

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

2017

SERVICE. LEADERSHIP. JUSTICE.

Together in Christ



St Patrick's Primary School, WALLSEND

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About the Annual School Report

St Patrick's Primary School is registered by NESAs 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 2017 and gives information about 2018 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

I am delighted to present to you the Annual School Report for St Patrick's Primary School, Wallsend.

During 2017, St Patrick's celebrated many rich and varied academic, sporting, cultural and spiritual achievements of our students. Of special significance was the opening of a new Early Learning Infants playground; a presentation on NBN Television's Junior Journos program and an outstanding performance by our Tournament of the Minds Team.

The school continued to build strong, positive relationships with the Wallsend-Shortland Parish and our parent community. A number of our children received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Many of our students and leaders represented St Patrick's in a number of community and Diocesan events. Our P&F were a wonderful support to the school, contributing a large amount of money through fundraising events such as a very successful Colour Run and operating the canteen and Playgroup.

Most pleasing, however were the much improved academic results of our students in NAPLAN and other tests such as the ICAS exams and Newcastle Permanent Mathematics Test.

The school continued to receive additional government support through the State Action Plan, including the allocation of a Leading Teacher to help improve student outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

We are very proud of our students' successes both in and out of the classroom during 2017.

Copies of this report are available from the school office or from the Catholic Schools Office website.

Grant Diggins

Principal

Parent Body

St. Patrick's Parents and Friends is an association made up of parents who wish to support the aspirations and endeavours of the school. Its main functions are to discuss issues pertinent to the life of the school, to raise money to provide resources and to foster a community spirit through appropriate social activities.

This year saw the opening of our new playground, with the help of a \$15,000 donation from the P&F Association. The new environment includes natural elements as well as cubbies, a performance stage and role-play areas. All features are designed to promote and encourage play, exploration and discovery with the idea that natural and challenging spaces help kids learn to recognise, assess and negotiate risk and build confidence and competence. This was an exciting project for the school community and sure to bring many benefits to our students.

We have had several other successful fundraisers this year, which have included our popular Easter Raffle, Mother's and Father's Day raffles and stalls. Our biggest fundraiser this year was our Colour Run which raised over \$9,000 for St. Patrick's. The money raised will go towards, Technology, music, sporting equipment and playground improvements.

The P&F trialled a paid canteen co-ordinator this year, although it didn't raise a great deal of money. We feel that at the moment the canteen is more a service for St. Patrick's Community.

This year we were sad to see the loss of our Principal Grant Diggins to St. Aloysius at Chisholm. We wish Grant all the best with his new position and thank him immensely for the help and support given to St Patrick's P&F. He will certainly be missed.

I would like to express my gratitude to the wonderful hardworking teachers at St Patrick's and to the parents who continue to work with us. Your generosity is invaluable for the benefit of our children, you are quiet achievers, whose time given to the school is very much appreciated.

Bryan Kelb

President

Student Body

It has been an honour to represent the school as captains at many special events. It has been a great year full of lots of responsibilities and jobs which we have loved doing. During the year Mr Diggins and the staff have been very helpful and supportive. We have enjoyed raising the flags, running assemblies and being role models.

It has been a privilege to be school captains for 2017.

St Patrick's School Captains 2017

SCHOOL FEATURES

History of the school

St Patrick's Primary School was founded in January 1883 by the Sisters of Mercy (with Sr M Patrick Gates in charge) They commenced teaching in a little stone church on the hill in Macquarie Street. In 1902, a new brick school was erected on the opposite side of the road and was blessed and opened by Bishop Murray. Major additions and improvements to school facilities took place in 1983, 1996, 2008 and most recently in 2011 when work under the BER (Building Education Revolution) began. This comprised the refurbishment of the hall and kitchen facilities, canteen, art room and classrooms. An additional classroom and withdrawal area was also built.

