



2023

Annual Report to the School Community



St Patrick's School

Ovens Street, WANGARATTA 3677

Principal: Gabrielle Downie

Web: www.spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au

Registration: 104, E Number: E3001

Principal's Attestation

I, Gabrielle Downie, attest that St Patrick's School is compliant with:

- The minimum standards and other requirements for school registration and school boarding premises (if applicable) as specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic).
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2023 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2023 (Cth).
- The Child Safe Standards as prescribed in Ministerial Order 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards, Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises.

Attested on 24 May 2024

About this report

St Patrick's School is registered by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). The Annual Report to the School Community (ARSC), provides parents and the wider community with information about the school's activities and achievements throughout the year including information about various aspects of school performance. The Report 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. 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](#).

Governing Authority Report

The 2023 Catholic Education Week theme “Let the Words You Speak Always Be Full of Grace” reminds us of Pope Francis’s call to be a synodal Church in which our understanding of others and respect for diversity is shaped by respectful dialogue borne from deep listening.

Catholic Education Sandhurst continues to be committed to providing contemporary and innovative learning environments that value diversity and promote care, respect and co-operation. In 2023 we launched the CES Ltd Strategic Plan 2023-2027 which sets out directions and priorities that will guide the way in which our Catholic schools pursue excellence in fostering the development of each person in all the dimensions of human existence: intellectual, spiritual, emotional, bodily, relational, environmental and cultural.

Schools have begun the process of developing School Improvement Plans aligning their local strategic planning to the CES Strategic Plan, under the direction of Principal Consultants and in response to school based review findings.

Our governance structure continues to mature, with both CES Ltd and SCECEC Ltd committed to ensuring the highest quality student outcomes in a safe and nurturing environment.

Our learning data has identified pockets of excellence in school communities across the diocese but also highlighted greater scope for improvement in the future. The development of the CES Ltd Catholic Learning and Teaching Framework will promote greater collaboration and focus on student learning growth.

The nation-wide shortage of teachers continues to impact all schools demanding new and innovative ways to attract and retain high quality and committed Catholic educators. Strategic initiatives will prioritize workforce placements that are sustainable and ongoing with particular attention given to our remote and smaller communities.

CES Ltd has a small number of schools with low enrolments and personnel and the Catholic Education Office works closely with leadership in these schools to ensure continued viability. An incentive scheme to attract and retain educators has been initiated and the CES Ltd Board has taken a robust interest in the way small schools are promoted through the CES Ltd Marketing Strategy.

I am extremely grateful for the commitment and professionalism that is clearly identified by the efforts throughout 2023 of Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd - our schools and personnel in the Catholic Education Office. They continue to work tirelessly for the students and families in our schools, true bearers of the Mission to which they have been called.

PAUL DESMOND

Executive Director, Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited

Vision and Mission

LIVING, LOVING, LEARNING IN CHRIST

Identity Statement

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School community embraces the traditions of the Brigidine Order that celebrates life, reaches out to others and actively cares for our world.

Vision

St Patrick's Primary School strives to:

Guide and support students on their faith journey through experiences of the Catholic tradition, building a strong sense of belonging, responsibility and wonder within our school, church and global communities.

Develop an environment that builds on student resilience, self-respect, confidence and empathy in partnership with families.

Foster a learning environment that provides a holistic education that nurtures all learners in order for them to realise their full potential.

Model and foster a safe and supportive environment for students and their families within the school community.

Provide learning and teaching experiences that promote decision making.

Conserve God's creation and recognise the traditional owners of the land

Graduate Outcomes

We endeavour to create graduates who will:

Have a dynamic faith

Be committed to social justice

Be environmentally aware

Develop and sustain loving relationships

Be life-long learners

Realise their potential

Be creative problem-solvers

Be resilient, confident and independent

Be respectful

Have courage and integrity

Be self-aware

Enjoy their experiences

School Overview

St Patrick's School is situated in St Patrick's Parish, Wangaratta. The school was first established in 1854. Originally, it ran two school sessions, one night and one day. The night school catered for adults who wanted to learn to read and write, and students who could not attend during the day due to working on the family farm.

St Patrick's School was first registered in 1858. The school was a small wooden building that was located beside St Patrick's Church in Ford Street.

In 1887, Reverend Dr Crane (the first Bishop of Sandhurst) sent a request to the Bishop of Kildare, Ireland for Brigidine Sisters to be sent from Goresbridge, Ireland, to take control of St Patrick's School. The Brigidine Sisters arrived in 1888 and assumed the running of St Patrick's Primary School as well as establishing a finishing school for girls (St Joseph's College – later to become part of Galen College).

