Catholic Schools
DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

2025 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

SERVICE | LEADERSHIP | JUSTICE

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

WINDALE
St Pius X
Love is Concern

St Pius X Primary School

2 Lake Street, WINDALE 2306
Principal: Mr Stephen Pryde
Web: http://www.windale.catholic.edu.au

About this report

St Pius X 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

It is my pleasure to present the 2025 Annual School Report for St Pius X Primary School, Windale. Our school is a Kindergarten to Year 6 systemic school within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, located in the Lake Macquarie region between the peaceful shores of the lake and the stunning beaches of Redhead and Dudley.

St Pius X is a Catholic school grounded in the Christian tradition, with a rich heritage and a strong sense of community. Established in 1958, the school was built on the enduring values of the Sisters of St Joseph and St Mary of the Cross, inspired by their belief to “never see a need without doing something about it.”

Through a dynamic partnership involving students, parents, staff, parish members, and the wider community, we strive to both challenge and support one another in achieving growth and reaching full potential. Our teachers collaborate to deliver high-quality learning programs and ensure the curriculum is differentiated to meet the diverse needs of all students. We are an inclusive school, providing strong support for students with additional needs in safe and nurturing classroom environments.

We are deeply committed to a child-centred approach that recognises the individuality of each student and seeks to meet their unique needs. To support this, we engage a paediatrician who visits each term to work alongside staff and families. Our goal is to provide a strong educational foundation that equips students with the skills necessary to contribute meaningfully to society and to achieve personal growth. We take great pride in our students’ achievements and their active participation in school, diocesan, and state initiatives.

We are grateful to the many parents and volunteers who generously give their time and energy to support our school community. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of our staff and their ongoing commitment to our students and their families. It is through this collaborative partnership that St Pius X continues to flourish as a vibrant learning community.

This report provides an overview of our achievements and outlines our future directions. For further information about school life, I encourage you to visit our website.

St Pius X Windale is a place where every child is known, valued, and nurtured. Our school is a treasured part of the Windale community and parish, grounded in the Gospel values of life, hope, and truth.

Warm regards,
Steve Pryde
Principal

Parent Body Message

The 2025 school year began with a strong sense of promise and excitement. Our leadership team includes Principal Steve Pryde and Religious Education Coordinator Chris Tanchevski. We have maintained our highly successful partnership with our paediatrician, who continues to visit the school to support the diverse needs of our students.

Our parent community has been actively involved in a range of celebrations, including the launch of our third picture book, Shadow Below, co-created with author and illustrator Sami Bayly. Our communication platforms, including Facebook and the school newsletter, remain valuable tools for fostering engagement and keeping our community informed.

Student Body Message

At St Pius X Windale, all Year 6 students are recognised as leaders each year. They were formally inducted as School Leaders during our Opening School Mass in February 2025, where they were presented to the wider community. Rather than appointing individual captains, leadership responsibilities are shared, with students rotating through roles such as welcoming visitors, leading liturgies and school Masses, and speaking at school events.

Our student leaders also deliver speeches to acknowledge and thank special guests and mark significant occasions within the school. This year, our Blue class had the opportunity to represent the school during their excursion to Canberra. Highlights included visiting the Australian War Memorial, where students laid a wreath on behalf of the school, as well as trips to the National Museum and the popular Australian Institute of Sport.

Year 6 students serve as positive role models for younger members of the school community and regularly represent St Pius X in the wider community. For the third consecutive year, our entire student body collaborated with author and illustrator Sami Bayly to create a picture book, providing a truly enriching and memorable experience.

School Features

History of the School

St Pius X has a rich and interesting history dating back to 1958. Prior to this, Catholic children in Windale—known as Surprise Town until 1951—attended the local public school or travelled to nearby Catholic schools in Charlestown or Adamstown.

The school originally operated within the current church building, which opened in 1959 and housed three classrooms separated by partitions. The first staff consisted of three Sisters of St Joseph, who initially travelled daily from the Swansea convent until the opening of the adjacent St Joseph's Convent in July 1959.