The Mercy heritage lives on today through the rich Catholic tradition and culture that pervades the prayer and liturgical life of the school and through a strong emphasis on social justice initiatives.

Location/Drawing Area

St Patrick's is a Catholic systemic Primary school in the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle with an enrolment of 252 students from Kindergarten to Year 6. It is located 13km west of the Newcastle CBD and services the town of Wallsend and surrounding communities including Maryland, Fletcher, Rankin Park and Elernmore Vale.

Students from St Patrick's feed into St Pius X High School Adamstown (Years 7-10) or San Clemente Mayfield (Years 7-10) and St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton (Years 11 and 12).

Catholic Identity and Mission

Catholic Imagination and Spirituality

St Patrick's acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which the school is built, the Awabakal people.

The school has a history built on the traditions of the school's founders, the Sisters of Mercy. Our patron saint, St Patrick, taught about the Blessed Trinity and spread the word and love of Jesus and Mary all over the world. Our Catholic identity is the foundation upon which our educational perspective is built. At St Patrick's we take pride in being a truly authentic Catholic school. We celebrate our Catholic identity in various ways – daily in prayer and Religion lessons and regularly with the whole school through liturgy and celebration of the Eucharist. Our educational perspective is based on a strong foundation of Catholic faith traditions and spirituality. Christian values and attitudes underpin our relationships, policies and procedures, especially those included in our school vision and mission statement, 'respect, compassion and service to others' and school motto, 'Faith, Knowledge and Service.'

A highlight for 2017 were a number of faith formation opportunities including a Staff Spirituality Retreat.

Family, Parish and Diocesan evangelising and catechesis

St Patrick's school is an integral part of the Wallsend-Shortland Parish.

Prayer, Liturgies and Masses are very much part of school life and are celebrated throughout the year with members of the Parish community. In 2017 these included Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Grandparent's Day, as well as class and whole school attendance at Parish Masses for special feast days and occasions such as Opening School Mass, Ash Wednesday, St Patrick's Day, The Assumption, End of Year Thanksgiving and Year 6 Graduation.

Our parish priest, Fr Brady regularly visited classrooms and the students participated in special Anointing Masses throughout the year. The Service Committee and Mini Vinnies continued to build positive relationships between staff, students, parents and the Parish and to reach out to those in need.

St Patrick's student leaders and principal represented the school at the Diocesan Catholic Schools Week Mass, Project Compassion Launch and Mission Mass.

Christian Discipleship

The school provides opportunities for the spiritual growth of both staff and students through prayer, retreats and faith development programs. In 2017 these spiritual programs included a Staff Spirituality Retreat on Pope Francis' Encyclical, Laudato Si. Each class visited the Chapel and the school prayed the Rosary each week.

Four staff members participated in the Return to the Heart Retreat for experienced teachers and the Beginning Teachers Retreat.

Year 5 students once again participated in a Leadership Day.

All staff were assessed according to the Diocesan Faith Education Accreditation policy. Several teachers attended courses to fulfil the requirements of the policy and professional development to meet ongoing accreditation.

Religious Education and Curriculum

St Patrick's Primary School uses the mandatory, Diocesan K-12 Religion Syllabus for the classroom teaching of Religion. The four major strands, Jesus and Scripture, History and Beliefs, Celebration and Prayer and Justice and Morality are treated sequentially throughout the year.

Year 6 students participated in the Religious Literacy Test, conducted by the Archdiocese of Sydney.

The staff developed Rationale statements on Catholic Perspectives for each Key Learning Area, Kindergarten to Year 6.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

The school's vision and mission Statement has a focus on Christian values, with particular emphasis on, 'the courage to live the Gospel through respect, compassion and service to others.'

Students are encouraged to always respect others, be responsible for their own actions and contribute to both the local community and wider society.

Examples of this commitment and the promotion of respect and responsibility throughout 2017 included participation in Diocesan and community events such as the local ANZAC Dawn and Remembrance Day Services, the Wallsend Fair, Project Compassion, Mission Month and Catholic Schools Week Celebrations. Our guitar group and choir also performed at the Wallsend Fair.