The Brigidine Sisters' impact on Catholic Education has been enormous. Their charism of strength and kindness is reflected within the culture of St Patrick's Primary School and it is the centrepiece of their association with the Parishes of Wangaratta for well over one hundred and fifty years.

In 1921, a new school was established and was officially opened by Archbishop Mannix on the current Ovens St site. Today it continues to be a vibrant Catholic school committed to the mission of the church, the message of Jesus.

St Patrick's is a member of Catholic Schools Wangaratta (CSW), that includes Our Lady's Primary School, St Bernard's Primary School, Galen Secondary College and Borinya, an alternative school setting in the town. These schools meet each term to promote and enhance Catholic education within the region.

St Patrick's provides a broad range of learning experiences to meet the current needs of our students. Recent years have seen increased professional learning around best practice, to inform teaching to maximise learning for our students.

The school has enrolments of approximately 260 students and provides a range of specialist subjects all designed to enhance and enrich learning at the school. These include Physical Education, Visual and Performing Arts, Science and Italian.

Learning is enhanced and supported through current Information technology resources and strategies. New vibrant and stimulating learning spaces have been completed that include the addition of eight modern classrooms and break out learning spaces for our community to enjoy well into the future.

Principal's Report

As we come to the end of a remarkable year, it is with immense joy and gratitude that I share the highlights of our collective journey and the strides made in creating a thriving community dedicated to learning and growth.

The New Learning Centre

I am thrilled to report the successful completion and grand opening of our new Learning Centre. This state-of-the-art facility stands as a testament to our commitment in providing an innovative and enriching educational experience for our students. The Learning Centre is now a vibrant hub where curiosity is nurtured, and knowledge blossoms.

The Transformative Landscape Plan

St Patrick's commitment to holistic education has extended beyond the classroom with the implementation of our new landscape plan. The refurbishment of the oval, alongside other outdoor enhancements, has transformed our spaces into dynamic arenas for outdoor learning and play. These areas now serve as catalysts for creativity, collaboration, and physical well-being.

Strategic Plan for Educational Excellence

The implementation of our new strategic improvement plan has been a key focus throughout the year. This comprehensive roadmap is designed to elevate the quality of learning and teaching, ensuring that our students receive an education that prepares them for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

The improvement plan also includes strengthening our Catholic community with a focus on building staff capacity to deliver a dialogical and recontextualised approach to the Religious Education curriculum. Our dedicated staff have been instrumental in turning this vision into a reality.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to the Advisory Council for their invaluable guidance and steadfast commitment to our shared mission. Their wisdom and dedication have played a pivotal role in steering our community towards success. Sincere appreciation is extended to our dedicated staff whose tireless efforts have been the bedrock of our achievements. Their passion for education and unwavering commitment to our students have made a lasting impact.

St Patrick's community is enriched by the wonderful contributions of our families. The engagement, support, and involvement in various initiatives have created the foundation for a strong partnership in the educational journey of our students.

Last but certainly not least, we express our gratitude to our beautiful students—the reason we come together as a community. Your enthusiasm, curiosity, and individual achievements inspire us daily. You are the heartbeat of our educational endeavours, and it is a joy to witness your growth.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we look forward to the promise of a new year filled with continued collaboration, innovation, and shared successes.

I thank each of you for being an integral part of our community.

Blessings

Gabrielle Downie

Principal

Catholic Identity and Mission

Goals & Intended Outcomes

A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Build capacity of staff to deliver a dialogical and recontextualised approach to the Religious Education curriculum.

- Formation of the Religious Education Team.
- Professional development of staff in understanding of 'Dialogue' within the faith context.

Achievements

St Patrick's staff engaged in a combined schools Spirituality formation and scripture day to support faith development and understanding, with Catholic Schools Wangaratta (CSW).

Following our Enhancing Catholic Schools Survey and Catholic Identity Review, significant attention was given to the analysis of data, the formation of goals and the commencement of enacting of the annual action plan.

The Religious Education Team engaged in two days of professional development in the area of recontextualisation and dialogue as formation to lead the school's strategic plan.

Staff were supported in attaining RE Accreditation and updates including online professional learning.

Our Catholic Identity Leaders attended Religious Leaders Network days to keep informed of current practices and initiatives.

Throughout the year the school community celebrated many events through mass and liturgies. these included the beginning and end of the year mass, St Patrick's day, significant liturgical feast days, Lent and Advent, class rotations to attend weekly mass and much more.

