

2023



St Paul's PS





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

## School Features

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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 located in the Hunter Valley, forty kilometres from Newcastle and services Maitland's western suburbs of Telarah, Rutherford and Aberglasslyn and the new housing developments of McKeachie's Run, Anambah and Farley. The socio-demographic of the population has been defined as, 'fairly typical of developing urban fringe areas, comprising established young families who are relatively time poor and thus require conveniently located facilities'. 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, and Library skills involving the use of technology, coding and robotics. Students attend these classes once per week. St Paul's students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of academic, cultural and sporting pursuits at local, regional and state levels. During 2023, we participated across schools and regions in sporting ventures, cultural meetings and Tournament of Minds - building the collaborative and team skills of our students. Virtual and online opportunities were

St Paul's continues to build on the identity of our first nations students with the celebration of NAIDOC week. In 2023 our entire school participated in a week of sharing cultural experiences, weaving, dance, painting and story telling with a visit from Sean Choolburra performance group. Our senior students are active members of our local Junior Aboriginal Education Consultation Group - they attend meetings with local elders to learn and share experiences in our education settings. Our indigenous students are proud to share their cultural learning and heritage with their classmates as

## 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 |
|-------|------|--------|----------------|
| 191   | 181  | 49     | 372            |

\* 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 89.20%. 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 |
| 90.74                          | 89.00  | 89.97  | 89.53  | 89.89  | 87.20  | 88.08  |





# Staffing Profile

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## Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2023:

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Total number of staff              | 38 |
| Number of full time teaching staff | 15 |
| Number of part time teaching staff | 8  |
| Number of non-teaching staff       | 15 |

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## Summary of professional learning at this school

During 2023, our staff development days centred around our school improvement plan of writing. NESA introduced new syllabus documents for English and Maths that as a school, we spent time with the online learning to understand the changes for us.

Staff Development Days.

English Curriculum - programming and assessment

Twilight - new Mathematics Curriculum

Staff Formation Day - The Catholic Educator

Literacy Teaching and Learning Cycle - Beverley Derewianka

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 2023 we continued to spend time determining success criteria and strong learning experiences to model writing and editing for students.

Our K-2 classes began using the new curriculum in both English and Mathematics that centre on conceptual understanding. We also launched new units in Religious Education for these grades. All areas reviewed resources and teaching strategies to reinvigorate these areas of learning for both staff and students.

## 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

days – a system day with Sr. Mary Cole and a day with Adam Frost from the Religious Education and Spirituality team on “The Catholic Educator.” The purpose of staff formation was to delve deeper into the ‘Learn’ aspect of our mission statement, with plans to cover ‘Love’ and ‘Serve’ in future formation days. Religious based staff meetings were increased to two per term – one for







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## 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 does not sanction administration of corporal punishment by School persons and non-School persons, including parents, to enforce discipline in the School. Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the School's website.

### Anti-Bullying Policy

The Catholic Schools Office has established an [Anti-Bullying Policy](#) which is implemented by our school and all schools in the diocese. It provides a framework for school communities to work together to prevent and address issues of student bullying, in order to build respectful relationships that respond effectively and sensitively to the needs of each person. The CSO monitors the implementation of this policy.

The full text of the Anti-Bullying Policy may be accessed on the School's website, the administration office or at the CSO website.

## 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

promotion of wellbeing at our school via the promotion of PBL and wellbeing initiatives at our weekly and

# School Improvement

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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

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Our extension students were given the opportunity to write in a small group with our Gifted Education Mentor. They built vocabulary and further refined their writing as a team of editors and partners in learning.

#### Priority Key Improvements for Next Year

2024 will be the final year of focus on writing as we apply for an author in residence to work with our students.

Our teacher librarian has offered us 2 opportunities over the last 2 years to have authors visit and run writing workshops with our students. This has always been highly engaging for our students across all ages.

We continue to actively engage the community in the Vision and Mission of St

## 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

Our parent community voiced that St Paul's is an environment where children can thrive academically as well as be supported in developing their creativity, spiritually and sporting talents. Families shared that they are appreciative of the dedication and support of staff who communicate with them and work in partnership with parents and c/Fm

projects and activities that involved elements of choice were also identified as highlights in student's learning experiences in 2023.

Initiatives and events that students would like to see continue at St Paul's Rutherford included; The Colour Run fundraiser as well as school discos, sports gala days, wellbeing week activities and the Peer Support program.

Student voice

2023 brought many new and exciting things to





END OF 2023 REPORT