

2022



St John the Baptist PS

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## About this report

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St John the Baptist

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## Message from key groups in our community

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### Principal's Message

St John the Baptist Primary School is prominent in the local community and offers a sound Catholic education for the 394 students who are enrolled.

We have a strong Catholic identity, and an atmosphere of warmth and care pervades our school community. Our parent body is an enthusiastic and vibrant group that works together in many classes and whole school endeavours to assist in the education of their children and foster community spirit. We celebrate our Dominican heritage and recognise the contribution made by the sisters to the history of St John's.

2022 was a year of professional growth for the teachers and we continued to implement Leading Learning Collaboratively in order to build teachers and leader capacity to increase student achievement and growth.

Some of the highlights for 2022 have been:

- NAIDOC Week Celebrations
- Gymnastics coaching
- "Writing a Book in a Day" competition
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St Vincent de Paul, and Caritas.

I would like to extend my thanks to all those families and friends who have volunteered their time, services and gifts with us here at St John's. Without your support we would not be able to achieve all that we do or as well as we do it. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to the wonderful staff I have the privilege of working with. Our teachers, support staff in classes and the office are all amazing and incredibly hard working. Their passion for children and learning is obvious every day and it is a joy to come to work in such a positive place each day. They always have the children's best interests at heart, and it is wonderful to be part of such a caring community.

My final thanks, I wish to extend, goes to all our students. Thank you for being the well-mannered, caring, happy-to-learn group of young people that you are. You have all grown in so many ways this year, not just in size, and you should be very proud of yourselves.

Children, parents and staff are immensely proud of their school and all our achievements. This Annual School Report will give you an insight into St John the Baptist Maitland.

### Parent Body Message

St John's has an active and enthusiastic Parents & Friends Association (P&F). All parents, guardians and families of students are automatically members of the P&F. The primary objectives of the P&F are to promote the values of our school, facilitate parent engagement, be involved in practical ways and fundraise. The P&F is our key parent forum and provides critical input from the parent body to the school staff and executive. It is also an important point of communication regarding school operations and developments. The P&F team works diligently as they endeavour to build the relationship between the school, students and parents, and to be more active and relevant by providing our families with a voice and allowing them to deliver feedback from a parental perspective.

St John's is a community school and families enjoy being part of our school community. As parents, carers and grandparents we have had the opportunity to be been involved in most aspects of school life at St Johns. Parents have been involved in Reading Groups, sports activities, canteen, P&F, fundraising, gardening, mother's day and father's day celebrations, masses and liturgies, performances and excursions. From a financial perspective, the P&F continues to make a contribution to St John's with the year's funds being directed to the ongoing development of school resources and playground upgrades.

The staff of St John's worked extremely hard during 2022 while the school and community adjusted in returning to usual operations. Their ongoing commitment to providing a positive and supportive learning environment is greatly appreciated. On behalf of the P&F and our whole school community, I offer a heartfelt thanks to all the teachers and staff of St John's.

We can't express our gratitude enough for your contributions, and your unwavering devotion to our children and their learning.

To the many parents who volunteered their time to the school during 2022, your contributions have been greatly appreciated and are highly valued. Thank you.

### Student Body Message

Overall, this year has been a very good experience for all students. It was a pleasure to have a full year in person at school with the COVID pandemic slowly fading away.

We have also experienced physical changes to the school such as the shades in the courtyard and now we are having improvement in our grass area. Year 4,5 and 6 have BYOD and we have new Robotic equipment to use for our STEM classes. This year, people have also accomplished many things, people have been to Polding and Trials for different sports, carnivals (without any COVID restrictions). We have had new teachers at our school. We have been very lucky to have NAIDOC week with 2 incursions. We were to have a Musical in Term 4. We returned to having Class Assemblies. All classes were able to go on Excursion during the year.

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## School Features

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St Johns is a Kinder to Year 6 Primary School. We are growing each year into a double stream school (2 classes in each grade). St Johns had 394 students at the beginning of 2021.

St. John's history began on April 7, 1856, when the foundation stone for the school was laid. The school was initially staffed by two Patrician Brothers who were followed by 2 lay teachers.

St John the Baptist Maitland was the first school in the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese. In 1866 the N.S.W. Colonial Government proclaimed a Public-School Act and issued a certificate to St. John's School accrediting it as a "Denominational School" under the Act. The Dominican Sisters began their role at the school on 16th September 1867. St John the Baptist still holds close ties with the Dominican Sisters.