The school's involvement in Social Justice initiatives included fundraising for various causes. On St Patrick's Day money was raised to continue our support of Catholic Mission. Donations were also made to Project Compassion, Caritas Australia and St Vincent de Paul Society.

Student Profile

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

LBOTE*	SWD*	Indigenous
73	25	24

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

Enrolment policy

St Patrick'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 2017

Scholastic Year	Number of Students
K	52
Year 1	46
Year 2	36
Year 3	30
Year 4	23
Year 5	27
Year 6	35
Total	252

Student Attendance - K to 6 - PDF

Percentage of student attendance by Year level and school average for 2017

K	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	School Average
90	94	94	93	92	93	93	92

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

There has been no change made to St Patrick's Student Welfare Policy since it was revised and updated in consultation with teachers and parents in 2011. It links closely with the school's Pastoral Care Policy and is based on the development of positive relationships across all levels of the school community. Copies are available from the school office.

The development of this approach to behaviour and student welfare commenced in 2010 and is based on the Positive Behaviour Support framework. This framework focuses on developing behaviour expectation matrixes and displaying positive messages and school routines in classrooms, learning areas and around the playground. The school also uses the You Can Do It program, supporting students with the foundations of achievement for social and emotional well-being at school. Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 attended a show, 'You Can Do It Too' which promoted self esteem, self confidence, self discipline and self determination.

Discipline Policy

The school's Discipline Policy was reviewed during 2016.

The aim of the Discipline Policy is to encourage and affirm positive behaviour. It clearly sets out student discipline practices and procedures focusing on respect, personal accountability, responsibility, fairness, self-discipline and an emphasis on repair and restoration within our school community. The Policy specifically states that the use of Corporal Punishment is excluded and prohibited in the school. Procedural fairness is also included in the policy. A copy of this policy is available from the school on request or can be accessed on the school website.

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 Patrick's Primary School Anti-Bullying Policy* is reviewed regularly and is available on the school website.

In 2016, the Anti-Bullying Policy for St Patrick's was revised to align it more closely with the Diocesan Policies and procedures including a Bullying Assessment and Action Flowchart and Anti-Bullying procedures for Staff flowchart.

Students from Years K to 2 attended a presentation, 'Excuse Me,' during Term 3.

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

1. Continue to further integrate IT into the curriculum
2. Implement recommendations from Early Learning policy. Design and create a new infant's playground and Kindergarten flexible learning space to incorporate play based and contemporary learning
3. Implement Visible/Personalised Learning practices into classrooms to further improve student outcomes
4. Provide further Faith Formation opportunities and experiences for staff
5. Offer further Gifted and Talented programs for students including Tournament of the Minds

School Academic Priorities

Key improvements achieved this year	Key improvements for next year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hold parent meetings about 1:1 device program * Develop policies and procedures for 1:1 program including minimum specifications for recommended devices * Integrate robotics into the curriculum including Spheros and Beebots * Incorporate STEM activities and resources into the curriculum 	<p>1. Implementation of new School Information System, Compass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Training of staff * Workshops for parents * Purchase of IT equipment for communication and calendar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Design and build a new interactive infants playground/learning space * Complete re-furnishing of infants classrooms to compliment components of Early Learning * Implement 8 week Fundamental Movement skill program for Kindergarten * Incorporate aspects of play based learning into infants classrooms 	<p>2. Evaluate the effectiveness of aspects of the school using the National School Improvement Tool/ Catholic Identity Improvement Tool with a focus on the elements of School Culture, Differentiation and Faith Life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * External Review from the Catholic Schools Office * Self evaluation by staff on two elements of the tool * Act on recommendations from the external review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hold Pupil Free Day on Visible Learning * Incorporate Individual Learning goals, Learning Intentions, Criteria for Success and Bump up walls into all classrooms * Use data to inform teaching * Offer staff professional learning with a focus on changing teaching practices to further improve student outcomes 	<p>3. Implement evidence based approaches to improve student achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Professional learning and Pupil Free Day on writing * Development and integration of rich, real life, open-ended Maths tasks, Kindergarten to Year 6 * Build teacher capacity for effective differentiation practice * Expand use of visible learning practices in classrooms *Unpack the Early Learning Policy *Explore opportunities for STEM linking to Science & Technology and Mathematics

