



**CATHOLIC EDUCATION**  
**WILCANNIA-FORBES**

# 2023

## ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT



**St Patrick's Parish School**

108-116 Bathurst St, BREWARRINA 2839

Principal: Mrs Lindi O'Connell

Web: [www.wf.catholic.edu.au/schools/brewarrina/](http://www.wf.catholic.edu.au/schools/brewarrina/)

---

## About this report

---

St Patrick's Parish School (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by the Catholic Education Office (CEO), Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes. The CEO 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') demonstrates accountability to regulatory bodies and the CEO. 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.

The Report provides parents and the wider community with fair, reliable and objective information about educational and financial performance measures as well as School and system policies. This information includes summary contextual data, an overview of student performance in state and national assessments, a description of the achievement of priorities in the previous year and areas for improvement. Detailed information about the School's improvement journey is documented in the Annual Improvement Plan (AIP) 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 also be obtained from the [My School website](#).

---

## Message from key groups in our community

---

### Principal's Message

Our School Motto at St Patrick's Parish School is "Safe, respectful learners just like St Patrick". The faith development of each student is central to the life of our school as we endeavour to lead the children to have a sense of God in their lives and to understand the mission of Jesus.

Our school fosters a commitment to support the well-being of each student as we continue to provide a variety of opportunities to achieve success in academic, cultural and sporting areas throughout the year. We strive to nurture learners who feel valued and safe to explore learning opportunities with confidence, to achieve success and to prepare for future challenges.

We are blessed to have a deeply committed staff who work with the children, families and community to ensure positive outcomes for all students.

As the principal for the past five years, I have been privileged to be part of the St Patrick's School community. I am grateful to everyone who has worked with commitment and passion towards achieving continued success in all areas of school life.

### Parent Body Message

"Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it"  
(Proverbs 22:6).

It is true that the world is gradually shifting towards a point where students are expected to be goal-driven, ruthlessly competitive, and pragmatic. In such circumstances, it is the duty of the school as an institution to nurture the values and emotional intelligence of the students. Our school focuses not only on academic, physical, and mental development but also emphasizes the building of emotional, social, and cultural acumen in a child. The school also strives to inculcate the values of inherent discipline.

All teachers and staff have played an exceptional role in my children's holistic development. The core of our success lies in the unwavering support and dedication of our teachers and staff. The positive experiences shared by my children and their love for learning illustrate the dedication of all staff. They make a positive impact on the lives of all students. Thank you.

The Parents and Family (P&F) association played a pivotal role in sustaining our school, showcasing the power of community involvement, and has come to the school's aid multiple

times by organizing several fundraising events. I would like to acknowledge and appreciate all members of P&F who have worked hard to make it happen.

As we celebrate achievements, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Mrs. Atkins, whose contributions left an indelible mark. Her active participation in both the school and parish communities, coupled with tireless efforts in nurturing spiritual development, deserves commendation. Mrs. Atkins will be dearly missed.

President Parish/School Advisory Committee

### Student Body Message

2023 was a year to remember!

The year started with students in the 5/6 Class completing a 2-day Peer Support Leadership training program which prepared us to lead Peer Support groups across the school every Tuesday afternoon in Term 2. The Peer Support Program was a great way to build our confidence in leading small groups and handling challenging situations.

St Patrick's Day this year saw our school community raise money for Caritas. We had a cake stall where students could purchase sweet treats such as cupcakes, cups of jelly and lollies. It felt really good for raise money for those in need. Our fundraising did not stop there. After the cross-country races, we had a movie and popcorn in the afternoon. These two events saw us raise over \$600. We are really proud of our efforts.

Youth Group was held in Term 1, where years 4/5/6 were able to come together in prayer and fellowship. Students enjoyed the day which was topped off with a pizza lunch.

As the year became busier with learning, we were lucky to have some sporting opportunities such as N.S.W Cricket, Golf and the Rugby Union Coaching Clinic. All of the students had an opportunity to show off their sporting talents and learn new skills. Even though we are a remote community, we have been fortunate this year to have school incursions such as Questacon and Healthy Harold. This year we had our Athletics and Cross Country carnivals, and we even had some students selected for the Diocesan and Polding level.

Term 3 was a busy term that saw all the classes at St Patrick's, learn about healthy eating. As a way to celebrate and apply our learning, we had a whole school picnic where we prepared our healthy snacks. Another highlight of this term was Book Week and Fairy Tale Day. With the theme, Read, Grow and Inspire, we were certainly inspired to grab a book and read.

