

2023



St Michael's Primary School

About this report

St Michael's Primary 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 of this Report may be obtained by contacting the School directly or by visiting the School's website. Information can be also be obtained from the My School website.

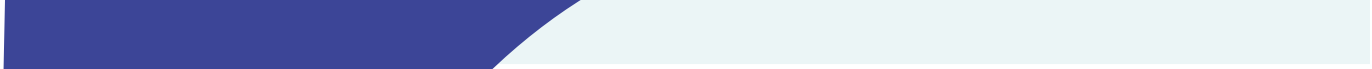
Message from key groups in our community

Principal's Message

As school principal it is my pleasure to present the Annual School Report for 2023. St Michael's is the only Catholic Primary school on the Port Stephens Peninsula and is closely connected to the St Michael's Parish. St Michael's has a very strong Catholic identity and is very focused on the young children in its care. We, the school community, strive to ensure that all students have the best education possible. This

School Features

St Michael's is one of the primary schools (Kindergarten to Year 6) in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. St Michael's is a middle size school situated in Nelson Bay on the Tomaree Peninsula at Port Stephens. The school draws from a variety of areas on the Peninsula – Nelson Bay, Anna Bay, Fingal Bay, Corlette, Shoal Bay, Soldier's Point, Salt Ash, Salamander Bay, Taylor's Beach, Tanilba Bay, Boat Harbour, One Mile, Bob's Farm and Lemon Tree Passage. St Michael's was opened in 1962 in a new brick Church-Hall in Magnus St Nelson Bay and was staffed by the Sisters of Mercy. The school consisted of 3 classrooms with 42 pupils. Eventually land was bought in Wangunyah Rd to build a new school. This was opened in 1969. Further extensions were made



Staffing Profile

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The following information describes the staffing profile for 2023:

Total number of staff	25
Number of full time teaching staff	11
Number of part time teaching staff	6

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Summary of professional learning at this school

During 2023 the staff participated in a variety of Professional Development experiences. The committee continued with the Lyn Sharratt journey with Clarity. The whole school participated in a day facilitated by Christine Topfer on Effective Spelling. The staff then visited schools to see this being implemented. The whole staff attended a whole day on Understanding the Gospels as well as

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)

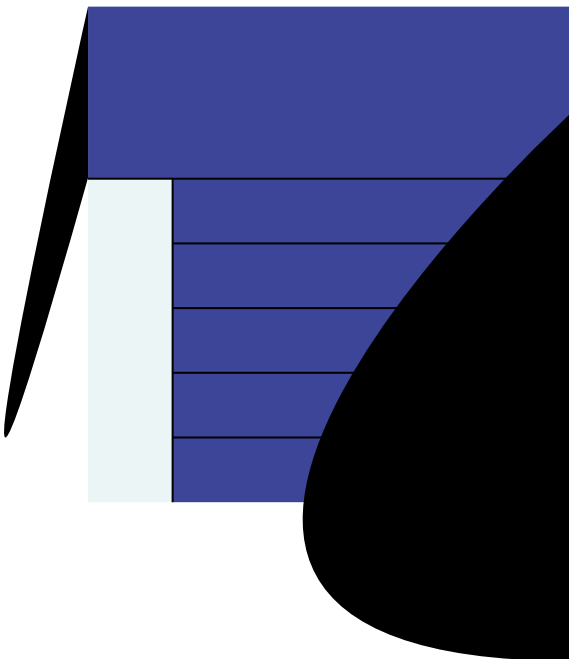
As a Catholic school community, our emphasis is placed on the Gospel values of justice, service and love, embracing our School Motto of Truth and Trust. The Catholic Identity of our school focuses on the faith formation of young people and educates them through the implicit teaching of religion.

St Michael's Catholic School does not replace the home but complements it, in the education of the students. The Parish Community is encouraged, and welcomed, to be actively involved in school life. As a school community, St Michael's staff and students were able to begin the year with a beginning school Mass. The Sacramental program continued as normal. The parish believes that the school is a vital arm of its educative mission and every endeavour is made to include the school in the overall pastoral plan of the parish. The Principal represents the school at parish council level, attending meetings and Diocesan Assemblies. The school acknowledges the importance of religious and faith development programs for both staff and students.

St Michael's implements the Diocesan K-12 Religion Syllabus. An essential element of each day's learning is a focus time on children learning about our Catholic Faith, deepening their spirituality and providing a time for prayer and reflection. The importance of having such a time each day is reflected in the expectation that teachers in the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle ensure that 2 ½ hours teaching/learning time each week is allocated to Religious Education. The classroom teaching at St Michael's promotes student centred learning, utilising the Diocesan Units of Work. Students are immersed through scripture, music, liturgy, prayer, human resources such as Father Anthony: therefore enabling opportunities for our students to come and to know and understand Jesus' mission of love, through the content of the program and the lived experience. The importance of prayer is supported through the establishment of a special sacred space in classrooms, which reflects units of work being taught.



