan this year. Our focus has been Writing and Mathematics across all Stages. The Leading teacher position rolled over from 2014 to maintain continuity and Staff were given professional development in the focus areas.

The school was given a grant to be a pilot school for Financial Literacy. This project was in conjunction with University of Western Sydney and Dr Catherine Attard. Through this project each class had their own focus and unit of work based on Financial Literacy. The children and teachers reported to the local community on their project in the form of a showcase.

This was also our musical year. The children performed "The Final Countdown" under the guidance of Mrs. Jeanette Chapman. The Musical was accepted well by all the community. The children performed two sessions

While we are accountable to the community at large for the provision of quality education, we are also accountable to the Church community for providing this within the context of Christian Gospel values. All Staff are committed to providing a high quality education for the children and recognise their special mission within the diocese. They welcome many students into their classrooms from partner school St Dominic's Centre. St Columban's also provides special programmes for another 18 children integrated into our classrooms who qualified for disability funding during 2015 as well 35 children who are assisted under the Special Needs index and 40 children who have the support of the school's pastoral support person for problems that range from the effects of parent separation and pressing home issues to those children affected by social skill inadequacies.

Within the school community there are 23 nationalities represented. 40 Children receive ESL assistance while 60 are classed as LBOTE and 4 students are Indigenous

Parent Body

St Columban's is a school where you always feel welcome, where the intimate size is a real blessing. You feel secure in knowing that each staff member will know your child personally – their strengths, joys, challenges and tough times –and that your child won't be lost in a sea of faces. Also you know that you, as the parent, are always made welcome, even when sometimes you're unable to be as active in the school life as you might hope, due to other commitments. This sense of welcome filters through the whole school so that it isn't unusual to stand at the gate for pick-up and be greeted with a smile and a friendly word by a variety of parents, staff and children. This community spirit doesn't happen by accident. It is modelled and created by each member of the community.

A commitment to communication has been a noticeable improvement from a parent's perspective in recent years. The objectives and aims of the school are communicated clearly, with plenty of opportunity to provide feedback and input, so that you feel a participant rather than an outsider. This communication happens in a variety of ways – face-to-face, a phone call from a teacher is never too much trouble, clear informative newsletters which never fail to have an inspirational tone and the utilisation of the Schoolbag app. This technology has been embraced by the school to great advantage, making keeping track of school events and notices easy for a busy mobile parent.

But communication is only effective if underscored by authenticity. St Columban's makes the communication of its messages to parents – you are welcome; you are included; you are valued; your children, their education and their wellbeing are important to us –a priority, but these messages are lived out daily through the actions of the staff as they relate to the children in their care and the parents of those children.

Student Body

2015 was a fantastic and busy year for St Columban's. All classes went on various excursions and enjoyed being able to experience things outside the school grounds. We were very glad to see Mrs Smith come back

from maternity leave and to welcome Mrs Chapman who helped us put on a great musical again this year. Some of our students represented the school in sports at Diocesan, Polding and NSW levels. We enjoyed learning athletics, soccer, gymnastics and lawn bowls through our Sporting Schools funding – and also participated in swimming and backyard league. Our Jump Rope for Heart team and school choir continued to practice and entertain us. In term 3 and 4 we participated in a financial literacy project in partnership with the University of Western Sydney. This resulted in all classes learning about how to raise money and market a product. There were many other exciting activities all through the year and we are lucky to attend a wonderful school that gives us awesome opportunities. We would like to say thank you to the teachers, parents and volunteers who help us in being able to do all these great things!

By Year 6, 2015

SCHOOL FEATURES

History of the school

The original School began in 1917. The Dominican Sisters moved from Maitland to set up a parochial school in Kerr St Mayfield. In 1922 the school was moved to the present site and was known as St Joseph's. School was held in a shed and a hall. The buildings were extended as the population grew. 1926 the finished school was opened. In the years 1956 & 1990, further improvements were made. After the earthquake in 1993 the school received a makeover with new admin block and canteen. The school amalgamated with Tighes Hill, Hamilton and Mayfield West Catholic schools.