Our fundraising continued with Socktober, raising money for Catholic Mission. This was a fun afternoon where students had a sausage sizzle lunch and made soccer balls out of recycled materials. Everyone had such a great time and really enjoyed the challenge.

Throughout the year we celebrated Masses for Easter, Mother's and Father's Day and Grandparents Day. We were also fortunate enough to have students receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Confirmation. Our connection to our Parish Church helps keep our faith strong just like our Patron Saint, Saint Patrick.

We finished our year with an excursion to Lake Keepit to build teamwork, resilience and friendships. What a great week we had sailing, canoeing, archery and more. We will always have great memories of these special events!

We will always miss St Patrick's Parish School.

Year 6 Leaders

---

## School Features

---

St Patrick's Parish Primary School is a Catholic systemic co-educational school located in Brewarrina. The School caters for students from Kindergarten to Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 40 students, with 70% identifying as Aboriginal.

In 1894 the Sisters of Mercy from Bourke came to Brewarrina to establish our Catholic School. The generosity and hard work of the pioneer sisters and those who followed, right up until the early 1990s, have given the school an enduring ethic of dedication and compassion. Many of the present-day parents, grandparents and staff were educated here and owe their early education to the Sisters.

As a school community, we strive to live our school motto: Safe, respectful learners just like St Patrick. Strong and Smart. We seek to follow the examples of Jesus and our patron, Saint Patrick, every day.

Our achievements for 2023 include:

- Sacramental programs for Baptism and Reconciliation and Confirmation
- Engagement of parents and families with Parent and Family nights that included goal-setting meetings and Personalised Learning Plans.
- Parish/ School Advisory Committee which includes the Parish Priest, Principal, Religious Education Coordinator and two parent representatives
- Parents & Friends Association
- 4/5/6 Youth Retreats.
- Weekly School/ Parish Masses
- Participation in local events including ANZAC Day, CCCC Art Exhibition
- Remembrance Day, NAIDOC Week celebrations.
- Term 4 2023 Kindergarten Transition Program
- Daily Breakfast Club and Fruit Breaks
- Life Education Van
- Book Week activities
- Visits from health professionals eg-Dental
- Year 4/5/6 excursion to Lake Keepit
- K-3 Dubbo Zoo visit
- Questacon zooms and visit

Once again being able to celebrate our Year 6 Graduation and End of Year concert with families and community members was a very special highlight.

---

## Student Profile

---

### Student Enrolment

St Patrick's Parish 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:

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
23	19	4	42

\* Language Background Other than English

### Enrolment Policy

The [Enrolment Policy](#) applies to all school enrolments within the Wilcannia-Forbes 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 procedures. It aims to:

- Set direction for school procedures and practices for enrolling students into Catholic primary schools within the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes.
- 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 83.94%. 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
82.30	80.70	84.10	88.00	81.00	84.30	87.20

## Managing Student Non-Attendance

Regular attendance at St Patrick's Parish School is essential if students are to maximise their potential. The School, in partnership with parents, is responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, School staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

School staff, under the Principal's leadership, support the regular attendance of students by:

- Providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the School community
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance
- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise

The Principal is responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by ensuring that:

- Parents and students are regularly informed of attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance
- all cases of unsatisfactory attendance and part or full day absences from School are investigated promptly and that appropriate intervention strategies are implemented
- documented plans are developed to address the needs of students whose attendance is identified as being of concern
- the Director of Catholic Education or designated Catholic Education Wilcannia-Forbes Schools officer is provided with regular information about students for whom chronic non-attendance is an issue and for whom School strategies have failed to restore regular attendance.



---

## Staffing Profile

---

### Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2023:

Total number of staff	6
Number of full time teaching staff	5
Number of part time teaching staff	1
Number of non-teaching staff	3

### Total number of teaching staff by NESA category

Teachers at St Patrick's Parish 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 13 teachers
- Provisional 11 teachers
- Proficient 197 teachers
- Highly Accomplished 1 teacher

Additionally, there are approximately 2 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 staff member is highly valued. Professional learning can take many forms including whole school staff days, subject-specific in services, meetings and conferences and a range of professional learning programs provided by the Catholic Education Office (CEO).

St Patrick's Parish 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. During the year all teachers have been involved in professional learning opportunities related to improving student outcomes.