Value Added

The Catholic Identity and Mission in the Diocese of Sandhurst is primarily to bring students and young people into personal relationship with Jesus. St Patrick's strives to achieve this by permeating the gospel message through prayer, liturgy, learning, networks and experiences.

The school engages in numerous significant events that promote, inspire and expand faith development. These experiences include, but are not limited to the following:

- The engagement in the Catholic Schools Wangaratta (CSW) network to promote and support Catholic Education within Wangaratta.
- Spirituality Days to support the faith and knowledge development of staff.
- Numerous liturgical calendar liturgies and masses such as Lent, Holy Week, St Patrick's Day Advent, Christmas.
- Significant fundraising throughout the year of over \$4,800.00 for Caritas, The Catholic Missions, St Vincent de Paul, The Royal Children's Hospital and the RSPCA.
- Parish support in the running of the sacramental programs.
- Specific learning experiences in First Nations education such as the F.I.R.E. Carriers initiative, engagement with Winton Wetlands and Reconciliation Week.
- Participation in Sandhurst initiatives such as Festival of the Sacred, Catholic Education Week and Just Leadership Days.
- Incorporating structures within the school year to promote a strong sense of community.
- The implementation of Environmental Sustainability strategies throughout the school to educate and support our care of creation.

Learning and Teaching

Goals & Intended Outcomes

LEARNING COMMUNITY

Improve student learning outcomes through evidence-based learning and teaching practices that are guided by a systematic approach to data collection and analysis.

- Understand and develop an Annual Data Plan that informs planning, policy and learning and teaching practices.
- Build the capacity of staff to analyse and interpret data.
- Identify evidence-based practice and implement effective learning and teaching strategies.

Achievements

Enacting the Learning and Teaching goals in the new annual action plan was of high priority in 2023. The school remained focused on building the capacity of staff to be able to understand the purpose of collecting relevant data, the skills to interpret data accurately and the appropriate use of data to drive effective learning and teaching strategies to improve student outcomes.

While we are still in the early stages of this action a lot was achieved in 2023 including:

- Professional Reading - Data (Selena Fisk) & Teaching Sprints.
- Seek external support and resources.
- Review data schedule.
- Develop draft data plan.
- Embedding the new meeting structure to focus on student data analysis at both a year and whole school level.
- Explore what is an effective PLC.
- Explore effective moderation processes.
- Professional development of evidence-based learning and teaching strategies.
- Develop an instructional framework.
- Student survey - Attitudes to Learning - ORIMA.
- 4Rs student survey.
- Creation of a draft data plan.

Student Learning Outcomes

NAPLAN testing moved from May to March in 2023 resetting the comparison scale. The participation of students for 2023 within St Patrick's was 99%.

The 2023 NAPLAN report for St Patrick's School indicated that students performed well across all areas of the curriculum, demonstrating abilities within in range proficiency in literacy and numeracy skills.

Fewer students fell into the lower 25 percentile compared to similar schools.

Also a higher proportion of students achieved results at the 25-50 and 50-75 percentile in comparison to students from similar educational backgrounds.

St Patrick's provides numerous ongoing support for students to meet their learning targets.

Supports in 2023 included:

Implementation of the tutoring initiative funded by the State Government.

Targeted language and literacy programs.

Small intervention pragmatic groups

Decodable readers to support the SPELD program for children with specific writing and reading impairments.

Hegarty Program from Foundation to year 2.

Targeted maths intervention with as assigned tutor.

NAPLAN - Proportion of students meeting the proficient standards			
Domain	Year level	Mean Scale score	Proficient
Grammar & Punctuation	Year 3	398	48%
	Year 5	483	62%
Numeracy	Year 3	422	77%
	Year 5	479	71%
Reading	Year 3	419	68%
	Year 5	490	71%
Spelling	Year 3	403	58%
	Year 5	482	67%
Writing	Year 3	425	97%
	Year 5	486	71%

*A school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants and 80% participation rate. Data not reported for 2023 due to participation not meeting these criteria or no students were assessed. Participants include students who were assessed, including non-attempt, or those exempted from the test.

Student Wellbeing

Goals & Intended Outcomes

To develop and deliver a clear, consistent and equitable approach to behaviour management across the school, that is understood by all.

- Provide relevant professional development for all staff
- Gather and analysis data from key stakeholders (student voice and surveys)
- Develop an agreed school wide Behaviour Response Process
- Through student voice, develop an agreed student behaviour matrix
- Commence Implementation of process

Achievements

St Patrick's refined the role and membership of the Wellbeing team.