The Dominican sisters had left the school by now and the teachers were all lay. The Dominican values remained as a strong influence on school policy and procedures. The Federal Government's Building Education Revolution allowed the school to obtain another massive makeover with addition of a brand new library building, refurbished classrooms, new furniture and a refurbished admin area. The school is still a very strong Dominican school with an evident Dominican Charism.

Location/Drawing Area

St Columban's is situated in Mayfield NSW, an inner city suburb of Newcastle. St Columban's Primary School is situated on the crest of the hill at 39 Church St Mayfield. The closest cross street would be Crebert and Church Streets Mayfield.

The school draws its population from Mayfield, Mayfield West, Tighes Hill, Warabrook and Carrington. The school is one of 44 primary schools in the Maitland Newcastle Diocese. St Columban's has the largest multicultural population per head for a primary school in Maitland Newcastle Diocese. Students from St Dominic's Centre for the Hearing are integrated into our classrooms every day. San Clemente High School is located on the same campus. The local preschools such as KU Mayfield, Mayfield Central Preschool, Si: Hats, Riverview and Mayfield Early Learning Centre feed into our school. Corpus Christi Waratah is the closest Catholic Primary School to St Columban's.

Catholic Identity and Mission

Catholic Imagination and Spirituality

St Columban's Primary School derives its imagination and spirituality from the Catholic Christian tradition. We are called to be a real and living expression of God's mission in the world. Our Catholic identity is grounded in the Dominican charism and recognises the Awabakal People as the original land owners.

St Columban's School is a community which gives each member the opportunity to develop their faith and express our spirituality. We celebrate and share our traditions with:

- The celebration of the Eucharist for the whole school community at beginning and end of year Masses, Catholic Schools Week Mass and each term for years 3-6;
- A celebration of the Liturgy of the Word each term for Infants' classes;
- Daily prayer at Assemblies and in classrooms;
- Friday morning prayer hosted weekly by a class;
- Liturgical celebrations and prayer for special days
- Staff Prayer at staff meetings;
- Staff Spirituality Days
- Supporting Catholic Mission, Caritas and pastoral works in the school and wider community.

Family, Parish and Diocesan evangelising and catechesis

The parent and family community is invited to participate in and attend liturgical celebrations and prayer. St Columban's Primary School is recognised as a vital part of the Parish community, participating in weekday and weekend Masses, Ash Wednesday Mass, the Parish based Sacramental Program for the Sacraments of Initiation and contributing to the St Vincent de Paul Society in practical donations and through Mini Vinnies as well as supporting Catholic Mission and Caritas. We also participate in annual diocesan events such as the Project Compassion Launch, the Called to Serve Mass and Catholic School Week Mass.

Christian Discipleship

Throughout the 2015, the staff and students have had opportunities for faith expression development through:

- The "Making Jesus Real" Program included in our PBL focuses;
- The Seasons for Growth Program;
- Sacramental Class retreat day; and
- Staff Development Day with Bernadette Gibson.

Religious Education and Curriculum

The staff and children are engaged in Catechesis through the implementation of the Diocesan Religion Syllabus and Units of Work allowing students to study the Catholic tradition and faith. Emphasis is placed upon developing students':

- Relationship with God;
- Knowledge and understanding of Catholic traditions; and

- Participation in the evangelising mission of the Church.

Religious Education is taught with the same rigour as other Key Learning Areas for 150 minutes each week. A Catholic perspective is included in all Key Learning Areas across the curriculum. Stage 3 has continued to implement the new units of work. The implementation of the new Early Stage One Units of Work began in term 4, 2015. Teachers from years 1-4 will implement the suggested units for 2016 until the new units are written for these grades

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

St Columban's is a "Positive Behaviour for Learning" school. The PBL framework highlights positive behaviours, values and responsibilities that we encourage in our students. Teachers develop lesson plans and activities to reinforce targeted behaviours, which are rewarded when they are demonstrated. "Making Jesus Real" was introduced in the school in 2014 and is integrated with PBL. This allows our targeted behaviours to sometimes focus on Gospel values and the person of Jesus. The school also follows the guidelines of Restorative Justice in behaviour management to assist with developing awareness of respect and responsibility for one's own actions.