## Summary of professional learning at this school

### Day 1: School Policies and Procedures

- Staff engaged in building sound familiarity with school-based policies and procedures specifically related to student management and wellbeing, e.g. Behaviour Management and Attendance. Matters of compliance and WHS were also addressed to ensure student and staff safety for the year ahead. Staff also spent time reconnecting with the school vision and aspects of our culture that are supported by effective and respectful professional practice.

### Day 2: Writing

- The staff engaged with the document-Teaching Elementary School Students to be Effective Writers to know the most effective way to teach all students to write and improve writing outcomes for all students. The document targets high-impact, evidence-based teaching strategies to improve writing skills and growth.

### Day 3: CEWF Maths with Peter Sullivan

- Staff engaged with the Instructional Model of Mathematical Learning Experiences hosted by Peter Sullivan

### Day 4: Religious Education

- Breathing Life into the R.E. Classroom: Contemporary and Practical Teaching Strategies to help 'unlock' the Wonder and Beauty of the Scriptures.

### Day 5: Writing

- Staff researched pedagogical practices in how to teach writing explicitly & systematically through 4 key recommendations: 1. Providing daily time for students to write, 2. Teaching students to use the writing process for a variety of purposes, 3. Teaching students to become fluent in handwriting, spelling, sentence construction, typing and word processing and 4. Creating an engaged community of writers.

### Day 6: CEWF Curriculum Reform Symposium

- A specific focus on the implementation of the new 3-6 English and Mathematics Syllabuses, led by Catholic Schools NSW experts in English and Mathematics.

### Day 7: CEWF Curriculum Reform with St Ignatius Bourke

- Staff follow-up day led by CEWF Education Officer Literacy and CEWF Education Officer Numeracy on the implementation of the English & Maths Syllabuses.

### **Day 8: Curriculum Reform St Patrick's**

- Staff day at St Patrick's on the implementation of the English & Maths Syllabuses in 2024.

---

## Catholic Identity and Mission

---

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes operate under the leadership of the bishop and in partnership with parents, priests and school staff. St Patrick's Parish School constitutes a key component of the Church's mission of evangelisation and catechesis. The diocesan Religious Education program, Educating in Christ emphasises the kerygma (proclaiming the essential message of Christ), mystagogy (linking the sacraments with the Scriptures), appropriate moral formation, and prayer. It uses a modified Montessori pedagogy and pays close attention to the developmental stage of each child, accompanying each one as they pursue their own personal relationship with Christ.

Every student at St Patrick's Parish School is actively involved in the prayer and liturgical life of the school. Our School enjoys a rich liturgical life steeped in the Catholic tradition. Our Parish Priest, Father Oche Matutina, has been of significant support to our community, providing guidance to students, staff and families in their faith formation throughout the year. He has been actively engaged in the life of the school during the year through classroom visits, leading the Rosary during May and October, teaching our senior students the guitar, celebration of the Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation and Baptising four of our students into the Catholic faith. All students learnt about the Sacraments of the Church. They were assisted in preparing to receive the Sacraments within the parish community with a church full of song led by our 'Rock & Roll' priest, Fr Oche.

Feast days and the events of the liturgical seasons were acknowledged and celebrated throughout the year including the feast of St Patrick, Catholic Schools Week, Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St Mary of the Cross and Our Lady of the Rosary, to name a few. The children are actively involved in these celebrations through readings, offertory, prayers of intercession, singing and prayer.

The school has a strong emphasis on prayer. Students pray the school prayer together every morning and afternoon. Throughout the day students pray together in their classes. All staff and students pray The Angelus daily at 12:00 noon and regularly pray the Rosary.

St Patrick's Parish School is a central part of the St Patrick's Parish. The staff members of St Patrick's are involved in the life of the parish through participation in the liturgies and participating in parish led events and activities. The school principal is a key member of the parish community, being a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. The students and families are invited to be connected to the parish community through participation and inclusion in parish activities. Special parish and Catholic Education Office events are supported by the school community. The parish community is invited to all school events and are kept informed through school newsletters and group emails.

The Catholic faith is central to St Patrick's. Jesus modelled kindness, compassion, and forgiveness for all mankind to follow. At St Patrick's Parish School, the staff commit to walking in the footsteps of Jesus every day as role models for all students.

---

## Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

---

St Patrick's Parish 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 (S&T), Human Society and its Environment (HSIE), Creative Arts (CA) and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). In addition to this, the School implements the Diocesan Religious Education syllabus. Staff members strive for continuous improvement of teaching and learning in all facets of the curriculum.