The Wellbeing team met fortnightly to develop their understanding and set goal through professional development with John Mitchell, Well being Officer, Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd.

Staff engaged in professional development with Tammy Smith, Project Liaison Lead, Respectful Relationships and Health Wellbeing Specialists Department of Education.

Staff engaged in professional development with John Mitchell, Well being Officer, Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd.

Students engaged regularly throughout the year in the Student Voice Forum with the Wangaratta Regional Cluster group, to develop their knowledge and leadership skills around Respectful Relationships.

Students engaged in surveys to gather data

St Patrick's school developed its own school wide Behaviour Response Process and Student Behaviour Matrix.

The Matrix was implemented and adjusted throughout a trial period in readiness for the following year.

Value Added

Numerous additional activities were provided by St Patrick's to promote student wellbeing and learning.

These learning activities included:

Participation in the Boys to the Bush program, a six week program to develop leadership skills and engagement for boys.

Day excursion to numerous performing arts events both within the town and the region

Both incursions and excursions within the region to develop indigenous education

Camps to Harrierville and Alexandra

Numerous outsourced curriculum specific incursion in physical education, science and literacy

Diverse engagement in learning through ipad devices

The introduction of lunchtime activities for students requiring play support

The introduction of a holiday program through our After School Care providers

The implementation of the grief and loss program called 'Seasons for Growth'

The implementation of the wellbeing program 'Peaceful Kids'

The Kaboom twilight sports and picnic dinner event to support family engagement

RUOK Day

Dementia Morning tea

Student Satisfaction

Students engaged in the ORIMA School Engagement Survey in October 2023.

Survey results indicated that students of St Patrick's have a higher than average positive percentile of engagement in comparison to Catholic schools within the diocese.

The areas measured were Rigorous expectations, School engagement, School climate, Teacher-student relationships, School belonging, Learning disposition, Student safety, Enabling safety, Student voice, Catholic identity.

Specifically students stated that the strength of the social connection between teachers and students, within and beyond the school was high and that students felt that their teachers held them to high expectations for their effort, understanding, persistence and performance.

Student data also indicated that access to quality staff support allowed them to feel connected, safe and respected while at school.

Additionally students felt they had opportunities to have an impact on their school through student voice.

Student Attendance

St Patrick's is monitored in by the following process.

Rolls must be up to date with all student information and correctly marked twice daily. Rolls are kept electronically using the program SIMON. Rolls are marked at 9.00am and again at 1:30pm. It is the responsibility of the scheduled class teacher at these times to mark the roll.

Rolls indicate absent or present for all students and the reasons for absences if known. Late arrivals are marked present at the office with teachers checking that late arrivals have been marked on the roll.

Students leaving early must be signed out via the main office.

Administration staff will send an SMS to all families who have not notified the school of their child's absence at 9.30am. If there is no response the Pastoral Wellbeing leaders follow up with a phone call to home and or emergency contact.

If there is no response from any of the above, police are called.

Absences are able to be recorded in advance. More than one day can be recorded at any given time, however it is important not to assume that an absence will rollover, subsequent absences must be followed up by the classroom teacher or wellbeing officer.

Contact must be made with a family after a 3 day absence, excluding holidays.

Students are expected to have a 95% attendance rate. The pastoral wellbeing leader monitors attendance and makes contact with families when attendance falls below 90%.

Twice a term attendance data is submitted to CESL.

Teachers must inform the pastoral wellbeing leader of any concerns regarding attendance.

All holidays within the school term must be approved by the Principal.

Average Student Attendance Rate by Year Level	
Y01	92.7%
Y02	92.6%
Y03	92.7%
Y04	92.8%
Y05	90.8%
Y06	91.1%
Overall average attendance	92.1%

Leadership

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- Formation and implementation of lead teams to drive the school improvement plan.
- Review and redesign of the Student Leadership structure.
- Review of the school House system.

Achievements

Changes to the planning processes were fully implemented in 2023. Three teams, Catholic Identity, Wellbeing and Learning and Teaching met each fortnight to plan and deliver the annual action plan for the year. Teams reported at staff meetings each fortnight and actions were discussed, trialled and evaluated in the improvement cycle.

Teachers on the Leadership team engaged in professional reading and activities to develop and build their capacity in change management as they led their teams.

Clarity around process in unit planning were also implemented to ensure effective use of time in order gain maximum results.

