



Catholic Schools
DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

2025

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

SERVICE | LEADERSHIP | JUSTICE

TOGETHER IN CHRIST



Holy Family Primary School

19 Janet Street, MEREWETHER 2291

Principal: Miss Ann Jackson

Web: <http://www.merewetherbeach.catholic.edu.au>

About this report

Holy Family Primary School (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (CDMN) which forms part of the broader system of schools governed by Catholic Schools NSW. The Annual School Report (the 'Report'), provides parents and the wider community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. Additionally, the Report complements and is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the School community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the learning and wellbeing of its students.

Detailed information about the School's improvement journey is documented in the Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) which is developed, implemented and evaluated in consultation with key stakeholders. Further information about the contents of this Report may be obtained by contacting the School directly or by visiting the School's website. Information can be also be obtained from the My School website.

Message from key groups in our community

Principal's Message

Holy Family's story began in 1961. As a Josephite school founded in the tradition of Saint Mary MacKillop, we are proud to be part of the Maitland-Newcastle Catholic community of schools. Grounded in Josephite values, Holy Family has earned a strong reputation for nurturing the whole child—spiritually, academically, and personally.

At the heart of our identity are the core values of Courage, Compassion, Dignity, and Humility, reflected in the lives of our House Patrons: St Mary MacKillop, St Francis of Assisi, Caroline Chisholm, and St Benedict. These values, together with the charism of the Holy Family, guide us in living a faith that places family at its centre and Gospel values at its heart.

When families join our community, we strive to be the face of Jesus to them. Our teachers are committed to excellence as lifelong learners, engaging in ongoing professional growth. We encourage our students to be resilient, respectful, and responsible, fostering caring relationships within the school and beyond.

At Holy Family, every person's dignity is honoured and nurtured. We work in partnership with parents to ensure every child is celebrated and supported. Together—teachers, parents, and students—we uphold a tradition of spiritual immersion, educational excellence, and community advocacy. This is what makes Holy Family a special place to live out our vision: to love, to learn, and to serve.

Parent Body Message

This year, Holy Family has embraced the FACE model (Families and Community Engagement) as a dynamic way to strengthen partnerships between home and school. The response to this change has been good with our open afternoons followed by FACE meetings being far better attended than the traditional P&F model, creating a more inclusive and collaborative environment. Each FACE meeting has included an educative component informed by feedback from the 2024 parent survey. These sessions have been well received, providing parents with valuable insights into learning and wellbeing while fostering stronger connections with the school.

Parents have played an active role in supporting our school community through a range of fundraising initiatives, including Easter raffles, Mother's and Father's Day stalls, and the highly anticipated end-of-year Colour Run. Beyond school-based events, families also came together for a non-school trivia night, which was a fantastic success and raised significant funds for our students.

At Holy Family we value the collaboration between families and school. By working together, we have created a vibrant, supportive community that enriches student learning and strengthens the sense of belonging for every family. We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Student Body Message

Being School Captain has been a huge honour and it's given us the chance to see our school from a new view. Every day, we're reminded of how lucky I am to be part of a community that is so welcoming, supportive and fun.

What makes Holy Family special isn't just the buildings or the playground, it's the people in it. It's the feeling of belonging when you walk through the gate in the morning. It's the laughter, the learning, the challenges and the achievements we share together.

There is so much to love about our school. Our teachers believe in us, push us to do our best and are always there to help, even when we think a task is impossible. Their encouragement makes our school feel like a place where we can achieve anything. Our school is full of students who are kind, friendly and always willing to help each other. Whether it's cheering each other on at sport, working together in class or making sure no one is left out at lunch, we look out for one another. That is what makes Holy Family feel like a family.

Our school encourages us to take opportunities. Whether it's joining a team, trying out for things such as plays or debating, to leading an assembly or helping younger students. Some additional contributions we have made this year include: - Representing the school at external events such as our local ANZAC Day dawn service. - Installing soft plastic recycling bin. - Introducing new items to the school canteen in consultation with staff and students. - Facilitating fortnightly sporting matches between students and teachers. - Introducing new liturgical skirts in a more inclusive style. - Introducing lunchtime art club.

It has been a privilege to lead Holy Family during 2025. We feel so grateful to have had the opportunity to lead our incredible school and hope we have made a positive impact on the Holy Family community that will last long after we leave.

School Features

Holy Family primary school caters for children Kindergarten to Year 6. Children from Holy Family continue to St Francis Xavier's for their secondary Catholic education.

