

2022

St Aloysius PS

About this report

St Aloysius 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

Message from key groups in our community

Principal's Message

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual School Report for St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, Chisholm for 2022.

2022 began with schools being open for business after years of COVID-affected education. Teachers and staff were keen to return to school “as they knew it”.

St Aloysius Catholic Primary School is a 21st century designed school. Its emphasis is on skills that empower the students to learn and apply their knowledge and skills in an ever-changing world environment. As the school Mission Statement states: At St Aloysius Primary School, we are called to: -Grow as learners -Make a difference through words and actions -Thrive as individuals, and -Build and serve our community. We ask all stakeholders in our school to support the school Vision through the actions taken in striving to follow the requests of our mission statement. It is through the mission statement where the staff and students continue to make their impact at school, in the community and the world.

Students have continued to develop 21st century skills- collaboration, self-regulation, problem-solving real-world problems and technology to name some. Contemporary learning platforms continued to be used in the teaching and learning space. The BYOD program continued to be used for the enhancement of student learning.

Since 2015,

St Aloysius is the largest primary school in the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. However, we are able to maintain that small school feel through an inclusive and friendly environment.

The staff, students and families continue to express that they are proud community members of St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, Chisholm.

Parent Body Message

2022 saw the second year of a new Parent Body at St Aloysius. It is known as PEG (Parent Engagement Group). At the commencement of 2021 the P&F was dissolved due to many members moving on and fewer moving in the take up roles. Therefore, the PEG model would undergo a trial period.

The PEG model approach is somewhat different with school principal being responsible for the friend and fund raising as well as providing educational opportunities for parents.

Parents were active in supporting the Easter raffle, Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls. The school also provided a Mother's Day Raffle with parents donating gifts for it. There was a good response from parents to assist with the stalls and raffles.

There were two educational opportunities for parents. The mathematics evening was successful. The parents enjoyed the chance to find out more about the approach to maths in 2022. It provided a great opportunity for engagement and interaction between teachers and parents.

The other educational opportunity was with technology and BYOD. Similarly, the parents who attended found it too a valuable experience.

St Aloysius values the engagement of its parents as a supportive body within the school community.

Student Body Message

The following are reflections from a collection of Year 6 students on their year at St Aloysius in 2022.

Every year 6 student had to step up to being a leader because we had Kindergarten buddies that needed us at school. We helped them settle into kinder by spending recess and lunch with them in the first few weeks. We did craft with them and played games with them as well.

Gradually we saw less of them as they started to know more about school but there were still times when we got together for reading, liturgies and assembly.

We went on a camp to Canberra for four days. It was fantastic! We all loved going to Parliament House and having our photo taken in front of it. Questacon was also great too. We didn't want to leave.

At the end of the Year 6, we had a Big Day Out as a celebration to the end of primary school education. We went to Port Stephens and went on the Dolphin Watch Cruise. We were lucky enough to see some dolphins diving in and out of the water.

Our rugby league teams did really well at the inter school carnivals. Lots of boys and girls got picked for representation in different sports. One of our boys went to Polding for running in the disabled event and he won the gold medal. Our own swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals were great too.

Year 6 held fund raising events to raise money for the Year 6 gift to the school. The gift for 2022 was a set of Eucharistic Mass vessels for the Masses held at our school.

The student leaders did really well. They represented St Aloysius at different formal occasions. They also ran the school assembly every fortnight.

We think St Aloysius is a great school and we will miss it when we go to high school.

St Aloysius Catholic Primary School is at the forefront of contemporary learning in the diocese. It is the lighthouse in the diocese for schools moving into contemporary learning.

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.

