

2023

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Holy Spirit Infant School

## About this report

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Holy Spirit Infant School (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), Maitland-Newcastle. 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

## Message from key groups in our community

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### Principal's Message

It is with pleasure that I present the Annual School Report for 2023 . As the only K-2 school in the Diocese of Maitland-

and utilised effectively by teacher and parents in the educative partnership. Communication to parents and carers is via a fortnightly school newsletter and Compass alerts are sent directly to phones by the school, class teachers or the CSO. We initiated a Student Led Conference process for all students at the end of semester one which was very well attended with 98% of parents in attendance. Parents attended the P.E.G meetings held across both Holy Spirit Schools and engaged in the educational components and directed the focus of each meeting.

Student Body Message

As Holy Spirit is an Infants 27(tw)u48ip )p(ju)u48ip /4.07Efr0.75a 0w75213w587z8Tm [(sch77)u48ip opportunity to develop and share leadership skills at this young age. The School Leadership team of six elected students have shown servant leadership across the school year through leading the award ceremonies and managing the sport equipment and sport shed; meeting with the Principal twice a term to share feedback and ideas about making Holy Spirit Infants an even better place. Many of the student leaders' ideas are implemented where

## School Features

Holy Spirit Infants provides for the early learning years from Kinder to Year 2 with 10 teams of each grade. Our school is in the Vineyards Parish and our local church is St Francis Xavier Church adjacent to the school. Holy Spirit Infants School Abermain is located in the Cessnock City Council region, a few kilometres from Werris Creek and Kurri Kurri. The students who attend the school are drawn from Abermain, Werris Creek, Sawyers Gully, Kurri Kurri, Pelaw Main, Hedderley, Greta, Gough, Mulbring and Cribbington. The students are encouraged to continue their Primary education at Holy Spirit Primary 3-6 at Kurri Kurri and then onto high school at All Saints Campus at Maitland. Holy Spirit Infants is a Catholic school serving the Awabakal and Wajarara nations peoples. In June 1908 the Sisters of St Joseph arrived from Cessnock every day to operate a school in the Church hall. In 1935 classrooms were built. In 1966, the Abermain site became the Infants department, while the Primary children were educated at Kurri Kurri. The schools became known as St Joseph's Infants School, Abermain and St Joseph's Primary School, Kurri Kurri. In 1984, the first Lay Principal was appointed.






## Staffing Profile

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### Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2023:

Total number of staff	22
Number of full time teaching staff	7
Number of part time teaching staff	6
Number of non-teaching staff	9

### 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 107 teachers
- Provisional 69 teachers
- Proficient 1887 teachers
- 4 Highly Accomplished teacher
- 1 Lead teacher

Additionally, there are approximately 10 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



## Summary of professional learning at this school

The ongoing professional development of each staff member is highly valued and fostered. Professional learning can take many forms including whole school staff days, subject specific inservices, 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. Professional Learning occurs weekly at the meeting time and is targeted to align with the School Improvement Plan. All teachers have been involved in professional learning opportunities during the year related to improving student outcomes.

During 2023 staff were able to engage in PD with various Education Officers who facilitated targeted workshops/learning aligned to our 2023 School Improvement Plan with a focus on Faith Formation, Maths and Wellbeing. We engaged in the system led work with Dr Lyn Sharrat where colleagues visited our school for Learning Walks and Talks. We received valuable feedback which empowered all our teachers to continue the great work they do.

We engaged in the mathematics focus of the LIFT System wide PL with a focus on the researched based work of Peter Sullivan and began implementing launch, explore and summarise learning activities within each enquiry lesson. All teachers attended a PL Day together with Peter as a springboard for undertaking work in our school.

Our rich conversations about feedback and agreed practices about ways to provide K-2 students with feedback for growth and success continued as we unpacked the parameters for creating a collaborative school learning culture at Holy Spirit Infants. System wide Case Management Meetings and school based case management meetings and PLT's provided ongoing learning as the teachers grew in their knowledge and understanding of their own accountability and responsibility to all our students. Teachers attended PD supportive of their needs eg Early Career Teachers or needs within their roles eg GEM, PM, AP, REC and Principal as Lead learner provided by the diocese .