The school has a history built on the traditions of the school's founders, the Sisters of St Joseph. Through our rich Josephite history, we deeply acknowledge the importance of the presence of God in the lives of our students, parents and staff. We also recognise, through the history and traditions of our Josephite sisters, that we are called to be authentic witnesses in our faith community, truly centred in the life of the school around our catholic teachings and values. In providing our students with the foundations of a Christ-centred life, we are providing them with the tools for emotional and spiritual wellbeing within a vibrant, connected, faith-filled community.

At Holy Family, we boast an inclusive and supportive environment where every child's dignity is respected and celebrated. We partner closely with parents to ensure students feel valued and supported. Our dedicated teachers are lifelong learners, committed to delivering high-quality education through innovative teaching practices. We focus on the spiritual, academic, social, and emotional growth of our students, encouraging them to be resilient, respectful, and responsible. Our coastal environment and close proximity to Merewether Beach provides us with an excellent outdoor learning space, one which is often used for sporting and wellbeing activities in addition to supporting the curriculum.

At Holy Family, our vision is simple yet profound: to love, to learn, and to serve. Together, whether teachers, parents, or students, we create a community where faith and learning flourish.

Student Profile

Student Enrolment

The School caters for students in Years K – 6. Students attending this School come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities. The following information describes the student profile for 2025: Additional information can be found on My School website.

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
93	105	34	198

* Language Background Other than English

Enrolment Policy

The [Enrolment Policy](#) applies to all school enrolments within the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. School authorities manage local enrolment processes and procedures in a manner consistent with the rationale and guiding principles articulated in this Enrolment Policy.

Student Attendance Rates

The average student attendance rate for 2025 was 90.91%. Attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group						
Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
91.97	89.48	93.08	90.09	91.42	90.67	89.69

Managing Student Non-Attendance

All schools maintain an accurate register of their student's attendance. Any absences (part or full day) from school are recorded on this register and appropriate intervention strategies are implemented if required.

While parents/carer are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their child at school, school staff, as part of their duty of care, play a vital role in providing a continuum of active support including universal, targeted, and individualised strategies when supporting students with attendance concerns. Documented attendance plans may be developed to address the needs of students whose attendance is identified as being of concern.

Staffing Profile

Staffing Profile

Note: The data presented reflects the most current information available at the time of reporting. Variations in data currency may occur where staff updates are pending. Differences between tables are due to variations in staff inclusion criteria; therefore, minor discrepancies in reported numbers may occur.

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2025:

Total number of staff	34
Number of full time teaching staff	7
Number of part time teaching staff	16
Number of non-teaching staff	11

Total number of teaching staff by NESA category

Teachers are either accredited as conditional, provisional or proficient as defined by the Teacher Accreditation Act 2004 (NSW). Accreditation at the levels of Highly Accomplished and Lead teacher is voluntary.

The following table describes the accreditation status of teachers at Holy Family Primary School in 2025:

Conditional Teachers	4
Provisional Teachers	0
Proficient Teachers	17
HALT Teachers	1

Catholic Identity and Mission

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle participate, under the leadership of the Bishop and in partnership with parents and parishes, in the mission of the Church to provide quality education in the context of a living Catholic Christian tradition. Within this context, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle educate from and for vibrant, welcoming and diverse communities with a particular commitment to the poor; for justice, integrity and peace; and with hope for the future.:

At the heart of everything there is always Jesus Christ.

Catholic schools educate:

- From and for the community of faith
- From and for excellence in learning
- In a rigorous, creative and critical pursuit of truth

(Adapted from: The Catholic School's Office Diocesan Vision Statement, 2016)

Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Merewether Beach, is steeped in the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph and associated traditions which are grounded in Service to Others and the Environment. Consequently, we abide by our Mission and Vision Statements.

Inspired by Jesus the teacher, we love, we learn, we serve.

Our Mission is thus:

To love with justice, dignity and respect for all
To love as disciples of Jesus
To love through stewardship of creation
To learn to be collaborative, life long learners
To learn to be resilient in the face of challenges
To learn to be courageous citizens for a fair world
To serve by sharing our gifts with humility
To serve by caring for others with kindness and compassion
To serve by helping others in need

Our school's vision and mission reflects our desire to forge relationships with others, and the world beyond our borders, based upon discipleship and grounded in Gospel values. At Holy Family, we strive to be an authentic, universal family where everyone feels welcome and valued.

We continue to work on developing a deeper connection to our patronage: The Holy Family, St Mary MacKillop, St Francis of Assisi, Caroline Chisholm and St Benedict. Each patron was identified through a particular value: Courage, Compassion, Dignity and Humility and these are now recognised as our School Core Values. As a school, we now celebrate each of our patrons on a special day throughout the year.

Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

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 and Languages.

The Curriculum is structured around the outcomes and content for each KLA and provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate their understanding through assessment. The curriculum embeds capabilities and priorities within curriculum content points in all KLAs. These include literacy, numeracy, digital literacy, critical and creative thinking, ethical understanding, intercultural understanding, and personal and social capability.

At Holy Family Catholic Primary School, we believe education extends far beyond traditional academic boundaries. Our comprehensive curriculum, fully aligned with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) syllabuses, encompasses six core learning domains: English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Humanities, Creative Arts, and Personal Development.

We don't just teach subjects; we cultivate comprehensive learning capabilities. Our approach integrates critical skills like digital literacy, creative thinking, ethical reasoning, and intercultural understanding into every aspect of student learning. Each classroom is a dynamic ecosystem designed to recognize and amplify individual student strengths.

Our educational philosophy centres on holistic student development. We understand that true learning happens when academic instruction intersects with spiritual growth, emotional intelligence, and social skills. Every lesson, every interaction is an opportunity to nurture a child's complete potential.

Pedagogically, we're committed to adaptive and personalized learning experiences. Our teachers employ diverse instructional strategies, from explicit teaching in English to exploratory problem-solving in Mathematics. Professional learning teams continuously refine our approaches, using data-driven insights to craft targeted learning experiences.

Technology plays a pivotal role in our educational model. From Kindergarten iPads to Bring Your Own Device programs in upper primary, we're preparing students for a digitally connected world. Our technological integration isn't just about devices—it's about developing critical digital competencies.

We pay special attention to students at both ends of the learning spectrum. Gifted learners access enrichment through programs like the diocesan Virtual Academy, while those needing additional support receive personalized interventions. Our Religious Education curriculum,

particularly for younger students, emphasizes the Pedagogy of Encounter, inviting students to explore spiritual dimensions thoughtfully.

Our stunning location near Merewether Beach offers unique learning opportunities. The natural environment becomes an extended classroom, allowing students to learn, explore, and play in inspiring settings.

Ultimately, Holy Family is more than a school—it's a community dedicated to empowering young minds. We're not just preparing students for academic success, but equipping them to become compassionate, adaptive, and lifelong learners who can navigate an increasingly complex world.

Student Performance in Tests and Examinations

NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia participate in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

NAPLAN is a nationwide measure through which parents/carers, teachers, schools, education authorities, governments and the broader community can determine whether or not young Australians are developing critical literacy and numeracy skills. NAPLAN results allow parents/carers and educators to see how students are progressing in literacy and numeracy over time - individually, as part of their school community, and against national standards. NAPLAN is made up of four domains of:

- reading
- writing
- conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- numeracy.

NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards with four levels of achievement to give parents and carers, teachers and schools clearer information on how students are performing:

- Exceeding: The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- Strong: The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- Developing: The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- Needs additional support: The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

The percentage of student achieving at Exceeding and Strong proficiency standards in NAPLAN at Holy Family Primary School for 2025 is reported in the table below.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2025		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 3	Grammar and Punctuation	62%	54%
	Reading	81%	66%
	Writing	85%	76%
	Spelling	73%	62%
	Numeracy	62%	64%
NAPLAN RESULTS 2025		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	68%	63%
	Reading	85%	73%
	Writing	79%	65%
	Spelling	79%	69%
	Numeracy	85%	69%

Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

Pastoral Care Policy

The School's approach to pastoral care and wellbeing is guided by the [Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy](#).

This policy provides a framework for the development and implementation of policies, programs, resources, and practices at all school levels. Its purpose is to support and enhance the wellbeing of students and all members of the school community, fostering a climate of care within a Catholic educational context.

The School is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and academically rigorous environment. A strong emphasis is placed on nurturing and maintaining positive, respectful relationships among staff, students, and parents, with the wellbeing of all at the forefront.

Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy

The School's behaviour management and student discipline procedures align with the Catholic School's [Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy](#) and to the [Schools Behaviour Management Policy](#). These policies uphold the dignity and responsibility of each individual, promote positive student behaviour, and ensure respect for the rights of all students and staff. Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited at the School. The School does not permit or condone the use of corporal punishment by any School personnel or non-School individuals, including parents, as a means of discipline in the School. Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the School's website.

Anti-Bullying Policy

The School implements the Catholic Schools [Anti-Bullying Policy](#) which is adopted by all schools within the Diocese. This policy provides a framework for school communities to collaboratively prevent and address bullying, fostering respectful relationships and responding to individual needs with sensitivity and care. The Catholic Schools Leadership team 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 on the Catholic Schools Maitland-Newcastle website.