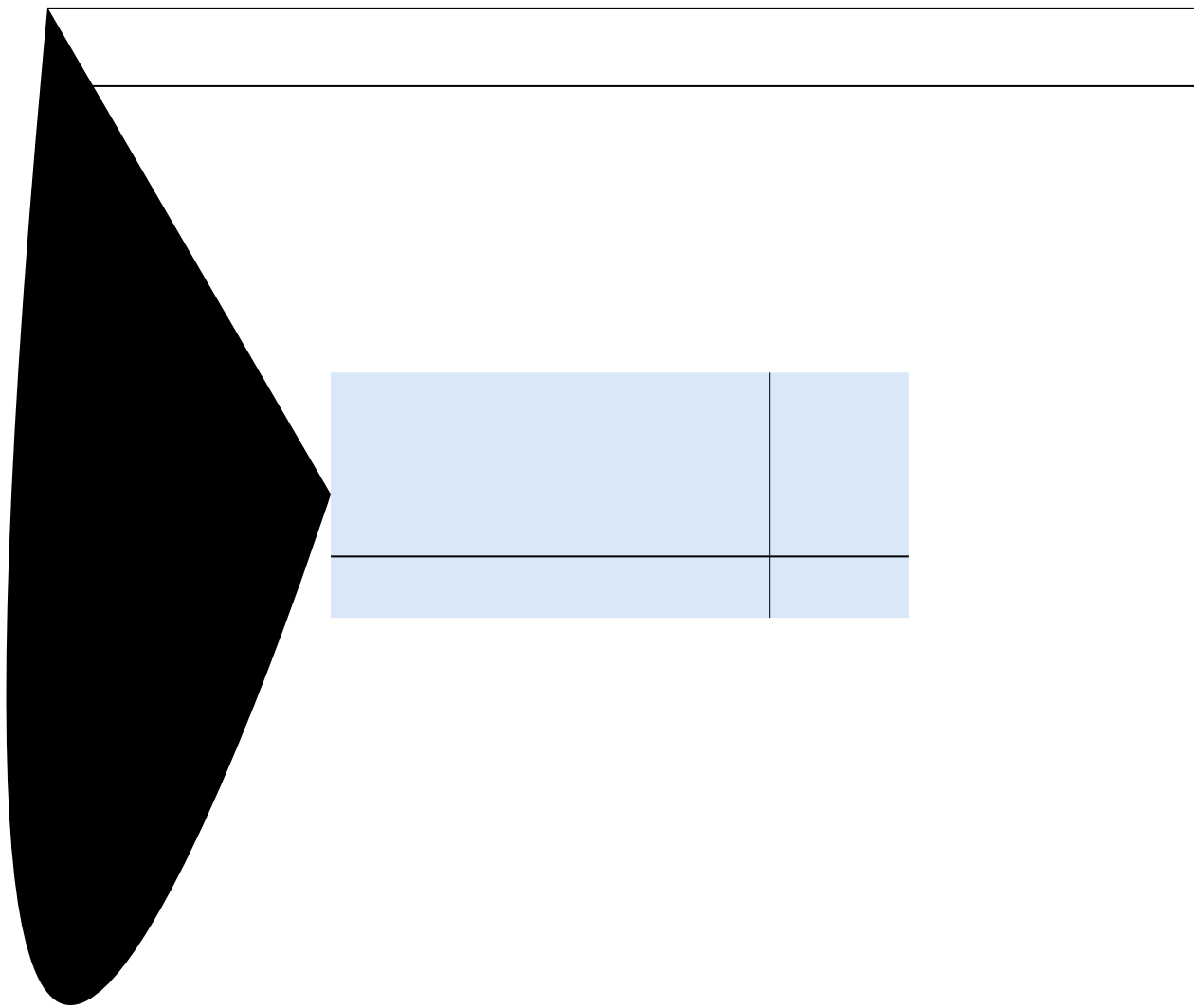
Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
282	313	93	595

* 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 accompanying [Enrolment Procedures](#). It aims to:

- Set direction for school procedures and practices for enrolling students into Catholic primary and secondary schools within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.
- Establish a common, consistent approach in enrolment practices.
- Assist the system of Catholic schools to:
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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 schools in the Diocese of Maitland-

others. The school regularly participates through liturgy and celebration of the Eucharist. Christian values and attitudes underpin our relationships, policies and procedures.

