



St Aidan's Primary School

2023 Annual School Report



St Aidan's Primary School
1-5 Adelaide Street
Rooty Hill 2766
0288870000
StAidans@parra.catholic.edu.au
www.staidansrootyhill.catholic.edu.au

Introduction

About the Annual School Report

St Aidan's Primary School is registered by the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) as a member of the Catholic system of schools in the Diocese of Parramatta.

The Annual School Report provides parents and carers and the wider school community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The Report describes the achievement of school development priorities in 2023 and gives information about the next years priorities.

This Report is a legislative requirement under the Schools Assistance Act 2008 and the Education Amendment Act 2004.

The information in this Report is complemented by the school website where other school publications and news can be viewed or obtained from the school.

Key Messages

From the Principal Mrs. Marian Bell

I am pleased to present the Annual School Report for St Aidan's Primary School for 2023. St Aidan's is the local parish primary school for the Catholic community of Rooty Hill.

We are a learner centred school and our vision is: "Creating faith filled, curious, excited, confident and self motivated learners who are meeting the challenges of being creative contributors to society and innovative problem solvers". We believe St Aidan's Primary School is a dynamic Catholic school committed to living gospel values, incorporating a spirit of community, acknowledging the diversity and uniqueness of each student, and encouraging success in learning. We recognise each child as being unique and formed in the image of God. We are a school community that fosters a friendly, trusting relationship between school, parish and parents for the ongoing development and benefit of each child. Our school provides an excellent learning environment, facilitated by a wonderful team of professional and friendly staff in partnership with our supportive parent community. At St Aidan's Primary School we invite parents to continue their fundamental role as first educators of their children. The school strives to work in partnership with families and encourages parents to be active participants in the daily life of the school. We aim to provide a quality education for every student. New approaches and skills are emerging for life long learning and we aim to create engaging and challenging learning environments to ensure the best possible emphasis is given to improve the learning of all children. We want them to be successful learners and problem solvers ready to meet the ongoing and emerging challenges of life.

The Annual School Report is a government initiative that allows our parents and carers to gain information about some of the structures and performance of our school and its role in the wider community. It is, however, a written document that cannot replace that very real and human need for personal interaction. We invite all parents and carers who wish to discuss any aspect of this report to make contact and work with us collaboratively.

From the Parents/Carers

The parents at St Aidan's Primary School worked in partnership with the school to build a learning community that is welcoming and inclusive with the students at the centre. Parents were encouraged to be involved in their children's learning and all aspects of school life. Parents attended numerous forums so they could give feedback to the school leadership team and were provided with informal and formal opportunities to meet with teachers about student learning. Parents were invited to contact the school at anytime regarding concerns or issues affecting their children. They regularly attended school assemblies, liturgies and school celebrations. Parents were keen to be part of the life of the school and steps were taken to increase parental involvement and participation through a parent forum and a committee to organise events like Mothers Day morning tea, Fathers Day breakfast and stalls. In 2023, we celebrated International Day. This event that was a very successful partnership between parents and school. All feedback from parents was positive. Another highlight for parents was the walkathon. Parents were very supportive and raised money to go towards beautifying the playground.

Parents and carers were formally surveyed in a centrally administered feedback system that provided information to staff about their child's experience and their own experience of school. The results will be used to look at further improvements at the school.

From the Students

St Aidan's offers a great education with good teachers who really care for us. Our classrooms are open and colourful with displays of our own work. Technology is good at St Aidan's with all children in the primary school with their own device. We also have many extra activities such as gala days for soccer, touch football, netball and basketball. The whole school also participates in Zing Dance program during Term 3. We also had 70 children who participated in the inter school challenge coming away with many awards including first place in the team challenge. Some children attend after school coding classes. There are also several lunch time clubs at St Aidan's. These include gardening, knitting, dance, choir and chess. There are also 40 children who belong to the Mini Vinnies team who help us to become aware of people in need and raising money for Caritas Australia and for Catholic Mission. We are really looking forward to our new playground that we raised money for during the year. We hope to be using it mid way through term 1 next year.

Students at the school were formally surveyed in a centrally administered feedback system that provided information to staff about the students and their experience of school.

