



St Angela's Primary School

2023 Annual School Report



St Angela's Primary School
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Introduction

About the Annual School Report

St Angela'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. Leanne Nettleton

I am proud to present to you the 2023 Annual School Report for St Angela's Primary School, Castle Hill.

St Angela's Primary School is dedicated to the education of students from Kindergarten to Year 6. We believe that the students are at the centre of all our endeavours, and through effective teaching and learning we aim to allow them, in the spirit of our school motto, to Let (their) Light Shine. Our privilege as educators is to build a learning community in partnership with the home and parish, which models relationships based on: mutual respect, the affirmation and welcoming of individual differences, sharing and forgiveness, collaboration and support, generosity, gratitude and service. Our educational endeavours combine so that our students will be confident life-long learners, who are encouraged to serve others and to embrace the fullness of life in their society as they become effective global citizens. Our school motto, Let Your Light Shine, inspires the whole community to live our unique life journey with joy and self-belief.

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

Partnership between parents and the staff is highly valued at St Angela's Primary School with the staff prioritising collaboration and inclusion.

In 2023, parents were invited to assist in the classrooms with reading, class excursions, canteen, sporting events, liturgical celebrations and special events. Parent Meetings were held to establish ways in which parents could support the educational and pastoral programmes of the school. Throughout the year various Parent Groups organised and implemented Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls, Special Lunch days, the Second Hand Uniform days, Book Club and weekly Library book re shelving.

St Angela's staff strive to provide effective and efficient communication with parents on a regular basis including a weekly school newsletter which details all aspects of school life and 'What's Happening' announcements via Compass. The St Angela's school Facebook page is an extremely popular forum for celebrating school activities, student learning and achievement.

In response to the 'Tell them From Me' survey, parents were provided with a wide range of resources to support them with topical parenting issues such as cyber bullying and resilience.

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

In 2023, the student body embraced our motto of 'Let Your Light Shine' through a culture of faith, fun and learning. Student leaders were elected by their peers and teachers and had the leadership responsibilities of leading the student body and representing St Angela's in the wider community. Year 6 students provided leadership through the school wide Peer Support programme and in their role as Kindergarten Buddies. The Student Representative Council (SRC) members were elected by their class peers and provided the students with the opportunity to communicate their concerns, make suggestions and give ideas for improving their school.

Students with particular interests and talents represented St Angela's in extra curricular activities such as the National STEM MAD competition, Captivate and Dance Fever Challenges, Faith In Action, Lifted LIVE Launch, Voice of Youth Public Speaking, Debating Competition and Gala Days. Students continued to be exposed to rich learning experiences and had opportunities to be part of various in school activities such as Mini Vinnies, Choir, Band, Coding Club, and Verse Speaking. All students were involved in educational incursions, and excursions.

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 Angela's Primary School was established in 2001 with an enrolment of 70 children in Kindergarten and Year 1 and seven staff members to build the educational curriculum. In 2023, the school has grown to be a three stream school with 21 class groups, from Kindergarten to Year 6. St Angela's was named after the founder of the Ursuline sister, St Angela Merici, and since its beginning, the spirit and writings of St Angela have been shared with the community. Staff aim to provide a faith based education that will develop the whole child in a community where life giving values of Jesus are taught and practised. St Angela's Primary School has a Catholic Out of Hours School Care facility within the school grounds and this supports families with before and after school and vacation care in the school holiday periods.

Location / Drawing Area

St Angela's Primary School is located on Harrington Avenue in Castle Hill and draws students from Castle Hill, Kellyville and beyond. It serves the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville, which is pastored by the Franciscan priests.

Workforce Composition

Staffing Profile

Staffing Profile	
Total Number of Staff	49
Number of staff who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	0
Number of full time teaching staff	24
Number of part time teaching staff	12
Number of non-teaching staff	13

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 Angela'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:

- Developed teacher capacity to implement the new Maths and English Syllabi and write Maths and English K-6 Scope and Sequences that reflect the new requirements.
- Grade teams explored the concepts of Mission, Inquiry, Formation and Faith in Action and how to integrate these into the teaching of the Sharing Our Story units of work.
- Introduced the three tiered framework for teaching vocabulary and developed explicit teaching strategies that could be incorporated into teaching programs in Years K-6.