As the school community grew, additional buildings were constructed in 1993 to meet increasing enrolments and provide improved classroom and administrative facilities. In 2011, a new library and hall were completed through National Pride funding from the Australian Government, further enhancing the school's learning environment. Continued improvements have included the construction of a deck in 2018, upgrades to the school entrance in 2019 along with an additional decking area and refurbished student toilets, and a car park upgrade in 2021. Most recently, building works have been completed, featuring a redesigned playground and the addition of two new buildings.

Location and Drawing Area

St Pius X primarily enrols students from Windale, Gateshead West, Tingira Heights and Mount Hutton, with additional families coming from Gateshead, Belmont North, Valentine and Warners Bay. Students who completed Year 6 in 2024 have continued their secondary education at St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead.

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
26	28	11	54

* 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 80.00%. 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
75.66	78.01	84.75	82.09	75.37	84.91	79.18

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	24
Number of full time teaching staff	4
Number of part time teaching staff	11
Number of non-teaching staff	9

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 St Pius X Primary School in 2025:

Conditional Teachers	1
Provisional Teachers	0
Proficient Teachers	13

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)

Catholic Identity and Mission: Catholic Imagination and Spirituality
We joyfully celebrated our Opening School Mass, during which our Year 6 leaders were presented with their badges of office and new students were warmly welcomed with a special gift. At the end of the year, we gathered again to celebrate our End of Year Mass, where our Year 6 students were recognised for their leadership and formally graduated from St Pius X Windale.

The school continues to foster a strong connection with the Sisters of St Joseph, the founding educators of St Pius X. Key celebrations throughout the year included our St Pius X Feast Day and Harmony Day, both of which strengthened our sense of community and shared identity.

Our Mission Day provided a valuable opportunity for the school community to come together in service, raising funds to support Catholic Mission and reinforcing our commitment to social justice and outreach.

Family, Parish and Diocesan Evangelising and Catechesis
As a parish school, the spiritual development and wellbeing of our students is a shared responsibility between the Parish Priest, Fr Gerard Mackie, the Principal, staff, parents, and the wider parish community. Each classroom features a sacred space that reflects the Catholic identity of our school and serves as a focal point for prayer and reflection. Visible symbols of our faith are displayed throughout the school, including in classrooms and the staff room.

Throughout the year, students participated in the Sacramental Program led by Fr Gerard, deepening their understanding of their faith. As part of our parish network, we also came together to celebrate significant liturgical events, including the Assumption Mass.

Christian Discipleship

Students were regularly provided with opportunities to engage in daily prayer and participate in liturgical celebrations, nurturing their spiritual growth and sense of discipleship.

Religious Education and Curriculum

The Diocesan K–12 Religious Education Syllabus is implemented across all year levels. Ongoing support from the Religious Education and Spirituality Team at the Catholic Schools Office has strengthened the delivery of this curriculum.

The Religious Education Coordinator actively participated in professional development opportunities provided by the Catholic Schools Office and shared this learning with staff to enhance teaching practices across the school. Highlights of the year included celebrations aligned with the Church's liturgical seasons, Sacramental Programs, and liturgies and Masses involving parents and grandparents.

A special liturgy and event day was also held to celebrate the Feast of St Pius X, further enriching the spiritual life of the school community.

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.

St Pius X Primary School, Windale, provides high-quality educational programs to honour its commitment to quality Catholic education and enable each child to reach their full potential.

Our highly qualified and passionate team of educators is dedicated to tailoring their teaching methods to meet the individual needs of each student. We recognise that every child learns differently, and we embrace this diversity by implementing a range of engaging and innovative teaching approaches that inspire a love for learning.

The curriculum at St Pius X, is based on that of the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). Students receive instruction in all key learning areas.

Key Learning Areas
St Pius X offers a complete set of study areas to its students. For more information, click on the areas below:

- English
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) History, Geography
- Creative Arts
- Personal Development/Health/Physical Education (PDHPE)

Inclusive Practices

Inclusive Practice values the uniqueness and diversity of our children and focuses on being able to provide educational opportunities that may require adjustments and modifications in the school setting.

Identified children are categorised into three areas – PLP (Personalised Learning Plan), ILP (Individual Learning Plan) and Support Plan students.

