

2023



St Pius X Primary School



## Message from key groups in our community

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### Principal's Message

It is my pleasure to present the Annual School Report for 2023 St Pius X Primary School, Windale. Our school is a Kindergarten to Year Six systemic school of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. We are situated in the Lake Macquarie region, in between the tranquil shores of Lake Macquarie and the beautiful beaches of Redhead and Dudley.

St Pius X is a Christian school in the Catholic tradition with a rich heritage and a strong sense of community. The school was founded in 1958 on the traditions and strong foundations of the Sisters of St. Joseph and St Mary Of The Cross' call for people they "never see a need without doing something about it"

Through a dynamic partnership between students, parents, staff, parish members and the wider community, we challenge and support one another towards growth and full potential. Our teachers work in collaboration

Steve

## School Features

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### History of the school

The school has an interesting history dating back to 1958. Prior to that date, the Catholic children of Windale (called Surprise Town until 1951), were educated at the local state school, or travelled to neighbouring schools at Charlestown or Adamstown. Originally the school was conducted in the present church building, incorporating 3 classrooms separated by partitions - which was opened in 1959. Three sisters of St Joseph formed the first staff, residing at Swansea convent and travelling to and from Windale daily, until July of 1959 when the adjoining St Joseph's convent was opened. Additional buildings were built in 1993 to accommodate the growing demand and to provide the school with suitable classroom and administration spaces. Further buildings (a new Library and Hall) were built in 2011 under the National Pride Funding provided by the Australian Government allowing the school to utilise even better spaces for its educational endeavours. A deck was built in 2018 and an improved entry into the school and in 2019 a further decking area was constructed, and the student toilets were refurbished. In 2021 our carpark was ungraded and building works have been approved to start in 2024 which will involve a redesign of the playground as well as two new buildings.

### Location/Drawing

St Pius X draws its students predominantly from the suburbs of Windale, Gateshead West, Tingira Heights and Mount Hutton with a number of families travelling from Gateshead, Belmont North, Valentine and Warners Bay. Pupils leaving Year 6 at the end of 2023 started their High School studies at St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead.

# 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



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## Staffing Profile

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### Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2023:

Total number of staff	16
Number of full time teaching staff	5
Number of part time teaching staff	6
Number of non-teaching staff	5

### Total number of teaching staff by NESA category

Teachers at this 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 107 teachers
- Provisional 69 teachers
- Proficient 1887 teachers
- 4 Highly Accomplished teacher
- 1 Lead teacher

Additionally, there are approximately 10 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 Schools Office (CSO). The 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. All teachers have been involved in professional learning opportunities during the year related to improving student outcomes.



## Summary of professional learning at this school

The following PD was undertaken throughout 2023:

- Leading Learning Collaborative - Clarity led by Lynn Sharrat
- Emergency Care and Anaphylaxis Training
- Literacy – PLD Training
- Religious Education – Spirituality Day, focusing on prayer
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education - Learning for Justice; Empowering through Education
- Annual Eoannual
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## Catholic Identity and Mission

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Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle participate, under the leadership of the Bishop and in partnership with parents and parishes, in the mission of the Church to provide quality education in the context of a living Catholic Christian tradition. Within this context, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle educate from and for vibrant, welcoming and diverse communities with a particular commitment to the poor; for justice, integrity and peace; and with hope for the future.:

At the heart of everything there is always Jesus Christ.

Catholic schools educate:

- From and for the community of faith
- From and for excellence in learning
- In a rigorous, creative and critical pursuit of truth

(Adapted from: The Catholic School's Office Diocesan Vision Statement, 2016)

Catholic Identity and Mission Catholic Imagination and Spirituality

We were able to successfully celebrate our Opening School Mass where our Year 6



## Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

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The School provides an educational program based on and taught in accordance with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) syllabuses for Primary Education. The Key Learning Areas (KLAs) are English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education.

The Curriculum is structured around the outcomes and content for each learning area and general capabilities for learning across the curriculum including literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology, critical and creative thinking, ethical behaviour, personal and social competence and intercultural understanding.

St Pius X Primary School, Windale, provides high-quality educational programs to honour its commitment to quality Catholic education and enable each child to reach their full potential.

Our highly qualified and passionate team of educators is dedicated to tailoring their teaching methods to meet the individual needs of each student. We recognise that every child learns differently, and we embrace this diversity by implementing a range of engaging and innovative teaching approaches that inspire a love for learning.

