

2022



St Paul's PS

About this report

St Paul's PS (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), Maitland-Newcastle. The CSO as the 'approved authority' for the diocesan registration system formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act (1990), is responsible for monitoring the compliance of member schools in the manner that has been approved by the Minister of Education. 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

obtained

Message from key groups in our community

Principal's Message

2022 was our year to learn about what life looks like after Covid. Many people are responsible for making St Paul's a resilient and student focused school, which continually strives for improvement. Both the parent body and school staff created many opportunities for community building throughout the year. The students have loved the discos and the out of uniform days whose fundraising efforts went to many worthwhile causes. Having a faith community centred in the person of Jesus, keeps the school focus on our values of Learn, Love and Serve. When we LOVE, we are respectful of all people, when we SERVE, we show responsibility to our community and the wider world and we all LEARN together as we grow as young and older human beings.

St Paul's Rutherford offers students a quality Catholic education to families from Telarah, Rutherford, Aberglasslyn and Farley areas. We strive to provide a welcoming atmosphere with many families coming from diverse backgrounds to enrich our community. Our school celebrates diversity and promotes inclusion across all grades and various community and school events. During our Kindergarten orientation sessions, parents were invited for a social gathering and morning tea to meet the staff and each other while their children got to know the school and some new friends.

St Paul's is a family-oriented school promoting strong ties with families to create a genuine partnership in the ongoing growth and development of each and every student.

We foster a commitment to the individual person and provide many opportunities for academic, cultural and sporting achievement. During 2022, our sporting fields were once again full and competition for teams was high. It was great for students to demonstrate their vast array of talents academically, artistically, culturally and in sporting arenas within our school environment.

Parent Body Message

2022 brought the creativity and flexibility from our school P and F committee. Our meetings continued both in person and online to support families at home. With the continued leadership of the P&F committee and support of the school, we hosted the Easter Raffle, Mother's Day Stall, Father's Day stall and 2 discos, that in the warmer months, was held under the COLA. These were great community building exercises for our school families who could spend time meeting others while their children danced. On the whole, 2022 was a great

success, but sadly, the P&F leadership finished up their year at St Paul's as their children graduated to high school in 2023.

The P&F have approved the purchase of new iPads and continue to support the uniform shop.

The P&F of 2023 continue to encourage members of the St Paul's community to join our meetings whenever they can. Our meetings will continue to be both face to face and online as this offers a more flexible approach to attend each meeting. These meetings give everyone the chance to have their say and continue to support our wonderful St Paul's school and the children.

Student Body Message

2022 was an exciting year as we were hopeful we could represent the school ~~in~~ our community in person even if still maintaining some virtual catch ups. We returned to the ANZAC march and laying of the wreath, we attended the cathedral to celebrate mass with other schools and hosted many assemblies ~~as we led the school~~ in our School Song and prayer. ~~This year~~ all leaders supported the assemblies through the leading of the school song actions.

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School Features

Founded by the order of the Sisters of Mercy, the school began with 64 children enrolled from K-6. In 1965 the Infants school relocated to Monte Pio at Campbell's Hill and remained there until 1981 when it returned to the Rutherford site. The school has had three major building constructions and expansions within the last 10 years due to Capital Building Grants and the Building the Education Revolution.

St Paul's is currently a two stream school with fourteen straight class groups from Kindergarten to Year 6. Part of the NSW curriculum involves specialist teachers in Music, PE, Japanese and Library skills involving the use of technology, coding and robotics. Students attend these classes once per fortnight.

St Paul's is located

plantings are all native and hardy for the dry weather we experience in Rutherford and the students love spending time there every day.

St Paul's continues to build on the identity of our first nations

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

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
189	180	50	369

* 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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Summary of professional learning at this school

School Improvement Goals 2022

All staff and students are able to confidently and actively participate and/or lead in prayer and liturgy.

85% of students are at their progression band or above in CREATING TEXTS and GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION for their age by the end of 2022 K-6.

Staff Learning and Development included:

Personal Spirituality day.

Parts of the liturgy.

The new Religious Education units for Kindergarten.

The 14 Parameters of Clarity

Writing with a focus on demonstrating writing techniques.

