

2023



St James Primary School



## Message from key groups in our community

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### Principal's Message

Our vision at St James' Primary School is We at St James', are inspired by the Gospel to be successful learners and informed, engaged, global citizens.

St James' Primary School, Muswellbrook provides a holistic education for every child, through academic, spiritual, physical and emotional endeavours. We expect our students to be learners, to be respectful and to make safe choices.

I am proud of our many achievements across the year

Nicholas James has represented himself and the school as part of the Virtual Academy for gifted learners. We have nominated 3 students for next year so stay tuned.

Success as part of the Newcastle Permanent Maths

Tournament of the Minds success. The team did a tremendous job and they came away with two awards.

### Parent Body Message

During 2023 the parents and friends of St James' Muswellbrook were included in the life of the school in many ways including: the opening and closing Masses for the year, Liturgies, Catholic Schools Week Open Classrooms, Book Week, Cross Country and the Athletics and Swimming Carnivals. This inclusion in the creation of community for our children is one of the many blessings of being associated with SJM! The Parents and Friends Association was able to host many friend-raisers/fundraisers for our school community throughout the year.

### Student Body Message

As 2023 comes to a close, we approach the end of another school year. For the year 6 students, it is the end of

We appreciate all of our teachers for teaching us everything in your

## School Features

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St \_\_\_\_\_ School is a Catholic Parish school within the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. The school is situated on the western fringe of the town, on land first settled by the Wanaruah people. The school began its existence as a Catholic denominational school in the middle of a developing township in 1862. When government funding was withdrawn in 1883, the Sisters of Mercy took over responsibility for the school. This school continued to provide a valuable Catholic education to the people of the area, until demand for places, brought on by an expansion in mining and power industries, resulted in the need for the construction of a larger school. In 1983, 100 years after the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy, the present Primary School of 14 classrooms, library and other amenities was opened. The Sisters of Mercy continued their mission in St. \_\_\_\_\_ School until 1972. The Sisters of St. \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 2023: Additional information can be found on My School website.

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
124	181	26	305

\* 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:

provide schooling, where possible, for children of Catholic families who seek enrolment

cater for the individual needs of each child equitably within the constraints of the available teaching and material resources

encourage parents enrolling their children in Catholic schools to give support to parish and school life, especially in education in faith.

### Student Attendance Rates

The average student attendance rate for 2023 was 89.02%. Attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group						
Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
89.88	89.25	89.65	90.05	88.41	88.60	87.31



# Staffing Profile

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## Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2023:

Total number of staff	32



## Summary of professional learning at this school

There were three main focuses for Professional Learning this year, including our continued work with Lyn Sharratt. The executive worked with Lyn Sharratt again over two days. The Principal and Pedagogical Mentors also visited St Joseph's Wauchope to see how that put the LLC in place.

Our spirituality day was again based on the Diocesan Spirituality Day.

## 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, 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 Office Diocesan Vision Statement, 2016)

The school Mission and Vision Statements reflect our role as a community of witnesses to the Catholic faith. We believe that St \_\_\_\_\_ School community excels in education through living and learning in Christ. We are inspired by the Gospel to be successful learners and informed, engaged global citizens. St \_\_\_\_\_ Muswellbrook

## 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

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.

St James' Catholic Primary School promotes equity and excellence.

We:

    challenging and stimulating learning experiences and opportunities that enable

all students to explore and build on their talents and abilities. Provide students with opportunities to experience success through differentiated educational teaching and learning activities.

Promote knowledge and understanding of Indigenous culture together with global cultures and religions.

Encourage students to take an active role in their learning through personal goal setting and self-evaluation.

Teach the essential skills in Literacy and Numeracy in order to foster informed communication and collaboration.

Employ best practice in Pedagogy and provide adequate resources to enable creative and productive use of technology to assist in communication and problem solving.

Develop personal values and attributes so as to have a sense of self-worth and maintain healthy satisfying lives.

Teach and model Gospel values to maintain healthy relationships and accept responsibilities for their own action.

# Student Performance in Tests and Examinations

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## 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 teachers about the achieveLAN).

NAPLAN RESULTS 2023		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	71%	64%
	Reading	79%	74%
	Writing	58%	66%
	Spelling	58%	69%
	Numeracy	71%	68%

## 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

## 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

At St James', Positive Education is at the centre of our Living and Learning with Jesus at the Heart of all we do.

Again, we have funded a Leader of Positive Education at SJM. This leader was instrumental in driving Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Our Leader of Positive Education is teaching Wellbeing as part of the PDHPE syllabus each fortnight to classes through RFF. This is a significant shift in how we teach Wellbeing to our students.

SJM liaised with the 'Where There's A Will' Foundation to promote positive health and mental well being in our communities.

We have a major focus on Character strengths; the identification of them and also assisting students to unlock their strengths.







Leadership - 7.2 (Region 7.0)  
Collaboration - 8.2 (Region 7.7)  
Learning Culture - 8.4 (Region 8.0)  
Data Informs Practice - 8.9 (Region 8.0)  
Teaching Strategies 8.2 (Region 8.0)  
Technology - 6.3 (Region 6.8)  
Inclusive School - 9.0 (Region 8.4)  
Parent Involvement - 7.9 (Region 6.8)  
Four Dimensions of Classroom and School Practices  
Challenging & Visible Goals - 8.0 (Region 7.6)  
Planned Learning Opportunities 8.2 (Region 7.7)  
Quality Feedback - 7.6 (Region 7.3)  
Overcoming Obstacles to Learning - 8.2 (Region 7.8)



Recurrent and Capital Income 2023	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants <sup>1</sup>	\$3,189,686
Government Capital Grants <sup>2</sup>	\$0
State Recurrent Grants <sup>3</sup>	\$932,456
Fees and Private Income <sup>4</sup>	\$868,585
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END OF 2023 REPORT