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NAPLAN RESULTS 2023		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	88%	64%
	Reading	78%	74%
	Writing	75%	66%
	Spelling	82%	69%
	Numeracy	76%	68%

Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

Pastoral Care Policy

The School's pastoral care and student wellbeing

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 Identity and Catholic Curriculum
- Learning and Wellbeing

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

Our School Improvement Priorities that were achieved are:

- The upskilling of staff to implement the Religion Program.
- Continuation of the formation opportunities for staff at both staff meetings and a whole day.
- Continuing the Social and Emotional Learning program - Second Steps.
- Improving the consistency with the teaching of Spelling across the school.
- Continuation of Positive Behaviours for Learning and student and staff well being.

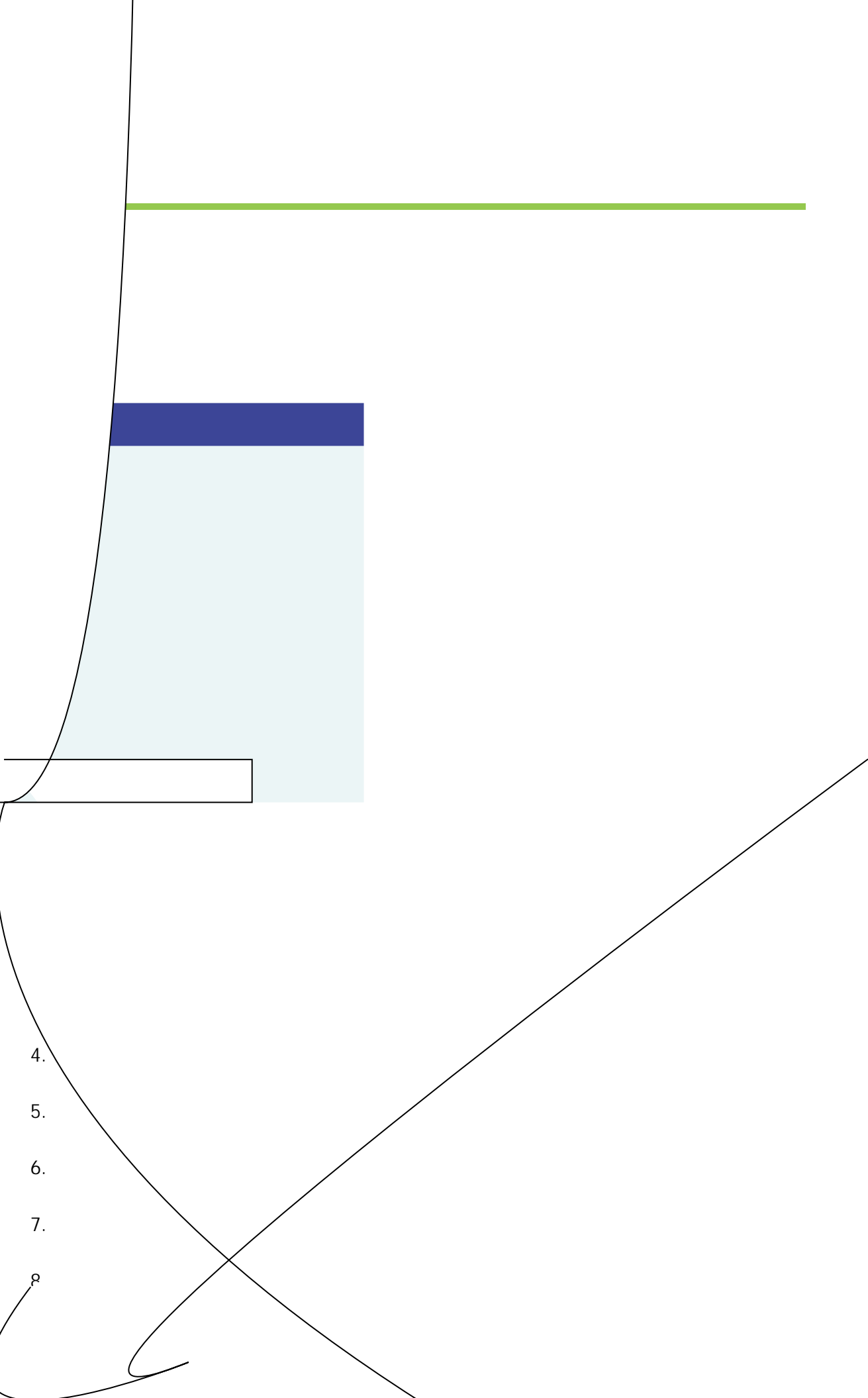
Priority Key Improvements for Next Year

- To enable staff to nourish and deepen their faith as teachers of RE and members of this faith community by providing a variety of formation opportunities each semester.
- To embed effective spelling strategies into our learning programs and monitor short term growth for planning.
- Foster a strong culture with our school community as we embark on our new building program - monitoring students' well being, flexibility with play areas, continual changes with duty rosters.

Community Satisfaction

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

The school is a very pastoral and calm place to be.



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END OF 2023 REPORT