Academic Achievements

St Patrick's values the academic achievements of all students. The students are encouraged to participate in various competitions run by the University of NSW and Newcastle Permanent Building Society. These competitions cover a variety of areas including Maths, English, Writing, Spelling, Science and Computer Skills. A number of students received distinctions and credits in these competitions in 2017. Year 6 students participated in the RE Literacy Test and Primary students in a Maths Inquisitive Minds workshop.

In 2017, students from Kindergarten to Year 6 once again participated in the Diocesan Public Speaking Competition.

Students with special needs were supported, both in classrooms and on the playground, and given opportunities to develop to their full potential. Many showed great growth through intervention programs, PreLit, MiniLit, MultiLit and Lexia.

Two highlights of 2017 were the wonderful performance of our Tournament of Minds team in the Regional Final and the special presentation on NBN Television of our Year 6 Junior Journos who presented an inspiring story of the school's 'Blue Day,' which raised money to pay for a young orphan in Vietnam to become a nun.

Cultural achievements

Students at St Patrick's were given many opportunities to demonstrate their talents across a range of key learning and interest areas, particularly in the creative and performing arts. Of particular significance, again in 2017, was our End of Year Concert, 'What's on the Box,' which showcased all our children's gifts and talents in drama, dance and music. We were, as last year, supported by the Diocesan Aspire Director, Anna Kerrigan.

In addition to this the school held its inaugural MADD (Music, Art, Drama and Dance) which included a variety of workshops presented by professional facilitators.

Students from each stage attended excursions to Fort Scratchley, the Australian Reptile Park and Sydney. The school hosted a Water Safety and Water Saving Presentation and Bookfair. Sixty of our Primary students attended the Diocesan Aspire production at the Civic Theatre.

Sporting achievements

St Patrick's has a proud tradition of participation, effort and success in a wide range of sporting endeavours. Throughout 2017, students from St Patrick's had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of sports. These included individual and team events in swimming, athletics, cross country, rugby league, soccer, cricket, baseball and netball. A number of students participated in Diocesan carnivals with two gaining selection to Polding teams in Athletics and Touch football. Netball, soccer and Oz Tag teams represented St Patrick's at Carnivals and Gala Days. Year 6 students also attended a Tabloid Sports Day organised at the local Catholic High School.

The school was the recipient of a number of sporting grants used to deliver an 8 week Fundamental Movements skills course for Kindergarten as well as intensive tennis and basketball programs for other year levels.

St Patrick's Colour Run was both a wonderful sporting and community event as well as a very successful fundraiser.

Student Achievements

Performance in National Testing

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students 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 2017		% of students in the top 3 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 3	Reading	93.10%	73.90%	3.45%	10.00%
	Writing	89.29%	74.40%	0.00%	7.50%
	Spelling	89.29%	68.80%	3.57%	13.10%
	Grammar	85.71%	75.00%	7.14%	10.50%
	Numeracy	93.10%	67.10%	0.00%	11.40%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2017		% of students in the top 3 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 5	Reading	57.69%	63.00%	11.54%	14.60%
	Writing	46.15%	47.90%	7.69%	19.40%
	Spelling	69.23%	63.00%	15.38%	14.10%
	Grammar	50.00%	59.90%	26.92%	17.50%
	Numeracy	73.08%	57.60%	0.00%	14.60%

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).	20
II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications	0

Workforce Composition

Number of Staff	
Total teaching staff	20
Total non-teaching staff	10
Grand total	30
Percentage of teachers who are indigenous	0

Teacher Attendance

94%

Teacher Retention

The teacher retention rate from 2016 to 2017 was 100%.