In 2023, St Patrick's Parish School engaged in the NSW Curriculum Reform. Catholic Education Wilcannia-Forbes, provided professional development opportunities aligned with the new curriculum standards in English and Mathematics for all staff.

St Patrick's Parish School is committed to providing quality education that strives to meet the needs of every child. The curriculum is underpinned by Catholic values and the Diocesan Statement of Faith and Mission.

Staff members strive for continuous improvement of teaching and learning in all facets of the curriculum. The School is committed to providing quality education that strives to meet the needs of every child. The curriculum is underpinned by Catholic values and the Diocesan Statement of Faith and Mission.

Educating in Christ is the CEWF Religious Education Curriculum where students participate in learning experiences that are aligned to the liturgical seasons of the Catholic church. The spiral content increases in complexity from year to year and reinforces previous learning. The methodology is based on the work of Maria Montessori and Sofia Cavalletti. The primary goal of the curriculum is to bring each student into closer intimacy with Jesus Christ.

The Stronger Smarter philosophy of high expectations relationships has permeated all aspects of life at St Patrick's; academically, socially, emotionally and culturally.

"The Stronger Smarter philosophy honours a positive sense of cultural identity, acknowledges and embraces positive community leadership, enabling innovative and dynamic approaches and processes that are anchored by high expectations relationships.' (Stronger Smarter Institute)

The Aboriginal Education Officers (AEOs), with the support of a local elder, the CEO Aboriginal Education Support Officer, Principal and classroom teachers, teach a Language Program each week based on significant local cultural aspects of the community and the local Ngemba language. Our AEOs also continuously strive to build ties between home and school and are instrumental in supporting children academically, socially and emotionally.

Curriculum development has continued to be a high priority. In 2023, St Patrick's engaged in the NSW Curriculum Reform. Catholic Education Wilcannia-Forbes Education Officers, provided professional development opportunities for all staff aligned with the new curriculum standards in English and Mathematics.

We have continued to develop our Literacy and Numeracy practices. Staff continued to embed their learning from the AISNSW Primary Reading Project to effectively teach all students to read. The program targets high-impact, evidence-based teaching strategies to improve reading skills. The program empowered the teachers to use systematic, direct and explicit instructional strategies to enhance students' literacy skills. We have been very excited by the data that shows the growth and development of all students from Kindergarten to Year 6. The Spelling Mastery program was implemented across the school. Spelling Mastery builds spelling skills through a highly structured direct instruction method to teach the spelling skills students need to become proficient readers and writers.

Our Kindergarten and Stage One classes implemented the New Mathematics Syllabus. Professional development for staff ensured a consistent approach across the school. Student data was gathered each term so we could monitor growth and ensure that our classroom practices and intervention programs were meeting the needs of each individual student.

Technology is a major focus with each student having their own Chromebook. It is embraced and used in all Key Learning Areas with teachers having access to a CommbOX in each classroom. The use of online programs for Literacy and Numeracy are used regularly to enhance the students' learning.

Wellbeing, behaviour and social-emotional learning have also been a high priority throughout the year. We have classroom programs tailored to the needs of each class and we were fortunate to access the services of a counsellor from Dubbo who conducted lessons in each classroom around emotional regulation. This provided valuable professional learning for teachers and a bank of skills for students to call upon when feeling stressed, challenged, or overwhelmed.

---

## Student Performance in Tests and Examinations

---

### 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 achievements of students in literacy and numeracy. The test provides a measure of the student's performance against established standards and against other students in Australia. Each year the results are analysed by the school to inform teaching with a view to improving student performance.

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards with 4 levels of achievement to give teachers, parents and carers clearer information on how students are performing:

- **Exceeding:** The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- **Strong:** The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- **Developing:** The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- **Needs additional support:** The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

The percentage of student achieving at Exceeding and Strong proficiency standards in NAPLAN at St Patrick's Parish School for 2023 is reported in the table below.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2023		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Grammar and Punctuation</b>	0%	54%
	<b>Reading</b>	0%	67%
	<b>Writing</b>	80%	76%
	<b>Spelling</b>	20%	61%
	<b>Numeracy</b>	40%	65%



NAPLAN RESULTS 2023		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	0%	64%
	Reading	50%	74%
	Writing	0%	66%
	Spelling	0%	69%
	Numeracy	50%	68%

---

## Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

---

### Pastoral Care Policy

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

The Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy 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.

Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the CEWF website or by contacting the Catholic Education Office.

The Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy was reviewed in 2023 and approved by the Catholic Education Wilcannia-Forbes (CEWF) Leadership Team.

### Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy

The School's policies and procedures for the management of student behaviour are aligned to the [Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy](#). Policies operate within a context that all members of the school community share responsibility to foster, encourage and promote positive behaviour and respectful relationships.

The policy aims to promote a safe and supportive learning environment to maximise teaching and learning time for all students. It supports the development of students' pro-social behaviour based on respectful relationships and clear behavioural expectations. The dignity and responsibility of each person is promoted at all times along with positive student behaviours while ensuring the respect for the rights of all students and staff.

Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the [CEWF website](#) or by contacting the Catholic Education Office.

The Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy was reviewed in 2022 and approved by the Catholic Education Wilcannia-Forbes (CEWF) Leadership Team.

## Anti-Bullying Policy

The School's Anti-Bullying guidelines and procedures are based on and informed by the [Anti-Bullying Policy](#) and is aligned to the Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy and other related wellbeing policies and guidelines. All students, their families and employees within Catholic education have a right to a learning and work environment free from intimidation, humiliation and hurt.

Anti-Bullying policies support school communities to prevent, reduce and respond to bullying.

Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the [CEWF website](#) or by contacting the Catholic Education Office.

The Anti-Bullying Policy was reviewed in 2023 and approved by the Catholic Education Wilcannia-Forbes (CEWF) Leadership Team.

## Complaints Handling Policy

The School follows the [Concerns and Complaints Handling Policy](#). A distinctive feature of this policy is to ensure that complaints are addressed in a timely and confidential manner at the lowest appropriate management level in order to prevent minor problems or concerns from escalating. The expectation is that complaints will be brought forward and resolved in a respectful manner recognising the dignity of each person concerned in the process.

The policy recognises that a number of more minor or simple matters can be resolved without recourse to the formal complaint handling process but rather, quickly and simply, by discussion between the appropriate people.

Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the [CEWF website](#) or by contacting the Catholic Education Office.

The Concerns and Complaints Handling Policy was reviewed in 2023 and approved by the Catholic Education Wilcannia-Forbes (CEWF) Leadership Team.

## Initiatives promoting respect and responsibility

The values of respect and responsibility are reflected across all dimensions of school life.

With our school motto 'Safe, Respectful Learners Just Like St Patrick. Strong and Smart' and our new diocesan Religious Education Curriculum we, as a school community, ensure that values of respect, kindness and compassion are expected and celebrated behaviours. A true culture of care is evident and experienced each day within our school community.

'Strong and Smart' in our school motto reflects the Stronger Smarter journey that our school is on. The Principal and other staff members have previously attended the Stronger Smarter

training. The Stronger Smarter philosophy acknowledges and respects the dignity of every human being. The whole staff engage in Stronger Smarter practices. The philosophy aligns with restorative practices which are embedded in the school to nurture and restore relationships. The values of compassion, empathy, kindness, tolerance and reconciliation underpin all we do at St Patrick's and are promoted in the community through newsletters, assemblies and community involvement in school events.

Our Behaviour Policy, called the Positive Behaviour For Learning at St Patrick's is evident in every classroom. A consistent Positive Behaviour for Learning system affirms positive behaviour and responds to unacceptable behaviour in a consistent manner. We also follow a consistent 'Playground Behaviour System' that follows a similar process to the 'Classroom Behaviour System'. Our High Expectations Behaviour Chart, which is collaboratively created with the whole school, clearly defines expected behaviours at St Patrick's that all students aspire to achieve.

---

## School Improvement

---

The focus for St Patrick's Parish School and the Catholic Education Office, together, is system improvement and capacity building to deliver on wellbeing and learning for all students within our Catholic community. All Wilcannia-Forbes systemic schools engage in an annual cycle of school improvement. The Annual Review and Planning Cycle: Developing the Annual Improvement Plan assists and supports schools in this endeavour.

St Patrick's Parish School undertakes an internal review (self-assessment) which is context-specific, evidence-informed and outcomes-focused. The Annual Improvement Plan is the output of the internal school review and targets priorities for improvement in two domains: Mission and Religious Education; Learning and Teaching.

Practices are systematically evaluated for their effectiveness in producing desired improvements in student learning and performance.