The children and staff of St Columban's engage in many activities throughout the year to reinforce values of respect and responsibility including: Fundraising for Catholic Mission and Caritas; Harmony Day - Promoting respect and tolerance for other cultures; Mini Vinnies – Raising money and collecting goods for St Vincent de Paul; Entertainment of the elderly; Indigenous Celebrations; Buddy program; implementation and review of our welfare policy

Student Profile

The table below shows the number of students in each of the categories listed.

LBOTE*	SWD*	Indigenous
86	18	3

*Language Backgrounds Other Than English (LBOTE); Students With Disabilities (SWD)

Enrolment policy

St Columban's Primary School follows the guidelines provided by the Catholic Schools Office *Enrolment Policy 2013*. This Enrolment Policy has been devised in order to accommodate the needs of families seeking a Catholic education. 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 and to establish a common, consistent approach in enrolment practices and assist the system of Catholic schools to provide schooling, where possible, for all Catholic children who seek enrolment, cater for the individual needs of each child equitably within the constraints of the available teaching and material resources and to encourage parents enrolling their children in Catholic schools to give support to parish and school life, especially in education in faith.

Copies of the Policy are available from the school, or from the Catholic Schools Office website. Parents concerned about school fees should ensure they make contact with the school. Diocesan provisions (including standard discounts for those with a Health Card) exist to help in this area, and the Principal can also exercise discretion where genuine need exists.

Actual Enrolments 2015

Scholastic Year	Number of Students
K	16
Year 1	23
Year 2	24
Year 3	23
Year 4	25
Year 5	23
Year 6	16
Total	150

Student Attendance - K to 6 - PDF

Percentage of student attendance by Year level and school average for 2015

K	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	School Average
91.2	94.9	94.9	93.6	87.5	94.6	95.4	92.78

Managing Student Non-attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents and guardians, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. The compulsory years of schooling is age 6 to 17. Principals and school staff, in consultation with students and their parents, will usually be able to resolve issues relating to non-attendance. While parents should be reminded of their legal obligations under the Education Act, (1990), the welfare of the student must be the focus of this consultation. The most effective means of restoring and maintaining regular school attendance includes sound attendance monitoring practices and regular follow-up of unexplained absences by contacting parents promptly. Resolution of attendance difficulties may require a range of additional school based strategies including student and parent interviews, reviewing the appropriateness of the student's educational program, development of a school-based attendance improvement plan, referral to the school counsellor or outside agencies and support from school - based personnel. If a range of school-based interventions has been unsuccessful, support may be requested by referring individual cases of unsatisfactory attendance to the Catholic Schools Office.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Student Welfare Policy

St Columban's staff has recently reviewed our welfare policy. It now encompasses staff and student welfare and discipline, as these are important components of wellbeing. Through this policy, students, in particular, learn skills of caring, behaviour management and conflict resolution. By meeting success in these areas, students gain confidence and feel positive about themselves and others, whether in their homes, school or the wider community.

The policy is available on the school webpage.

Discipline Policy

Relationships at St Columban's Primary School are centred on the development of a supportive and collaborative learning environment that is built on trust, support and respect where all participants feel valued and welcomed. These values are supported by the philosophies of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) and the Restorative Justice (RJ) framework.

Our discipline policy is embedded in our welfare policy. The discipline of students is based on Procedural Fairness. It is the school's responsibility to determine incidents that may require disciplinary action and the nature of any penalties that may apply, in line with the 4M level of response contained in the welfare policy. The process that leads to the imposition of penalties, particular but not exclusively in relation to suspension, expulsion and exclusion must be procedurally fair.

The full text of the School's Student Discipline Policy may be accessed on the School's website or at the administration office.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Catholic schools have the responsibility to promote cultures of trust, cooperation and respect in the lived experience of the Catholic Christian setting. Bullying in a school mitigates such a culture and inhibits the development of positive relational outcomes for the common good of students, teachers and caregivers. *St Columban's Primary School Anti-Bullying Policy* is reviewed regularly and is available on the school website.

St Columban's has an anti-bullying policy for students that is in line with Catholic Schools Office requirements. Students, teachers, parents and members of the wider community have a shared responsibility to create a safe and happy environment free from all sorts of bullying for our students, so that they can establish relationships that are grounded in love, compassion, reconciliation and justice. With this in mind, bullying behaviour is in conflict with the core values and purpose of a Catholic school. Bullying needs to be recognised, named and addressed to ensure St Columban's school works towards an authentic Christian school culture.