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:

- Year 4 students engaged in a Spirit Walk to educate the school community and their families about the plight of the homeless.
- All students participated in a Dance -a-thon to support hospital programmes that care for sick children in hospital and their families.
- Harmony Day was celebrated, recognising the many cultures represented at St Angela's and included a smoking ceremony performed by a Dharug elder.

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:

- Engagement in a Staff Spirituality Day reigniting Catholic prayer traditions within a secular and inclusive society.
- Professional learning sessions focused on defining Catholic identity pedagogy in the St Angela's school context.
- Faith In Action teachers attended the Catholic Earth Care professional learning day focused on Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si.

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	92%	67%
Writing	97%	76%
Spelling	85%	61%
Grammar and Punctuation	78%	54%
Numeracy	90%	65%

NAPLAN Results Year 5 2023

Year 5	Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
	School	Australia
Reading	88%	74%
Writing	92%	66%
Spelling	88%	69%
Grammar and Punctuation	84%	64%
Numeracy	90%	68%

Student Profile

Enrolment Policy

St Angela'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
293	314
Total Enrolments: 607	

Student attendance

Student attendance rates 2023			
Year	Attendance Rate	Year	Attendance Rate
K	95%	4	94%
1	94%	5	94%
2	95%	6	94%
3	95%	School Average: 94%	

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)	108
Students with disabilities (SWD)	125
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0

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 Angela'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:

- Students K-6 attended a bullying and resilience workshop and participated in follow up lessons in class.
- Staff administered a Safe and Caring School Survey with all students able to identify wellbeing issues and areas for support and improvement.
- Launched the schoolwide PBS4L programme focused on school expectations of showing respect, living responsibly and valuing learning.

St Angela'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 Angela'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:

- Students engaged in activities that were aligned to our PBS4L school expectations of showing respect and living responsibly.

- Student Council met regularly and took on responsibilities within the school community to lead waste mangagement initiative on our Special Food Days.
- Student Council and the Year 4 Laudato Si representatives attended the Eco Summit conducted by Sydney Water and shared initiatives.

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:

- Teachers have high expectations of the students and encourage them to work hard and do their best.
- Teachers are welcoming and inclusive.
- Teachers are responsive to student needs and parent concerns.

Areas of strength from the student feedback include:

- Wide variety of extra curricula activities offered by the teachers for students to be involved in.
- Students are recognised for positive behaviour through the positive behaviour support for learning program.
- Students feel that their teachers know them and plan interesting and supportive learning experiences.

Areas of strength from the staff feedback include:

- Teachers are professional.
- Teachers work collaboratively to improve student outcomes and develop whole school programs.
- Appreciative of the support of leadership and parent community.

School Improvement and Learning

Priorities

Current Year Priorities		
Priority 1	Incorporate inquiry and Faith in Action into the Sharing Our Story units of work to enable students to develop a deep knowledge and understanding of their faith.	Achieved.
Priority 2	Build a whole school approach to inquiry so as to provide challenging and engaging learning to all students. Staff will be planning and teaching units of work based on a shared understanding of surface, deep and transfer learning.	Still Working Towards.

Projected School Priorities		
Priority 1	In Mathematics, students will increase their ability to reason and problem solve complex measurement and space tasks.	
Priority 2	Improve the reading comprehension proficiency of all students K-6 across all Key Learning Areas.	

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	\$8,026,057
Government Capital Grants ²	\$3,754,545
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$2,140,955
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$1,627,211
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$301,517
Total Income	\$15,850,285

Recurrent and Capital Expenditure	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$5,352,891
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$6,649,623
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$4,846,489
Total Expenditure	\$16,849,003

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