### Key Improvements Achieved

#### **Annual School Priority One for 2023:**

**To further the goal of bringing students into closer intimacy with Christ, by continuing to engage parents, community, parish and Parish Priest through the preparation and celebration of the Sacraments.**

#### **Reason for priority 1:**

- Continue to implement the new diocesan Religious Education Curriculum using the upgraded
- Scope and Sequence with an emphasis on a variety of Responses, student reflections and journals.
- Continue to engage with parents, carers, Parish community and students in the sacramental preparation/program.

#### **Steps taken to achieve priority 1:**

- Parish Priest engages students by visiting and talking in classes.
- Parents informed through Sacramental 'packs' and conversations with REC and classroom teachers
- Retreat sessions that parents are welcome to be part of Masses, where students share their learning with family/ community members using the Educating In Christ presentations.
- Inviting family members and community to the Religious Education classroom to join students in their lessons with a focus on the Sacraments.

### **Status of priority 1:**

- Through the continued implementation of the "Educating in Christ" framework, we have placed a heightened emphasis on the sacraments and meaningful prayer life. This integrated approach has borne fruit in the lives of our students, fostering a sense of spiritual growth, compassion, and a genuine connection to their faith. Our educators have admirably embraced this mission, providing guidance and mentorship that extends beyond the classroom, helping students navigate their journey of faith. Together, with family members, parish and community we remain resolute in our dedication to instilling these invaluable principles in our students, knowing that it lays a foundation for a lifelong relationship with Christ.

### **Annual School Priority Two for 2023:**

**St Patrick's Parish School engaged with the document Teaching Elementary School Students to be Effective Writers research to know the most effective way to teach all students to write and improve writing outcomes for all students. The publication targets high impact, evidence-based teaching strategies to improve writing skills and growth.**

- The aim is to enable and empower all teachers, using extensive meta-analyses of the empirical evidence through international research, to inform, know, implement and embed pedagogical practices in; how to teach writing and what to teach in writing.

### **Reason for priority 2:**

- Improve student writing data through the implementation of a whole school best practice approach that aligns to the outcomes of the English Syllabus.
- To reflect on and develop our whole-school agreed practice in writing, encompassing planning, teaching, monitoring, assessment moderation and review.

### **Steps taken to achieve priority 2:**

- Term 1 - Professional learning and upskilling of staff - what do we need to be successful? Pupil Free Day
- Term 2, 3 & 4 - writing task and samples moderated against K-6 outcomes and the NSW Learning Progressions
- No more marking-Writing Assessments
- Utilise the Literacy Team to lead the work
- Use our Educational Officer to assist facilitation of this process
- Engage with professional learning to enrich teachers' understanding of effective, explicit teaching and the moderation process
- review the Literacy Block and create agreed practises around writing
- celebrate student success by sharing high quality examples of students writing throughout school community (Newsletters, Compass, Social media etc)

- Feedback to parents twice a year - communicate with parents around the writing development of their child

### **Status of priority 2:**

- Our commitment to employing the most effective methods in teaching all students to write. Building on the invaluable insights gained from our professional learning, we have implemented high-impact, evidence-based teaching strategies that have proven to significantly enhance writing skills and foster growth. Through the incorporation of assessment processes, we are dedicated to ensuring precise planning for each student's growth trajectory. By personalising data and offering targeted, meaningful feedback, we aim to create an environment that maximizes learning potential and equips every student with the essential skill of writing.
- Priority Two will continue into 2024 as we have new teachers coming to the school and we would like to give them professional learning opportunities as we embed and reflect upon our agreed practices in writing from 2023.

### **Priority Key Improvements for Next Year**

#### **Annual Priority One for 2024:**

**To effectively incorporate indigenous spirituality perspectives across Religious Education Programs.**

#### **Reason for Priority 1:**

- Due to 70% of our students being indigenous, it is imperative that we align Aboriginal spirituality with our current Religious Education Curriculum.

#### **Steps to be taken to achieve Priority 1:**

- Collaborate with the CEWF RE Team, along with the RECs from St Ignatius, Bourke & St Therese's Wilcannia RECs and local elders from each community to review and update the RE Curriculum to align with Aboriginal Spirituality.

#### **Annual Priority Two for 2024:**

**To continue to engage and become familiar with the New English syllabus across K-6.**

**To continue to engage with the document Teaching Elementary School Students to be Effective Writers research to implement the most effective way to teach all students to write and improve writing outcomes for all students.**

**Reason for Priority 2:**

- For the staff to become familiar and confident implementing the new English and Mathematics Curriculums and to improve student outcomes in reading and writing.