The school has a history enriched by the traditions of both the Mercy Sisters and the Jesuit order. Our patron, St Aloysius, dedicated his short life to the service of others. At St Aloysius we take pride in being a truly authentic Catholic school through the initiatives of helping communities who struggle to provide basic needs and meet an acceptable standard of living. In 2022 the school contributed locally to the St Vincent de Paul winter appeal and internationally through Project Compassion and the Mission appeal.

St Aloysius school provides and participates in many initiatives that involve our families and parishioners in the Catholic life of the school. Prayers, Liturgies and Masses are celebrated together throughout the year. The school commemorated Holy Week with grade-based Liturgies and the school community celebrated Easter with a Hat Parade.

The School student leaders were inducted in a special Liturgy at the beginning of the year. St Aloysius student leaders and the principal represented the school at the Caritas, Diocesan Project Compassion launch and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community Mass.

The staff were in-serviced in the new Religious Education curriculum delivered by the school REC.

The Parish Sacramental program was promoted through and supported by school staff.

St Aloysius acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which the school is built, the Wonnarua people. In keeping with the traditional owners, the school's Student Environmental Leaders promoted the duty of all to stewardship of the land. This is enacted through initiatives for looking after the environment- individual & class rewards for students.

It is the Catholic identity and mission of the school that sets it apart from others.

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.

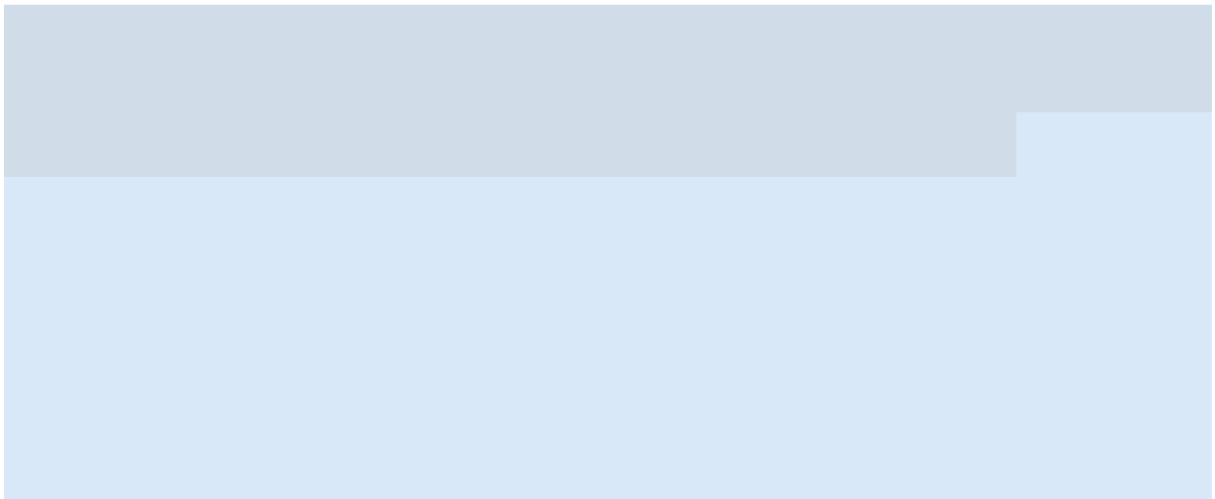
The Catholic Schools' Office Learning Framework brings

The Learning Support Team (LST) invests time and resources into every opportunity to assist teachers and support students. Much of this time is spent supporting students in literacy and numeracy in the classrooms, groups and individually. Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) help individuals to meet their particular needs. LSAs also take groups in special programs that support literacy and numeracy.

St Aloysius school is a GEL(Gifted Enrichment Lead) school. Students are given wonderful opportunities to delve deeply into their interest field and expand upon their knowledge and skills. They are supported by teachers and the CSO-VA (Virtual Academy). The students relished in their opportunity to be challenged and explore their interests.

2022 saw the curriculum focus change from English to Mathematics. Mathematics experts were engaged to provide staff with Professional Learning to assist teachers build their professional capacity, knowledge and pedagogy in numeracy and number talks.