Through and extensive student voice process the school commenced a review of the student leadership structures currently operating. It was revealed that there was a lack of clarity of the purpose of student leadership and current roles on offer. The review established new guidelines and processes, including the restructuring of House groupings, to be implemented in 2024.

Expenditure And Teacher Participation in Professional Learning	
List Professional Learning undertaken in 2023	
<p>Staff engaged in numerous professional learning events directly related to Religious Education accreditation, compliance and specific elements of our strategic plan.</p> <p>Events within Religious Education included staff spirituality days, understanding dialogue and recontextualization, religious education accreditation for newly appointed staff, and maintenance of religious education accreditation.</p> <p>In the area of compliance staff were either introduced to, or maintained training qualifications in disability standards, crisis management, first aid, anaphylaxis, asthma, emergency evacuation, child safety - officer training, child safety - restraint and seclusion, mandatory reporting, VIT Code of Conduct, child safe code of conduct, workplace safety, lifting and handling of heavy objects and the new EBA.</p> <p>Staff attended professional learning in PAT online testing, developing a data plan and data analysis with Selina Fisk, professional learning communities (PLC's), writing moderation, the Respectful Relationships frameworks and Simon portal usage.</p>	
Number of teachers who participated in PL in 2023	33
Average expenditure per teacher for PL	\$715.00

Teacher Satisfaction

Staff participated in the ORIMA School Engagement Survey for the first time in 2023. This survey replaced the previous Insight SRC survey, and will be used going forward together longitudinal data on teacher satisfaction.

The survey identified that staff reflected a higher than CES average of satisfaction in:

- Collaboration around an improvement strategy
- Collaboration in teams
- Support for teams
- Collective efficacy
- Both student and staff safety

These results are reflective of the goals within the school improvement plan and the 2023 Annual action plan.

Teacher Qualifications	
Doctorate	0.0%
Masters	4.5%
Graduate	9.1%
Graduate Certificate	0.0%
Bachelor Degree	63.6%
Advanced Diploma	13.6%
No Qualifications Listed	9.1%

Staff Composition	
Principal Class (Headcount)	2
Teaching Staff (Headcount)	26
Teaching Staff (FTE)	20.0
Non-Teaching Staff (Headcount)	12
Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	9.0
Indigenous Teaching Staff (Headcount)	0

Community Engagement

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To continue reconnect and re engage with the parent and broader community after the the effects of covid isolation
- To re-establish the Catholic Schools Wangaratta Network (CSW)
- To contribute back to the community

Achievements

St Patrick's endeavours to engage for the benefit of both the school and the broader community.

Our achievements for 2023 are:

Significant fundraising throughout the year of over \$4,800.00 for Caritas, The Catholic Missions, St Vincent de Paul, The Royal Children's Hospital and the RSPCA

Visitations to St Catherine's Aged Care Hostel to engage with patrons

Advisory Council - Actively involved in the planning of the future development of the school, with specific attention to the new learning centre and the new architecturally designed landscape plan

Catholic Schools Wangaratta (CSW) - Combined school promoting Catholic education within the region and sharing of resources between Catholic schools.

Recycling Initiative - Food scraps provided twice a week to a local animal rescue called Free Spirit Sanctuary

Boys to the Bush program -A community engagement program to enhance leadership skill and promote engagement amongst our senior boys.

K-2 Network - Termly engagement in the regional network that includes professional development and student transition support

Student Teacher and work experience placement

Beginning and End of year celebration mass

School representation at ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services

Parents and Friends Association to support fundraising and community engagement

Interschool Sports participation

District, regional and for those successful, state sport participation

Celebration of learning days each term to engage families in student learning

Parent Satisfaction

Parents engaged in a school engagement survey conducted by ORIMA Research during October 2023.

Domains surveyed included:

Catholic Identity, Family Engagement, Barriers to Engagement, School Fit, School Climate, Student Safety and Communication. By comparison, results were above the CES average in all domains.

Parents see the values and mission of the Catholic Church respected, emphasised and actively practised within the school community.

Of particular note, a 95% satisfaction rating was reported by parents in regards to responding to concerns around their child. Equally there was a 95% rating with regard to staff approachability and 100% respect by students towards the staff.

There was a very high positive response to parents feeling their child felt safe, heard and had a sense of belonging within the school community. Communication between home and school was also considered to be favourably rated.

Financial Performance

The school's financial performance information and a report of the financial activities of the school's boarding premises (if applicable) have been provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available for the community to access from their website at www.acnc.gov.au.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at www.spwangeratta.catholic.edu.au