St Pius X has a Learning Support Teacher whose role is to work collaboratively with educators, children, parents and various outside agencies to support the process of providing inclusive practices in our classrooms.

Indigenous Education

At St Pius X Primary School, Windale we provide opportunities for members of the school community to enhance their appreciation and knowledge of Aboriginal Australia and Aboriginal Spirituality. Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education teacher, Georgia Kirkland, provides additional support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through their education and assists them in developing their full potential, targeting the Key Learning Areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

Gifted Education

To ensure the realisation of our vision, we have a dedicated Gifted Education Mentor (GEM) Kerrie Murphy. We firmly believe in differentiating the learning experiences in all classrooms, ensuring that every student receives the targeted support they require to thrive.

Learning Hub

The heart of St Pius X Primary School is our Learning Hub. Led by our Teacher Librarian, Kasey Gibbs, and supported by Library Assistant, Shelly Baker, our library serves as the central hub of our educational journey.

Each Thursday, classes visit the learning hub to participate in lessons focused on Literacy and Technology.

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 St Pius X 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	25%	54%
	Reading	38%	66%
	Writing	38%	76%
	Spelling	0%	62%
	Numeracy	25%	64%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2025		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	20%	63%
	Reading	50%	73%
	Writing	50%	65%
	Spelling	70%	69%
	Numeracy	40%	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

Our online engagement continued and has been extremely well received by our parent community. Families enjoy the various celebrations throughout the year and celebrate student success. The whole student body became co-authors and co-illustrators of our third picture book, 'Shadow Below', a major highlight of the school year.

Through a dynamic partnership between students, parents, staff, parish members and the wider community, we challenge and support one another towards growth and full potential.

I would like to acknowledge the staff for their ongoing commitment to the students and their families. It is this collaborative partnership that ensures that St Pius X will continue to grow as a learning community.

Student satisfaction

From anecdotal comments made by the students, it would be correct to say that the students enjoy attending St Pius X Primary School, Windale. They greatly value the care and compassion of the staff and being able to be with their friends in a safe and supportive environment.

A number of new families joined our community in 2025 and their comments regarding the children's happiness reflect the strong care and support provided by our school and staff.