Complaints Handling Policy

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle [Complaints Resolution Policy](#) is implemented by the School and all schools in the diocese. This policy acknowledges that misunderstandings and differences of opinion may arise and provides a structured process for resolving such matters respectfully and constructively. By addressing concerns within a framework of dignity, respect and truth, the policy reflects the values of the Catholic faith and offers opportunities to model the love of Christ in contemporary contexts. The Catholic Schools Leadership team monitors the implementation of this policy in our schools.

The full text of the [Complaints Resolution Policy](#) may be accessed on the School's website, the administration office or on the Catholic Schools Maitland-Newcastle website.

Community Satisfaction

Consultation with parents, students and teachers is valued and sought. Their feedback contributes to the planning and the achievement of improved outcomes for students. This year, the School has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, students and teachers. The school undertakes extensive surveying of all stakeholder groups every 2 years. This data is shared with the school community and contributes to the priorities for future planning.

Parent satisfaction

Parent satisfaction with Holy Family Catholic Primary School remains high, as evidenced through multiple channels including parent meetings, anecdotal feedback, and formal surveys. This information consistently affirms that families value the school's welcoming, supportive, and community-oriented environment.

The introduction of the FACE (Families and Community Engagement) model has strengthened partnerships by providing parents with a more educative perspective on school life and learning. Data from surveys is shared with the community and informs priorities for future planning.

Parents consistently describe Holy Family as a friendly, supportive, and community-oriented school. Attendance at liturgies, Masses, assemblies, and sporting events demonstrates strong engagement. Award assemblies are particularly well attended, and special celebrations such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Grandparents' Day remain highlights of the school calendar.

Student satisfaction

The students of Holy family are very proud of their school. The learning undertaken is highly valued. Ex-students often visit Holy Family after they have left and relay to staff how well prepared they felt for high school. Friendships and the social groups formed here at Holy family are extremely positive and a good foundation for lifelong connections.

The continuation of our leadership program for senior students continues. The modelling of this provides excellent formation opportunities for our younger students.

Leadership positions are seen as important and a worthwhile goal for which all children strive.

Teacher satisfaction

The teaching staff at Holy Family Primary School are committed, highly motivated professionals who consistently demonstrate excellence in their practice. The collegiality among staff is a defining feature of our school culture, fostering collaboration, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for student success. Teachers take exceptional care to ensure the diverse needs of all students are met, setting high expectations and encouraging every child to strive for their personal best.

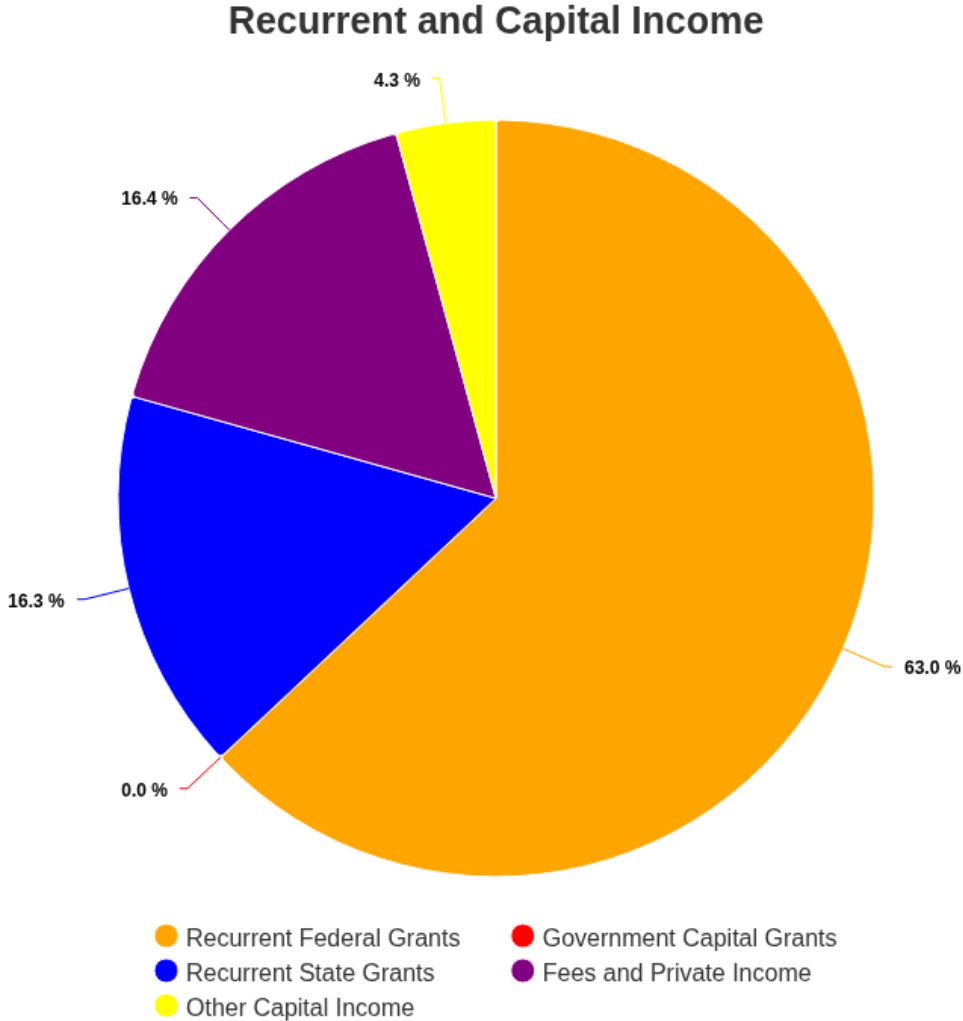
Our staff actively engage in ongoing professional learning and development, continually seeking opportunities to enhance their pedagogical knowledge and improve classroom practice. Experienced teachers provide invaluable support to beginning teachers, generously sharing their expertise and mentoring them as they grow in confidence and capability.