School Context

History of the school

St Aidan's Primary School was established in 1907. It was founded by the Sisters of St Joseph. The school came under the care of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in 1969. The first lay principal was appointed in 1990. St Aidan's Primary School has grown into a two stream school with an enrolment of over 400 students. In 2007, the community celebrated its centenary and also saw the commencement of extensive refurbishment of ten classrooms and the administration block. This building project was completed in 2008. In 2010, the school utilised the funding from the Australian Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) to construct a new canteen, a Year 4 learning space, refurbish the library and a Stage 3 learning space. All grades work in flexible learning spaces where teachers design learning experiences that challenge students to work collaboratively and problem solve. In 2017, we celebrated 110 years of providing quality education to the Catholic community of Rooty Hill with a mass led by Bishop Vincent. Many past students and dignitaries attended and various memorabilia were created to remember the milestone. In 2019, the refurbishment of the toilet block took place. In 2021, the refurbishment of the school administration building took place, as well as refurbishment of the new Year 5 space with an addition of two doorways to an outside learning space with a shade sail. St Aidan's Primary School also had playground markings created for students at recess and lunchtime. Inspirational words were displayed on the stairwells. In 2022, the refurbishment of the Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 classrooms took place, with new carpet, felt walls and painting in all spaces.

Location / Drawing Area

St Aidan's Primary School is located in Rooty Hill, a suburb of Western Sydney and serves the local St Aidan's Parish. The area comprises an older residential area and more recent housing developments. The school's drawing area includes Rooty Hill, Eastern Creek, Mt Druitt, Minchinbury, Bungaribee and a small area of Plumpton.

Workforce Composition

Staffing Profile

Staffing Profile	
Total Number of Staff	43
Number of staff who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	0
Number of full time teaching staff	20
Number of part time teaching staff	12
Number of non-teaching staff	11

Total number of teaching staff by NESA accreditation level

Teachers at the school 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 contracted number of accredited teachers within Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) are as follows:

Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) accredited teachers	
Conditional Teachers	363
Provisional Teachers	125
Proficient Teachers and/or above	3495

Teacher status at St Aidan's Primary School can be sourced directly from the school.

Professional Learning

The ongoing professional development of each staff member working within CSPD is highly valued. Professional learning can take many forms including: whole of school staff days, subject-specific engagements, conferences, meetings and a range of professional learning opportunities provided by CSPD.

The school takes responsibility for planning, implementing, evaluating and tracking its staff's professional learning and individual staff members take responsibility for their ongoing professional development. All teachers have been involved in professional learning opportunities during the year related to improving student outcomes.

Specific and focused Professional Learning for the staff of the school this year has included:

- Professional learning targeted the introduction to and familiarisation of the new curriculums in English and Mathematics.
- To assist our community to develop a greater understanding and more interpretive approach to scripture and application of the message in today's world.
- Wellbeing focus: to unpack the newly distributed wellbeing framework for Staff and develop strategies and initiatives to meet the wellbeing needs of all staff.

Catholic Identity and Religious Education

Prayer, Liturgical Life and Faith Experiences

Education within the Diocese of Parramatta is a ministry of the Catholic Church, walking with humility in the way of Jesus, serving all of God's people. The Gospel messages of love, forgiveness, tolerance and compassion are lived experiences that are visibly evidenced at school. We offer families high-quality accessible education that challenges each student to discover a meaningful, hope-filled and flourishing life. Our caring teachers share faith and learning with students, including through their own example. Every day, be it in the playground, at an assembly or in the classroom our students experience a genuinely religious way of understanding the world. The invitation to meaningful prayer and liturgy, as well as participation in the Sacraments, nurture and give expression to the religious dimension of school life in the context of the Church's celebration of the liturgical year.

Social Justice

All students at the school are encouraged to regularly engage in activities to support Catholic Mission with fundraising and awareness-raising initiatives. Students are encouraged to work closely with their local parish, community groups, support local charities and participate in outreach or immersion experiences for the benefit of the whole community and the student's personal development.

This year students and staff from the school engaged in the following initiatives and activities:

- Lenten program raising money and awareness of the needs of others through Caritas Australia.
- St Vincent de Paul winter appeal. Students learnt about the plight of others who are homeless and donated goods and money to St Vincent de Paul.
- St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. In conjunction with the parish chapter, families generously donated non perishable goods for Christmas hampers.

All of these initiatives enabled the students and staff to practise their faith through action as Jesus demonstrated in the Gospels.