Continued Assessment of Writing using the Learning Progressions.

St Paul's continues as a Professional Learning Community whereby teachers collaborate in professional learning teams to reflect on student data, identify essential learning for all children and plan the learning experiences focused on student growth.

Throughout the learning in 2022 we spent time determining success criteria and strong learning experiences to model writing and editing for students.

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)

The new school year commenced with an Opening School Mass where new staff members were welcomed, and school leaders were badged and commissioned for the year ahead. This was in line with the diocesan theme: Alive. Our staff community and Mini Vinnies team were also commissioned at a parish Sunday morning Mass with Fr George, where we were blessed and encouraged by the parish community. As the year progressed, the many celebrations that were either cancelled or restricted from covid were once again celebrated as a school community. Days such as Father's Day, Mother's Day, Grandparent's Day and our Annual feast of St Paul were joyfully celebrated once again as a whole school community. The school returned to celebrate monthly Mass in the church with the Parish on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

One of the aims for our teachers in 2022 was for everyone to be involved in the faith life of the school. From the first day, all teachers participated in the planning, practicing and running of various liturgies, masses and weekly prayer services. The 2022 school year was celebrated through liturgy as Kindergarten buddies, siblings and parents farewelled the Year 6 students, families and teachers who were moving to new schools.

In 2022, the St Paul's community continued to unpack our Vision and Mission statements:

'With faith in Jesus Christ, we learn, love, and serve. We develop positive relationships which respect the dignity of all. We share our many gifts in service to one another. We build strength and resilience to grow as a community of learners.'

Through the school PBL program, these statements continued to become integrated into the everyday language used at St Paul's. Students, teachers and parents were reminded of these statements through fortnightly PBL lessons in class, Monday assembly and fortnightly Friday assembly.

The school continued to be the link with the parish for families in 2022. Parish and school news and events were communicated to the other via newsletter online, and participating in parish mass and attendance at Parish meetings. The parish craft group once again joined our school community to come for a chat and morning tea. The school supported the Sacramental team by advertising, supporting, and recognising the significant events of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Connections were kept alive with the parish community at every possible stage during the year including the sharing of artworks of the Christmas story to be displayed in the church during the Advent and Christmas period.

Our school Mini Vinnies team had a busy year in 2022. The team once again coordinated many different fundraising initiatives that saw much needed funds and resources go towards those in need. This included the annual Winter Appeal where clothes were donated by the school community, and Socktober – raising awareness for poverty in other countries. The school also rallied together to gather much needed resources to send up to the Lismore region following the devastating flooding early in 2022. Led by the Mini Vinnies coordinators, the school held 2 nights where Mini Vinnies raised awareness for homelessness and other social justice issues they were interested in.

During the year, St Paul's went through a self-review process where members of the Catholic Schools Office sat with the executive at St Paul's to unpack where we have been, and where we want to move towards. It was through this process that the school decided to have a renewed focus in the understanding and participation in formation. This is an ongoing goal for the next 3 years.

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.

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.

School improvements for student learning have been targeted through data analysis and implemented at a whole school level. St Paul's has continued to be engaged in the State Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan agenda for the last five years with the focus on Kindergarten to Year Two. This program has been extended and continued in 2022 at a reduced capacity to finalise the Action Plan.

The leading teacher has continued to provide support to our K-2 teachers with instructional leadership, data analysis, classroom differentiation and targeted interventions. Instructional leadership included leading the K-2 PLTs, leading and facilitating professional learning in the new K-2 NSW English and Mathematics syllabuses in readiness for full implementation in 2023 and leading the development of Scope and Sequences for K-2 English

St Paul's Professional Learning Teams continued to focus their efforts on improvements in Writing across the school. This was led by our Pedagogical Mentor with the support of our Leading Teacher (K-2) and Leadership Team by effectively using writing samples from whole school 'cold writes' to identify and plan to meet the needs of each student at their level. In stage teams, teachers worked together to continue to develop essential learning from the NSW syllabus with the support of the Writing progressions (Creating Texts) to guide teaching and interventions for students to achieve 'at stage' writing outcomes as well as to extend those working above. 2022 saw the inclusion of focus on Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling using the Writing progressions. The School also began implementing the online Spelling program Soundwaves in all classes with teachers reporting improved Spelling outcomes across the stages. Teams also continued developing learning intentions and success criteria for students to focus their learning on writing and teachers provided visual prompts with 'Bump It Up' walls in the classrooms.