Beyond their professional roles, staff nurture a strong sense of community and faith. They gather weekly for prayer and offer pastoral care to one another, creating an inclusive environment grounded in Gospel values. This commitment to spiritual and professional growth ensures that Holy Family remains a place where both staff and students flourish.

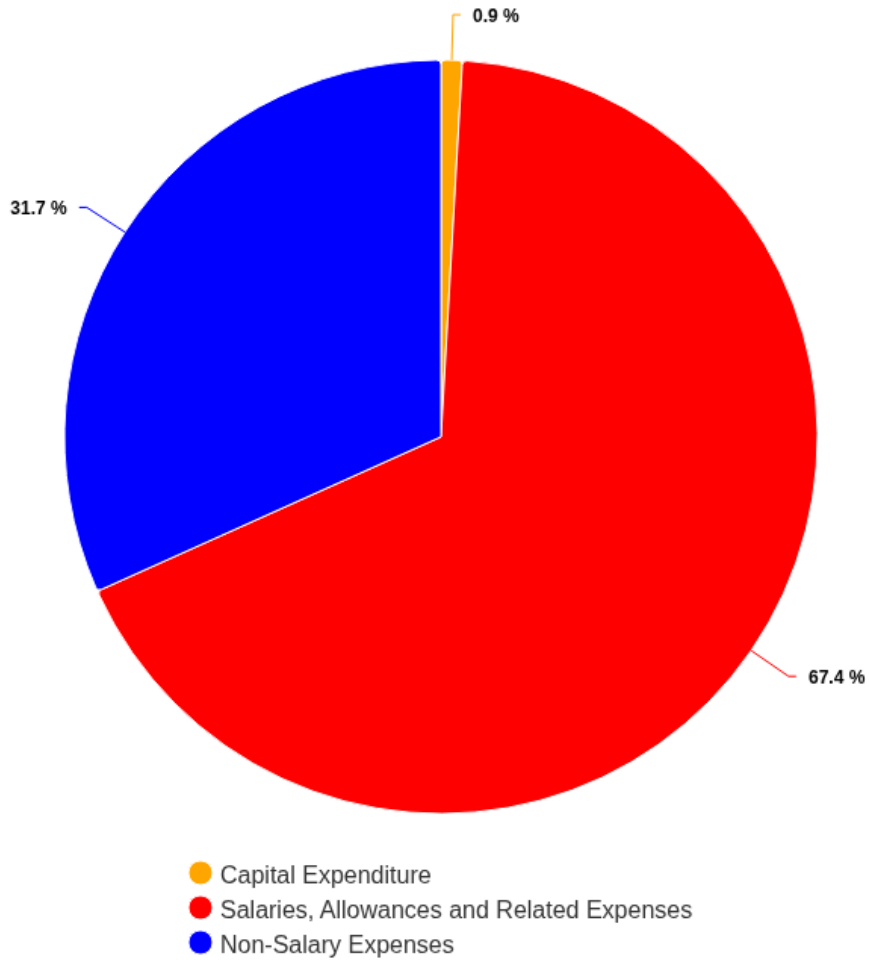
Financial Statement

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 2025 year is detailed below:



Recurrent and Capital Expenditure



END OF 2025 REPORT