Therefore, each year St Columban's students complete an Anti-Bullying Survey. This survey assists the staff in recognising children who may need assistance and also those children who fly under the radar and may be bullies.

It also assists the community to understand the definition of "Bullying".

Preventative programs, implementation of reporting and record keeping, and forms related to the investigation of bullying complaints are all contained in the Anti-bullying Policy.

Complaints and Grievances

The school has formal written protocols in place to address complaints and grievances. These protocols are in line with the Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy (2013), developed to provide a consistent approach for all Diocesan schools. This policy aims to address the concerns of Parents / Carers and the wider community. These concerns may include children's learning, behaviour and welfare, school organisation and management, student health and safety issues.

A copy of this policy and the informative parent brochure is available from the school office, school website or is available on the Catholic Schools Office website.

School Improvement

School Improvement Plan

As we were participants in the "State Action Plan" during 2015, our main focus for our school improvement plan were-

- * Writing- improvement in student writing skills
- *Mathematics in particular a Balanced Maths block K-6
- *Introduction of Peer mentoring for teachers.
- *Maintain the Balanced English block based on Modelled, Guided and Independent teaching and learning K-6
- *Write and implement a financial literacy unit across K-6

School Academic Priorities

Key improvements achieved this year	Key improvements for next year
Writing- NAPLAN analysis revealed that no year 3 students were in the lower two bands for writing. The analysis revealed that there had been movement into band 5.	St Columban's will work on sustainability plan for all they have achieved through the "State Action Plan".
Balanced English structure implemented in K-2 supported all students including those 'at risk' and those needing extension Minilit was used to support students in Tier 2.	More intense work will be implemented in the area of Co Coaching and attaining Teaching Standards ready for BOSTES registration.
During 2015 the teachers developed a unit of work in each grade to cover financial literacy. The children held everything from lolly shops to sausage sizzles for the school community whilst other grades made games about money and its use. The children learned about money and its uses; how to save; how to make money and how to organise themselves. All units of work were presented to the wider community on a Showcase day in term 4.	Continued improvement in Writing and a more intense focus on improvement in Numeracy.

Academic Achievements

Years 5 and 6 students attended the Science and Engineering Challenge 2015

Children participated in Regional Public Speaking and Debating

We had children reach GOLD level of Premiers Reading Challenge

Gifted and talented sessions were run in the school library

Financial literacy was a whole school achievement in the mathematics area.

Cultural achievements

St Columban's held its annual Harmony day activities to raise money for the Catholic Missions and Penola House.

School Choir performed for local community events

Jump Rope For Heart Team toured the hunter to encourage raising money for Heart Foundation

Mini Vinnies children visited the local aged care facility.

Years 5 and 6 visited NSW art gallery and the Mint.

The whole school performed in the School Musical " The Final Countdown" which was a great success. Both sessions filled the school hall to capacity.

Sporting achievements

The school has been granted funds by The Australian Sports Commission so that the children can experience and train in a variety of Sports during 2015. The children have had coaching in Gymnastics, Athletics, Soccer whilst the usual Swimming for Primary classes was maintained in terms 1 and 4.

Children from St Columban's attended Regional swimming and athletics carnivals with some of these children moving onto Diocesan carnivals.

Junior girls netball team won Newcastle Catholic Netball gala

Two boys reached Polding in Rugby League, Rugby Union and Touch. One boy played for State.

Student Achievements

Performance in National Testing

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for student in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. An analysis of these results assists School planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

The tables below show the percentages of students who achieved particular skill bands in numeracy and the aspects of literacy. The School results shown are compared to students nationally. Literacy is reported in four content strands (aspects): Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. Numeracy is reported as a single content strand.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2015		% of students in the top 3 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 3	Reading	81.82%	71.10%	9.09%	12.90%
	Writing	68.18%	75.80%	0.00%	9.30%
	Spelling	77.27%	65.20%	0.00%	16.70%
	Grammar	90.91%	73.20%	0.00%	12.60%
	Numeracy	54.55%	60.80%	9.09%	16.80%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2015		% of students in the top 3 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 5	Reading	60.87%	57.90%	17.39%	20.00%
	Writing	34.78%	52.40%	8.70%	19.50%
	Spelling	65.22%	60.80%	13.04%	14.60%
	Grammar	56.52%	60.90%	13.04%	18.60%
	Numeracy	52.17%	55.80%	21.74%	17.60%

Staffing Profile

Staff Qualifications

Qualifications and Experience	Number of Staff
I. Teachers with teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR).	14
II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications	0

Eleven out of the fourteen qualified teachers have completed further study to receive education qualifications.