**Steps to be taken to achieve Priority 2:**

- Three CEWF Curriculum Reform Pupil Free Days.
- Staff meetings and Pupil Free Days to support teachers in implementing our agreed practices in Writing.
- Moderating writing samples every term to monitor achievements and growth and plan for future teaching and learning.



---

## Community Satisfaction

---

The opinions and ideas of parents, students and teachers are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving improved outcomes for students. This year, a variety of processes have been used to gain information about the level of satisfaction with St Patrick's Parish School from parents, students and teachers.

### Parent satisfaction

In a parental survey, all respondents strongly agreed (67%) and agreed (33%) that St Patrick's Parish School, helped their child to develop knowledge and understanding about Catholic tradition, whilst all parents strongly agreed (50%) and agreed (50%) that St Patrick's Parish School provided opportunities for parents to be involved in school life and activities.

Parents were asked if their child was challenged to maximise their learning, 50% of parents strongly agreed with this statement, whilst 50% agreed. All respondents strongly agreed (50%) or agreed (50%) that St Patrick's Parish School meets their child's individual learning needs.

84% of all parents strongly agreed that the school effectively communicates to parents about activities and events, whilst 16% agreed with this statement. A further 84% of parents strongly agreed and 16% agreed that the school provides appropriate information about their child's progress.

All parents strongly agreed (84%) or agreed (16%) that St Patrick's Parish School provides a safe and supportive environment for their children. 84% of all respondents strongly agreed that teachers are genuinely interested in the welfare of the students, whilst the remaining 16% agreed with this statement.

### Student satisfaction

All students at St Patrick's Parish School strongly agreed or agreed that the school helped them in developing knowledge and understanding of the Catholic tradition. 100% of students surveyed were proud of their school.

All students strongly believed that their teacher encouraged them to do their best in school activities, whilst all students surveyed (67% always, 33% Very often) stated that they understood their rights and responsibilities at school. All students feel safe and believe that St Patrick's Parish School offered them a range of sporting and curriculum choices. All students (100%) understood who they could approach for help if needed at school.

## Teacher satisfaction

All staff surveyed enjoy working at St Patrick's Parish School, they classified the school as an extremely safe (79%) and very safe (21%) working environment that fosters and encourages collaboration between fellow teachers and support staff.

90% of staff agreed that the school gave the right amount of attention to Standardised Testing and the expectation for student growth was extremely(67%) to very (33%) reasonable.

All staff felt the school cared about their professional growth and principal feedback at St Patrick's Parish School, Brewarrina.

---

## Financial Statement

---

Consistent with the NESAs requirements, financial income and expenditure for St Patrick's Parish School in 2023 is shown below. This School Financial Information is based on the detailed information provided to the Commonwealth Government in the Commonwealth Financial Questionnaire.

<b>Recurrent and Capital Income 2023</b>	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants <sup>1</sup>	\$1,354,648
Government Capital Grants <sup>2</sup>	\$0
State Recurrent Grants <sup>3</sup>	\$342,393
Fees and Private Income <sup>4</sup>	\$153,218
Interest Subsidy Grants	\$0
Other Capital Income <sup>5</sup>	\$1,190
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,851,449</b>

<b>Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2023</b>	
Capital Expenditure <sup>6</sup>	\$113,659
Salaries and Related Expenses <sup>7</sup>	\$1,412,015
Non-Salary Expenses <sup>8</sup>	\$124,497
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$1,650,171</b>

### Notes

1. Commonwealth Recurrent Grants includes recurrent per capita grants and special purpose grants.
2. Government Capital Grants includes all capital grants received from the Commonwealth and State Governments.
3. State Recurrent Grants includes recurrent grants per capita, special purpose grants and interest subsidy grants.
4. Fees and Private Income include Archdiocesan and school based fees, excursions and other private income.
5. Other Capital Income includes building levy fees and capital donations used to fund Capital Expenditure.
6. Capital Expenditure includes expenditure on School Buildings, and Furniture and Equipment.
7. Salaries and Related Expenditure includes all salaries, allowances and related expenses such as superannuation and workers compensation insurance.

8. Non-Salary Expenses include all other Non-Salary Recurrent Expenditure covering resources, administration, operational expenses, utilities, repairs and maintenance.

END OF 2023 REPORT