Application and utilisation of Learning Technology has been r



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 Aloysius Catholic Primary School is a PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) school. There are four PBL values - Care for Self, Care for Learning, Care for Others and Care for the Environment; these correlate directly with the school's Four Pillars of Learning.

The "Good to Grow" initiative rewards students who are noticed showing respect to others, and the environment; and for being responsible to their own tasks, others and their personal and shared areas. Many students received their bronze, silver or gold awards.

St Aloysius promotes all students to act and treat others with respect and follow in the footsteps of Jesus. At fortnightly assemblies one child in each class receives an award titled, "Making Jesus Real".

Each term all class teachers are allocated a meeting session with the Learning Support team, school counsellor/psychologist, pastoral care worker and principal to discuss student welfare. Teachers prioritize students using a wellbeing scale with students with the most needs being discussed first. The process requires teachers to name concerns, strategy responses and follow up. Discussions are recorded for further reference. This process helps to highlight the students in the school with specific needs requiring a measured response.

The Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) assisted class teams by taking groups for personal welfare support and social guidance.

Harmony Day provided an opportunity for children from different ethnic backgrounds to learn about and understand their peers' customs from other cultures. This included activities for all children to participate in other cultural traditions.

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

Consolidating Agreed Practices remained a focus in 2022, especially in the literacy block in K-2; as well as consolidating learning intentions and success criteria. Positive behaviour for learning also remained a non-curriculum focus.

Mathematics became the curriculum focus for 2022. Teachers were guided by the Education Officers to develop the scope and sequences. The Big Idea and Rich Tasks were also components of maths that were explored and developed.

The Leading Learning Collaborative (LLC) continued in the diocese and so did the Pedagogical Mentor program. LLC focus was the Assessment Waterfall; collecting Data to inform instruction and creating Data walls.

Case Management processes were once again given priority. This process was timetabled into Terms 2 and 3. The Principal, Assistant Principal, Learning Support teachers and grade teachers attended the meetings. The aim was that suggestions for improved learning for one student can be applied to others. The follow-up meeting of the case management process proved that learning for the targeted student improved. It showed that other students in the cohort improved also.

Pedagogical Mentors continued to support the champion teachers in their instruction via the coaching cycle. Teachers spoke of the benefit of working with the Pedagogical Mentors.

Inroads were also made in developing a school-wide well-being program; however, this was delayed due to the diocese developing a system framework for all schools to use.

We were able to achieve our mission of establishing a hydroponics project as a part of the school's ecological stewardship of the land.

Priority Key Improvements for Next Year

The focus for 2023 will be on Formation of staff, students and parents. We will enlist the assistance of Education Officer-Formation, to assist with planning and having our professional learning day.

The

Community Satisfaction

Consultation with parents, students and

20% would still like more challenges. This is an indication that some students with above ability levels are not being met.

26% of students are not feeling confident about their skills to meet the challenges.

These last two statistics indicate that more consideration of differentiated tasks is required.

The students felt that their school is spoken about well in the broader community.

Teacher satisfaction

Generally, the “Tell Them From Me” survey indicates that the teachers enjoy working at St Aloysius school. There were positive comments derived from all areas with particular comments stating that leadership supports the learning culture of the school and provides opportunity for collaboration.

The learning culture was a school focus in 2022. Agreed practices were set with behaviour-learning and social expectations. Many types of Data walls were explored with the school liking the QR code format. Teachers were also using the data to inform further learning. Where to from here?

Collaboration scored highly with setting student learning goals, problem solving and discussing the best strategies to meet individual goals. Collaborative strategies were also appreciated for cross-curriculum opportunities.

Teaching staff were showing improvement in linking new learning to prior learning and exploring different strategies to meet individual goals.

Feedback was the area that kept being scored low by staff. Feedback in all its forms needs attention. Staff stated that they would like more feedback from leadership. They also stated that they would like more opportunity to give and receive feedback to and from each other. It was also stated that more oral and written feedback be given to students.