School, Home and Parish Partnerships

Parents and carers have been actively encouraged to engage in a variety of school activities including parent forums, information evenings, parent/teacher/student meetings, liturgies, social events and opportunities to provide feedback. Regular communication with parents and carers occurred through phone calls, meetings and the Compass information platform.

Religious Education

At the heart of our school is the Religious Education program. It is through this area of study that students learn to value the Catholic identity, traditions, values and Christ's teaching. Our Religious Education program is embodied by the quality of our relationships and how we deal with the daily issues of life.

CSPD schools use Sharing Our Story, a Religious Education curriculum that has been used for more than 20 years. In all subject areas, we offer an education completely consistent with the teaching of the Church on the dignity of all aspects of the human person. We also appreciate the need to provide age-appropriate learning opportunities.

Professional Learning of Staff in Religious Education

Professional Learning in Religious Education offered to staff this year included:

- Whole staff professional learning meetings focussing on reconnecting to Sharing our Story and the discovery of new resources to support the program.
- Professional Learning meeting with Fr Neil on the topic of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Staff Development Day at the Franciscan Priory in Kellyville focussing on prayer and in particular the Eucharistic Prayer.

Learning and Teaching

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia participated in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The purpose of NAPLAN is to provide information to parents and carers and teachers about the achievements of students in literacy and numeracy. Questions are based mostly on the literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills students have learnt from previous years of schooling.

Each year the results are analysed by the school to inform teaching and learning with a view to improving student performance. Commencing in 2023, NAPLAN test results are reported using proficiency standards. Students' results show how they performed in each of the NAPLAN assessment areas against 4 proficiency levels:

- 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 percentages of students achieving at Exceeding and Strong proficiency levels are reported in the table on the next page.

NAPLAN Results Year 3 2023

Year 3	Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
	School	Australia
Reading	80%	67%
Writing	86%	76%
Spelling	86%	61%
Grammar and Punctuation	65%	54%
Numeracy	76%	65%

NAPLAN Results Year 5 2023

Year 5	Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
	School	Australia
Reading	80%	74%
Writing	87%	66%
Spelling	87%	69%
Grammar and Punctuation	64%	64%
Numeracy	73%	68%

Student Profile

Enrolment Policy

St Aidan's Primary School follows the Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) Enrolment Policy Procedures and Guidelines. The full text or a link to the full text of the school's enrolment policies, including all prerequisites for continuing enrolment, can be obtained from the school office or can be accessed on the school's website.

Student enrolments

Student enrolments 2023	
Number of Boys	Number of Girls
207	184
Total Enrolments: 391	

Student attendance

Student attendance rates 2023			
Year	Attendance Rate	Year	Attendance Rate
K	92%	4	93%
1	94%	5	93%
2	92%	6	92%
3	94%	School Average: 93%	

Managing non attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents and carers, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students.

The compulsory schooling age range is 6-17. Parents and carers are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, explaining the absences of their children in writing within several days to the school, and taking measures to resolve attendance issues involving their children.

School staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences. They maintain accurate records of students' attendance, follow up unexplained absences through written and verbal communication, implement programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise, and provide clear information to students and parents/carers regarding attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance.

The school principal or their delegate may grant permission for late arrival or early departure from school, leave or exemption from attendance only in individual cases, on written request from parents and carers. For longer exemptions, an application for approval is made through Diocesan authorities. The principal/delegate will undertake all reasonable measures to contact parents/carers promptly if an unexplained absence occurs. If truancy is suspected, the principal will contact the parents/carers to ascertain the reason for the absence. If a satisfactory response is not received, the matter will be referred to the relevant staff at CSPD who will follow up unexplained absences as per legislative requirements.

Characteristics of the student body

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

Student Body Characteristics	
Language background other than English (LBOTE)	304
Students with disabilities (SWD)	97
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	5

Wellbeing

The wellbeing and safety of all students is central to the purpose of Catholic Education and we acknowledge that healthy relationships and exceptional pastoral care are core to each child's positive experience at school. St Aidan's Primary School is a place where students are nurtured to grow, to belong and to be safe.

A sense of wellbeing and connectedness promotes optimal development of the person as a whole and contributes to academic success. We have a strong focus on pastoral care and our school has a counsellor to support our students. CSPD provides resourcing for additional wellbeing initiatives and teams to support attendance, behaviour and intervention for students at risk.