Over the years many additions have been made to the buildings and structure of the school. In 2010 the school underwent major renovations and additions to facilities. The new works included construction of 5 new classrooms, a multi-purpose hall, administration block, library and computer suite, canteen and carpark.

The playground was redesigned with work done to create 2 football/soccer fields, lunch pergolas and tables and a concreted courtyard with artwork games.

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## Student Profile

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### 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 2022: Additional information can be found on My School website.

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
194	204	19	398

\* 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 and

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## Managing Student Non-Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. The School, in partnership with parents, is responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, School staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

School staff, under the Principal's leadership, support the regular attendance of students by:

- providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the School community
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance
- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise.

The Principal is responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by ensuring that:

- parents and students are regularly informed of attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance
- all cases of unsatisfactory attendance and part or full day absences from school are investigated promptly and that appropriate intervention strategies are implemented
- documented plans are developed to address the needs of students whose attendance is identified as being of concern
- the Regional Directors of Catholic Schools Office (CSO) or designated CSO officer is provided with regular information about students for whom chronic non-attendance is an issue and for whom the School's strategies have failed to restore regular attendance.



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## Staffing Profile

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### Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2022:

Total number of staff	34
Number of full time teaching staff	16
Number of part time teaching staff	8
Number of non-teaching staff	10

### Total number of teaching staff by NESA category

Teachers at this School are either accredited as conditional, provisional or proficient as defined by the NSW Teacher Accreditation Act 2004. Accreditation at the levels of Highly Accomplished and Lead teacher are voluntary. The number of teachers within the Diocesan Schools System (systemic schools) at these levels is as follows:

- Conditional 101 teachers
- Provisional 50 teachers
- Proficient 1862 teachers
- 1 Highly Accomplished teacher
- 1 Lead teacher

Additionally, there are approximately 4 teachers who are currently actively engaged in the submission process at the higher levels of accreditation. Teacher status at individual schools can be sourced directly from the School.

### Professional Learning

The ongoing professional development of each staff member is highly valued. Professional learning can take many forms including whole school staff days, subject specific in services, meetings and conferences and a range of professional learning programs provided by the Catholic Schools Office (CSO). The School takes responsibility for planning, implementing, evaluating and tracking of its staff 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.



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## Catholic Identity and Mission

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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,

Staff Faith Formation = whole day in March, with staff P.D. once each term on either faith development topics or Religious Education matters.

Prayer opportunities for the children occur throughout the day and in recognising the needs of individuals we made time to pray for the special needs of family members, (injuries or suffering acute illness, death of a family member) as well as for local or national needs such as the Floods in Lismore.

The school actively participates in the life of the parish through:

Regular contact with our priests

Communication and collaboration with the Regional Youth Coordinator (ACTiv8) including training of Altar Servers here at the school.

Contributions to the publication - Chisholm Connection

Support of our Parish-based Sacramental Programs.

Close collaborative relationships with schools in the Chisholm Region and in particular, a close working relationship with our secondary schools, St Peter's and St Mary's.

Supporting diocesan initiatives by our presence at events and functions including;

The Called to Serve Liturgy at the Cathedral,

Diocesan launch of Project Compassion

Diocesan Catholic Schools Week Liturgy,

Contact and support of diocesan groups, e.g. Centacare, Catholic Mission Office

Participation in Project Compassion - Caritas Australia and Catholic Missions

Contributions to the Diocesan newspaper Aurora

Emmaus Awards and most recently the Remembrance Liturgy on the first Anniversary of the death of Bishop Bill Wright

Staff Prayer is held each week. Our teachers take turns to prepare a variety of formats including formal collective prayers, video footage for reflections and opportunities for personal responses. This served as a reminder that we have a vocation in giving witness to gospel values including the importance of prayer.

Students had opportunities to put their faith into action through participation in raising funds for Project Compassion, the Lismore Flood Appeal, Catholic Mission, Vinnies Winter Appeal and Catholic Mission's Ethiopian Appeal. These events were coordinated by our Minnie Vinnies Conference with students from Years 4, 5 & 6 leading each activity.

Our Year 6 student visits to Benhome Aged Care Facility each term have yet to resume since Covid 2020. This was part of our pastoral outreach.

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## Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

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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.