Our process is to share with all staff via a PD meeting afterwards. Our two kinder teachers presented data at the Successful Foundations PD day which enabled them to share the rich learning they gained from the project with peers.

Our Wellbeing Focus PL day was a powerful affirmation of the great work we are doing with Positive Behaviour for Learning at Holy Spirit Infants and affirmed the efforts of each staff member through the use of consistent language, a consistent message and a whole school approach to building social and emotional regulation skills in every grade.

Teachers also undertook a series

understandings of all elements of the liturgical celebrations. This course was engaging and well presented PL which upskilled all.



as well as cultural days, Harmony day and NAIDOC week. Holy Spirit Infants School lives out its Vision and Mission statements by



enhance flexible thinking daily. Lessons begin with agreed practices such as a "Number Talk" K-2 and we sent several staff to the LIFT PL with Peter Sullivan to learn about Launch, Explore, Summarise learning tasks for effectively teaching mathematics. This is an ongoing focus for Holy Spirit Infants. Semester One and Two saw all teachers engaged in Professional Learning Team Meetings on a fortnightly basis and Case Management Meetings with positive outcomes for students and teachers. The growth in teachers was evidenced by the collaboration and contributions to these meetings. The Learning Support Teacher offers support for all learners across all Key Learning Areas. Adjustments are made in all programs by all teachers ensuring Quality Differentiated Practices. Holy Spirit Infants continue to use programs on iPads and to

## Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

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### Pastoral Care Policy

The School's pastoral care and student wellbeing policies guidelines and procedures are informed by the [Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy](#).

The Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy 2022 aims to provide a framework for the policies, programs, resources and practices implemented at system and school level with the purpose of supporting and enhancing the wellbeing of students, and all within its school community. It refers to the overall climate of care that exists within a Catholic school.

The environment is designed to be safe and inclusive, one that promotes academic rigour. A high priority is given to building and maintaining positive and caring relationships between staff, students and parents, and the wellbeing of all.

### Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy

The School's policies and procedures for the management of student behaviour are aligned the CSO [Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy](#) and to the [Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Procedure](#). The dignity and responsibility of each person is promoted at all times along with positive student behaviours whilst ensuring respect for the rights of all students and staff. Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this School. The School









Engage meaningfully with parents as partners in every child's learning journey

## Community Satisfaction

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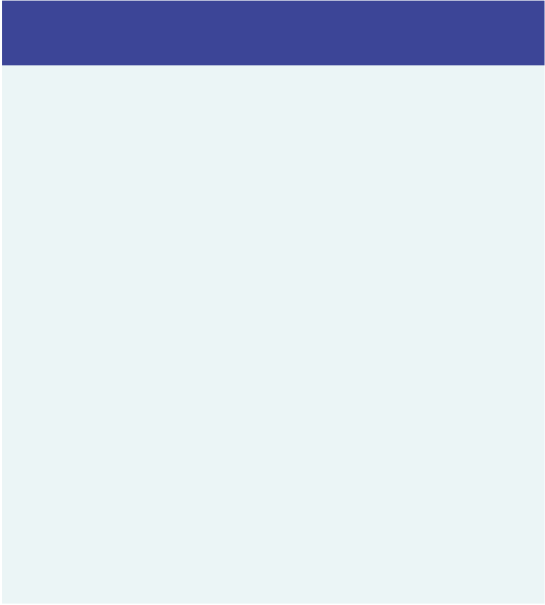
Consultation with parents, students and teachers is valued and sought. Their feedback contributes to the planning and the achievement of improved outcomes for students. This year, the School has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, 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 parent body were given an opportunity to voice their opinion and satisfaction by participating in a "Tell Them from Me" survey sent out by the CSO in 2022 but not in 2023. The results from 2022 were very affirming of all

## Student satisfaction

The voice of the child is very important at Holy Spirit Infants as we cater for our early learners K-2. Students have the opportunity to express their likes and dislikes and opinions within the classroom



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END OF 2023 REPORT