Our experienced Learning Support Team collaborated with our additional supports to continue its work around identifying and assisting students across a range of additional needs. This has meant the Learning Support Teachers, English as an Additional Language/ Dialect Teacher, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



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

St Paul's Rutherford is committed to promoting respect, responsibility and inclusion in all aspects of school life. The school motto; "Stand Firm in Faith" is a constant reminder that the school is based on Gospel Values and that all words and actions within the school should be a reflection of these.

In 2022, we further embedded our PBL Framework (Positive Behaviors for Learning), shared language and practices into our daily interactions. Staff and student voice are essential in building the momentum of PBL across our school and so a PBL team was formed to support this valuable initiative. Our K-6 staff collaborated on the development of our new Behaviour Management Consistency Guide that was introduced this year. This guide aligns with our PBL framework by including essential student reflection time as well as opportunities for re-teaching of appropriate behaviours. Furthermore, fortnightly PBL focuses were developed and aligned with our school rules of Responsible, Respectful, Learners and our school values of Learn, Love and Serve. This interconnection assists our students in seeing the relevance and meaning in all that we do at St Paul's. Our student leaders helped promote and teach these fortnightly focuses through skits, posters and reminders at our Monday Assemblies.

The PBL Framework is centered on the philosophy of acknowledging and reinforcing positive behaviors to promote and improve the wellbeing and learning outcomes of students. During 2022, the St Paul's community continued to promote wellbeing for the entire community. This was done through a variety of means, regularly acknowledging and celebrating the efforts and achievements of individuals at our school assemblies and publishing achievements and efforts in our fortnightly school newsletter. The use of PBL tokens was highly successful in rewarding our students when they were observed following our fortnightly PBL Focus. The tokens link with each student's color house points. At the conclusion of each term, a reward

is provided to the students in the winning house such as extra play, a mufti day or movie afternoon.

2022 saw the revival of our highly successful Peer Support program led by our Year 6

School Improvement

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

St Paul's focused our learning on improving writing for our students in 2022. We spent time

Priority Key Improvements for Next Year

My experience with St Pauls Rutherford encourages my cultural connection to our Aboriginal Heritage. This was a very important factor in choosing the right school for my child. The school offer's and encourages sporting activities for students to participate in, which I've found to allow my child more areas to enjoy attending school. I find the school environment accepting, inviting and welcoming.

- Healthier balance of technology being used in the classroom - homework is never available in paper form anymore, everything is online making it difficult for parents to be involved

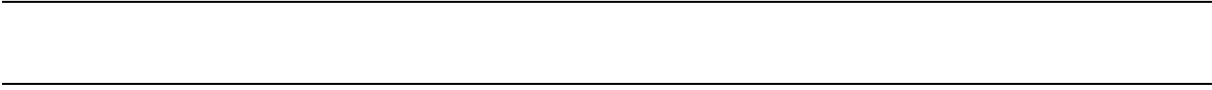
Student satisfaction

At the conclusion of 2022 a selection of Year 4, 5 & 6 students completed a Tell Them From Me Survey which was rolled out across the diocese.

These students responded with an increase in positive behaviours from students, a greater interest and motivation for school from 2021 and gave credit to their teachers and the school for creating an environment that they like and feel comfortable in. Many of the students responded positively to the improvement in IT and educational outcomes being delivered electronically. This is a direct effect of the BYOD program implemented from 2020 and a pleasing benefit of homebased learning.

Many students were pleased to return to sporting activities and extra curricular activities that were removed during Covid years of 2020 and 2021. Their involvement in camps and parents being invited

Our staff asked for greater leadership involvement in classroom teaching and learning which is a welcomed invitation. They also noted that they would look forward to parent participation in learning activities now that co-vid restrictions no longer impede classroom helpers. These are our areas for improvement in 2023.



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