Professional Learning Undertaken

Staff participated in the following pupil free days during 2017:

- * Visible Learning
- * Mathematics
- * Laudato Si Staff Retreat

In addition to this, staff members attended a variety of professional development opportunities including: Gifted and Talented; STEM; ICT; Focus on Reading; Play Based Learning; Early Learning; Effective Writing Instruction and Spelling.

Several staff also attended retreats and pilgrimages throughout the year.

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

There was no formal survey given to parents reviewing the school during 2017. However based on anecdotal feedback, there was a high level of satisfaction and increased attendance at school functions and events such as the St Patrick's Day and Catholic Schools Week celebrations, the End of Year Presentation Night and special events such as Father's Day, Mother's Day and Grandparent's Day. Opportunities for parents to be further involved in the school through initiatives such as Parent workshops, information meetings, Volunteer Inductions and a number of surveys were also well received and supported.

An Open Day was held during Catholic Schools Week, attracting new and existing parents and families and a very positive response from those who attended.

A good reputation and standing in the community resulted in a continued increase in student enrolments during 2017.

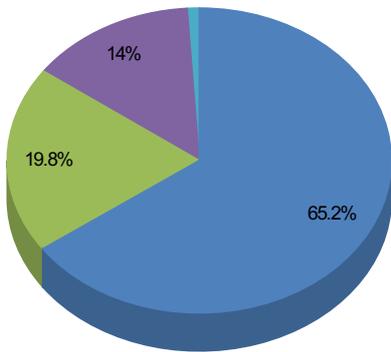
Student Satisfaction

The biggest measure of student satisfaction during 2017 was their continued enthusiasm and positive engagement and involvement in a range of spiritual, academic, cultural and sporting activities and their participation in a number of extra curricula programs including the school choir, drama and guitar groups. Their willingness to attend diocesan and local community functions and organisations was also a sign of their satisfaction and pride in representing their school.

Staff Satisfaction

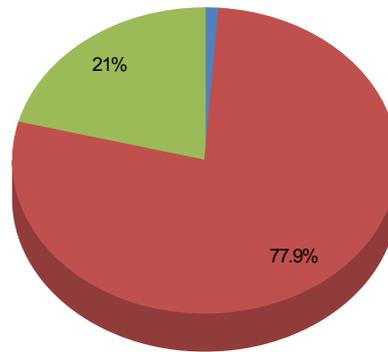
Staff are satisfied at school based on their high level of involvement in all aspects of school life, their attendance at functions, enthusiasm and responsiveness to teaching and learning and their willingness to participate in Professional Learning opportunities. They have also worked extremely hard to improve the school and increase enrolments.

Income



- Commonwealth Recurrent Grants (65.2%)
- Government Capital Grants (0%)
- State Recurrent Grants (19.8%)
- Fees and Private Income (14%)
- Other Capital Income (1%)

Expenditure



- Capital Expenditure (1.2%)
- Salaries and Related Expenses (77.9%)
- Non-Salary Expenses (21%)

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 2017 year is detailed below:

RECURRENT and CAPITAL INCOME	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants ¹	\$2,472,320
Government Capital Grants ²	\$0
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$751,438
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$531,925
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$38,259
Total Income	\$3,815,207

RECURRENT and CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$40,791
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$2,722,922
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$733,717
Total Expenditure	\$3,497,430

For the 2017 year the St Patrick's Primary School received \$21,265 as Interest Subsidy. Our school community is appreciative of the support it received from the NSW State Government under the Interest Subsidy Scheme

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, NESAs, The Parents 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:

St Patrick's Primary School

WALLSEND

Phone: 4955 8570

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