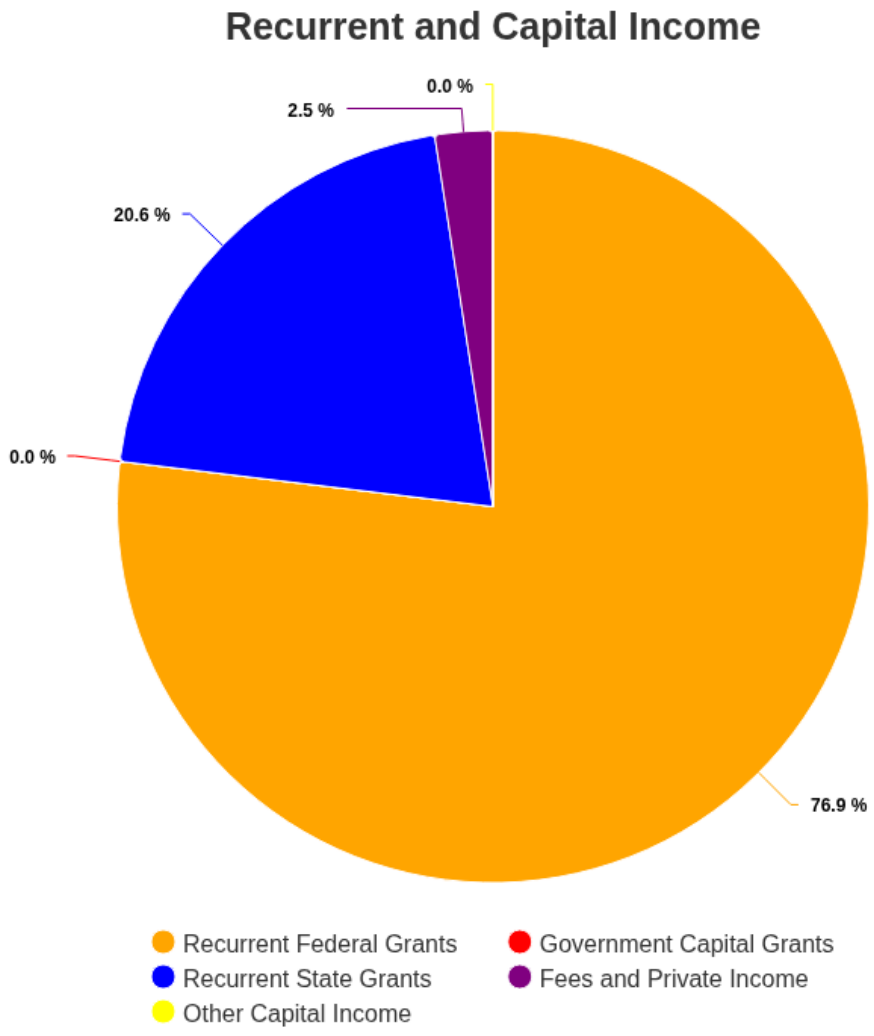
Teacher satisfaction

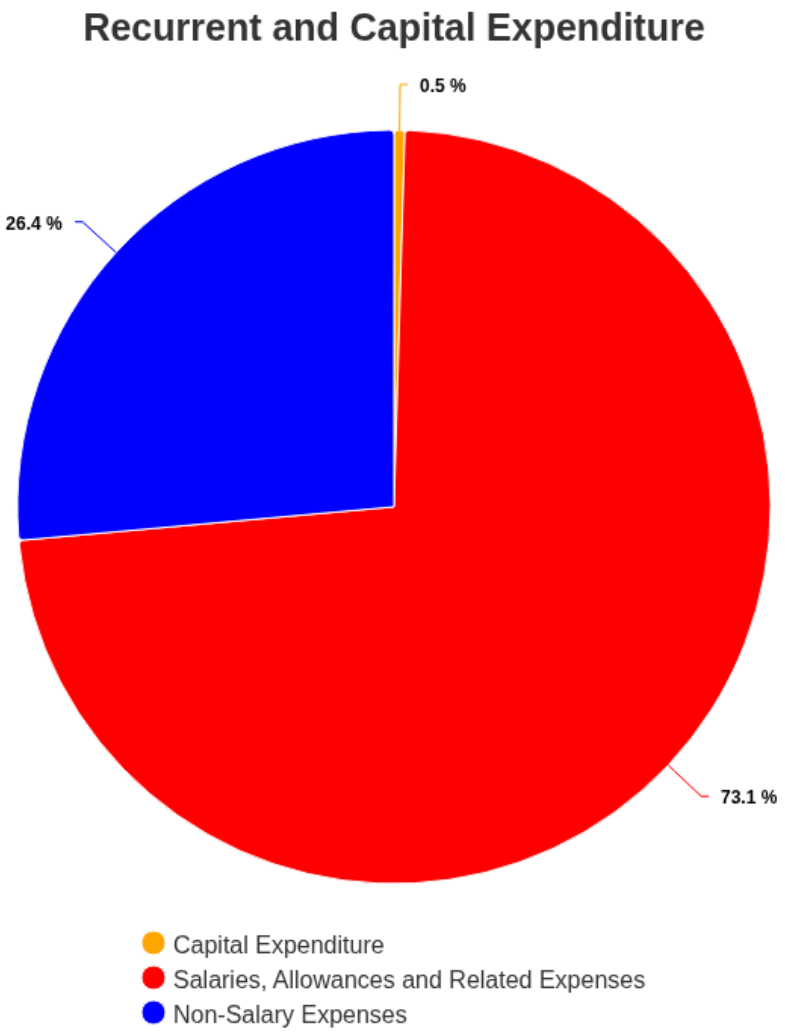
In 2025, there were some changes in staffing. Three new Learning Support Teachers and two new temporary classroom teachers. Throughout 2025, staff were highly satisfied with their valued roles, reflected in their support of one another and anecdotal comments.

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:





END OF 2025 REPORT