Workforce Composition

Number of Staff	
Total teaching staff	14
Total non-teaching staff	6
Grand total	20
Percentage of teachers who are indigenous	0

Teacher Attendance

95%

Teacher Retention

Teacher retention is 100%. All teachers were on staff in 2014 as well as 2015.

Professional Learning Undertaken

Teachers attend the compulsory CPR and Asthma training.

The main focus of PD was to build professional learning teams within the school. This was facilitated by the CSO education officer.

Co-coaching was attended by two members of staff and will be extended to other staff in 2016.

Mathematics conference at Bankstown was also attended by staff.

Staff developed a Financial Literacy unit in conjunction with UNWS. Teachers attended PD to assist them with this project.

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

The opinions and ideas of parents, students and staff are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving 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 staff.

Parent Satisfaction

During this year we have had two review processes. The Religious Education Coordinator and The Principa have been reviewed. On both occasions the parents have been asked to comment on the working of the school. On both occasions the response has been positive.

The Parents have become more involved in their child's learning and the activities at the school.

The Parents have a fundraising group. This group works hard to raise money for the school. The parents support each other and the school in this venture.

Student Satisfaction

Year 6 were given a survey in term 4 . The surveys reflected very positive opinions of the school and the small community.

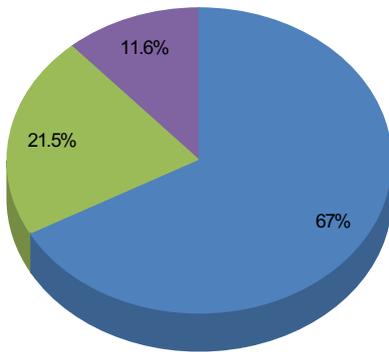
The students loved the staff, the participation in school activities and the feeling of being safe and loved.

The only negative was the toilets and as a result the school has ensured that the toilets would be improved.

Staff Satisfaction

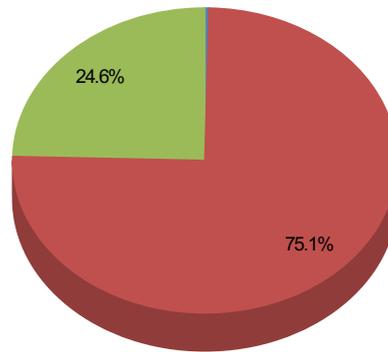
The number of students coming to our school has increased. The parents have positive comments to make about our school in the wider community. During 2016 the community will have the chance to report on St Columban's performance through an external survey.

Income



- Commonwealth Recurrent Grants (67%)
- Government Capital Grants (0%)
- State Recurrent Grants (21.5%)
- Fees and Private Income (11.6%)
- Other Capital Income (0%)

Expenditure



- Capital Expenditure (0.4%)
- Salaries and Related Expenses (75.1%)
- Non-Salary Expenses (24.6%)

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 2015 year is detailed below:

RECURRENT and CAPITAL INCOME	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants ¹	\$1,561,850
Government Capital Grants ²	\$0
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$501,017
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$269,378
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$0
Total Income	\$2,332,245

RECURRENT and CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$7,910
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$1,678,351
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$549,927
Total Expenditure	\$2,236,188

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.

Report Access and Publication

This report is available to members of the school and wider communities. Copies will be supplied to the Catholic Schools Office, The Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW, The Parent and Friends Association, the Parish Priest and to all parents.

Copies of this school's Annual School Report are available to the general public. Persons wishing to access a copy of the report should contact:

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St Columban's Primary School

MAYFIELD

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For further information relating to the Diocesan Policy please refer to: <http://mn.catholic.edu.au>