The curriculum at St Pius X, is based on that of the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). Students receive instruction in all key learning areas.

### Key Learning Areas

St Pius X offers a complete set of study areas to its students. For more information, click on the areas below:

- English
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) History, Geography
- Creative Art
- Personal Development/Health/Physical Education (PDHPE)

### Inclusive Practices

Inclusive Practice values the uniqueness and diversity of our children and focuses on being able to provide educational opportunities that may require adjustments and modifications in the school setting.

Identified children are categorised into three areas – PLP (Personalised Learning Plan), ILP (Individual Learning Plan) and Support Plan students. These individualised plans focus on the needs of each child in accordance with NCCD guidelines. Identified children are supported in class according to each individualised plan. Support takes place within the classroom and can occur during small group work with the inclusion support staff.

St Pius X has a Learning Support Teacher whose role is to work collaboratively with educators, children, parents and various outside agencies to support the process of providing inclusive practices in our classrooms. Student Learning assistants also provide support to children in the provision of inclusive practises. Much of their work involves supporting children who require adjustments in the classroom and assisting with the implementation of various programs as required.

Classroom teachers are the primary educators responsible for the overall learning and development of your child. The Learning Support Teacher works closely with all teaching staff at St Pius X Primary School to ensure that these individualised plans are implemented ensuring the best possible outcomes for your child.

#### Indigenous Education

At St Pius X Primary School, Windale we provide opportunities for members of the school community to enhance their appreciation and knowledge of Aboriginal Australia and Aboriginal Spirituality. Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education teacher Georgia Kirkland, provides additional support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through their education and assists them in developing their full potential, targeting the Key Learning Areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

#### Gifted Education

St Pius X stands as a Gifted Education Lead School within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Our foremost mission revolves around identifying gifted learners and nurturing their talents through tailored learning opportunities, comprehensive training, and dedicated practice. Our commitment to academic excellence extends to all students, with a particular focus on meeting the unique needs of gifted learners.

To ensure the realisation of our vision, we have a dedicated Gifted Education Mentor (GEM) Kerrie Murphy and a dedicated Gifted Education Committee. Together, they collaborate with teachers to collect and analyse data, pinpoint students' strengths and areas for improvement, and devise appropriate strategies to cater to individual needs. We firmly believe in differentiating the learning experiences in all classrooms, ensuring that every student receives the targeted support they require to thrive.

Under the guidance of our GEM, our students have the chance to develop vital skills and strategies while

encourage students to delve deeper, exploring knowledge in a critical and meaningful manner.

At St Pius X, we are dedicated to nurturing the potential of every gifted learner, fostering a community where excellence thrives, and boundless possibilities await. Together, we embrace this exciting journey of learning and growth.

#### Learning Hub

The heart of St Pius X Primary School is our Learning Hub. Led by our Teacher Librarian, Kasey Gibbs, and



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NAPLAN RESULTS 2023		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	40%	64%
	Reading	40%	74%
	Writing	60%	66%
	Spelling	100%	69%
	Numeracy	40%	68%



## Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

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### Pastoral Care Policy

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

The Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy 2022 aims to provide a framework for the policies, programs, resources and practices implemented at system and school level with the purpose of supporting and enhancing the wellbeing of students, and all within its school community. It refers to the overall climate of care that exists within a Catholic school.

The environment is designed to be safe and inclusive, one that promotes academic rigour. A high priority is given to building and 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,

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of the philosophy, procedures, and actions that guide behaviour management within our school community. Through collaboration and understanding, we strive to create a positive and nurturing environment that fosters the holistic development of each student at St Pius X.

# 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 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

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- To document procedures for Kinder Friendly Club and transition to

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# 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

## Financial Statement

This School Financial Information is based on the detailed information provided to the Commonwealth Government in the Commonwealth Financial Questionnaire.

School Financial Information for the 2023 year is detailed below:

Recurrent and Capital Income 2023	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants <sup>1</sup>	\$1,464,561
Government Capital Grants <sup>2</sup>	\$0
State Recurrent Grants <sup>3</sup>	\$416,306
Fees and Private Income <sup>4</sup>	\$61,084
Interest Subsidy Grants	\$0
Other Capital Income <sup>5</sup>	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,941,951</b>

Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2023	
Capital Expenditure <sup>6</sup>	\$136,090
Salaries and Related Expenses <sup>7</sup>	\$1,642,106
Non-Salary Expenses <sup>8</sup>	\$419,299
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$2,197,495</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.