The Curriculum is structured around the outcomes and content for each learning area and general capabilities for learning across the curriculum including literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology, critical and creative thinking, ethical behaviour, personal and social competence and intercultural understanding.

In 2022 our School Improvement Plan focussed on the following main areas:

- Spelling through Writing
- To develop a Faith formation framework, which includes staff, students and families.
- To continue the agreed recommendations for education of gifted students
- Support the implementation of quality pedagogical practices through curriculum differentiation that engage and motivate students resulting in overall improvements in literacy and numeracy
- Prepare teachers and emerging leaders to meet NESA accreditation requirements by providing information sessions and other professional learning activities

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## Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

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Pastoral Care Policy

## Complaints Handling Policy

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has established a [Complaints Resolution Policy](#) which is implemented by our school and all systemic schools in the diocese. The rationale for the policy is that within the reality of the schooling experience, it is recognised that, from time to time, misunderstandings and differences of opinion will occur, and that these need to be resolved satisfactorily. Addressing such matters within a framework of dignity, respect and truth can provide powerful opportunities to model the love of Christ in the reality of our contemporary world. CSO monitors the implementation of this policy.

The full text of the [Complaints Resolution Policy](#) may be accessed on the School's website, the administration office or at the CSO website.

## Initiatives promoting respect and responsibility

During 2022 Kindergarten and Year 6 students participated in the Better Buddies Program, established by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. This program promotes caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, including others and responsibility. Each Kindergarten student was assigned a Year 6 buddy who assisted them especially in the first few weeks of school. Some of the bonds forged between Kindergarten and Year 6 children were very close. This was exemplified by our Year 6 and Kinder students forming a guard of honour for 'old' buddies (now in Year 12) to wish them success in the H.S.C. We also acknowledge the achievements of our students in all areas of curriculum and the living of Christian values through awards which are distributed at weekly assemblies.

Our Year 6 Leaders lead the school assembly each morning which involves the National Anthem, School Prayer, messages and birthdays.



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## School Improvement

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The School implements the system's review cycle of improvement which outlines the processes and benchmarks for creating the culture and practice of continuous improvement with students as the focus. Strategic Improvement Plans are future focused documents that map the School's directions, aimed specifically at improving educational and wellbeing outcomes for all students through the following areas:

- Catholic Culture and Mission
- Learning

Each year, the School develops a Strategic Improvement Plan indicating the intended key improvements for student learning outcomes. A copy of the school's Strategic Improvement Plan may be obtained from the School administrative office.

### Key Improvements Achieved

#### Catholic Formation

Improved understanding of Faith Formation among Staff.  
Focused Faith Formation Pedagogy of Encounter to staff each semester

#### Learning

Clear, shared differentiated learning intentions and success criteria are evident in every classroom. Flexible grouping in the English and Mathematics Block is established.

Teaching programs show evidence of a differentiated approach to teaching.

Student growth plotted on Data Walls.

Regular CMM and PLT meetings scheduled focussing on tailoring instruction to meet students' needs.

### Priority Key Improvements for Next Year

#### Catholic Formation

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## Community Satisfaction

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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 annually. This data is shared with the school community and contributes to the priorities for future planning.

### Parent satisfaction

The parents of St John's readily affirm the partnership they enjoy with the school. The palpable camaraderie that exists among the staff is noticed and appreciated by parents. The co-operative atmosphere in the school is also respected. Parents feel welcome to participate in the life of the school and they acknowledge the care and learning opportunities

They have a special ability to respond to students in need and have a mature sense of social justice. Our students articulate the great connection they have with their teachers and that they attend St John's which is a true Catholic school.

Their responses to the Tell Them from me survey indicated that they have a strong sense of belonging and they believe they have positive relationships and bullying isn't a issue with the students. They would like to see more extra-curricular activities offered at school and be given the opportunity to have specialised sport instructors in school.

### Teacher satisfaction

The staff of St John's value the strong Catholic identity of their school. They work closely and collaboratively to offer the best teaching and learning environment for their students. They have undertaken significant professional development to ensure they are providing the best education for our student. The teachers expressed that St John's is inclusive and there is a definite learning culture present in the school. They have expressed that they are able to work collaboratively and they value parent engagement with the students' learning. The collegiality of staff reflects positively on the tone of the school. St John's has a combination of very experienced teachers and young beginning teachers, all of whom share their expertise, talents and skills for the good of all the students at our school.