Our wellbeing initiatives include:

- Launch of the wellbeing frameworks for staff and students.
- Participation in the PIVOT program responding to the data provided from the surveys and unpacking the teaching strategies highlighted in the program.
- A playground behaviour committee was commenced in response to the playground issues and inconsistencies from staff that contribute to those issues.

St Aidan's Primary School bases student wellbeing on the [CSPD Student Wellbeing Policy \(2022\)](#) and the [CSPD Student Wellbeing Framework](#). The guidelines identify the rights and responsibilities of every student in the school and are based on the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. Corporal punishment is expressly forbidden at the school.

Related policies include:

- [Bullying of Students - Prevention and Response Procedure \(2022\)](#)
- [Student Use Of Digital Devices And Online Services Policy \(2022\)](#)
- [Guidelines for Parents and Carers in Raising Complaints \(2023\)](#)
- [Student Wellbeing Policy \(2022\)](#)
- [Student Wellbeing Framework](#)
- [Student Attendance Policy \(2021\)](#)
- [Student Attendance Procedures \(2022\)](#)
- [Bullying of Students - Prevention and Response Procedure \(2022\)](#)
- [Weapons Procedures \(2022\)](#)
- [Banned Substances Student Procedures \(2022\)](#)
- [Family and School Partnership Principles](#)

Actions promoting respect and responsibility

St Aidan's Primary School actively promotes respect for others and responsibility for self. During the past year, our community has engaged with the following actions and opportunities:

- The Mini Vinnies team were active members of the school raising awareness of others' needs and differences by creating posters displayed around school
- The Mini Vinnies team were active members of the school raising awareness of and money for Mission Week.

- Our inaugural International Day highlighted the many different cultures of the school population through dance, cultural activities and sharing food.

Community Satisfaction

During 2023, CSPD and our school utilised a variety of measures to obtain feedback from parents and carers, students and staff regarding community satisfaction.

Areas of strength from the parents/carers feedback include:

- Parents felt welcomed when they visit the school and found that the principal and teaching staff were always approachable and available.
- School supports positive behaviour and the children feel safe at school.
- The school is inclusive and respects the diverse nature of the community.

Areas of strength from the student feedback include:

- Percentage of students with a high rate of participation in art, drama, or music groups; extracurricular school activities; or on a school committee.
- Students feel classroom instruction is well-organised, with a clear purpose, and with immediate feedback that helps them learn.
- Students feel that when they have strong feelings of worry, they have an adult in their life who can help them.

Areas of strength from the staff feedback include:

- I trust my leader. My leader's behaviour is consistent with my organisation's Catholic mission.
- The people I work with cooperate to get the job done.
- I am treated with respect at work.

School Improvement and Learning

Priorities

Current Year Priorities		
Priority 1	Wellbeing - we developed a sequence of lessons in response to our data sets to shared with staff and students on a weekly basis.	Still Working Towards.
Priority 2	EAL/D - greater clarification with where to next following our identification and phasing of our EAL/D students	Still Working Towards.

Projected School Priorities		
Priority 1	Working with our EAL/D students to improve the learning outcomes at St Aidan's.	
Priority 2	Improve the anxiety level of all students as identified in the Tell them from me survey as well as the PIVOT survey.	

Financial Statement

Financial information is based on the detailed information provided to the Commonwealth and State Government in the Financial Questionnaire.

School Financial Information for 2023 is detailed below:

Recurrent and Capital Income	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants ¹	\$4,434,715
Government Capital Grants ²	\$0
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$1,246,561
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$979,880
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$195,381
Total Income	\$6,856,537

Recurrent and Capital Expenditure	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$184,377
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$4,917,391
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$1,741,421
Total Expenditure	\$6,843,189

¹ Commonwealth relates to Commonwealth Recurrent Grants including per capita funding and special purpose grants

² Capital relates to Government Capital Grants received for construction of school assets

³ State relates to State Recurrent Grants including per capita funding, interest subsidy and special purpose grants

⁴ Fees relate to Diocesan and school based fees, excursions and other private income from parents/carers

⁵ Other refers to Other Capital Income including amounts charged for Diocesan Building Levy from parents

⁶ Capital Expenditure refers to expenses incurred mainly for School Buildings, Furniture and Equipment

⁷ Salaries refers to the total of all Salaries, allowances and related expenses such as superannuation, workers compensation and leave

⁸ Non-Salary refers to all other Non-Salary Recurrent Expenses