

2023



St Columba's Primary School

## About this report

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St Columba's Primary School (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), Maitland-Newcastle. The Annual School Report (the 'Report'), provides parents and the wider community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. Additionally, the Report complements and is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the School community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the learning and wellbeing of its students.

Detailed information about the School's improvement journey is documented in the Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) which is developed, implemented and evaluated in consultation with key stakeholders. Further information about the contents of this Report may be obtained by contacting the School directly or by visiting the School's website. Information can be also be obtained from the My School website.

## Message from key groups in our community

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### Principal's Message

Our students have enjoyed success in their achievements across the academic, cultural and sporting areas. They flourish in an environment that provides expansive learning activities and the opportunity to perform and grow. We enjoyed the opportunities that opened up through 2023. The school has a rich spiritual life that celebrates our Catholic traditions, is centred on the teachings of Jesus and the charism of our founders, the Mercy Sisters. We are guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, especially focused on through daily prayer, meditation, staff and student opportunities to recognise and develop their spirituality, liturgical celebrations and by embedding the Mercy values in all that we do. Our school community has benefited from the strong support of parents and the wider community. Families and the staff worked and communicated effectively and positively throughout the year and we were able to successfully implement student lead conferences as a part of our processes. The staff is continuing with ongoing

The classrooms are good learning environments. They have learning walls and bump- it- up walls so you can improve your learning.

They have lots of sporting opportunities like swimming carnivals, athletics, soccer and netball gala days and the cross-country.

The new playground is so much better because more people can use the basketball than before.

## School Features

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### History of the school

Established in the 1890's by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Columba's Primary School continues to serve the needs of the Catholic community of Adamstown. The school proudly maintains its close connection with the Mercy order and its charism. Since the retirement of Sr. Mary Regina Donoghue in December 1986, the school has been staffed by lay teachers apart from the recent addition of Sister Paula Volchek as a pastoral care worker. We have 8 straight classes. Three demountable classrooms with additional outdoor learning space have been added to accommodate our students. Enrolment stands at 196 students with two streams in one grade and strong enrolment in all other classes. Additional teaching staff include a Learning Support teacher who provides expertise in additional needs, supporting students and teachers across all grades, as well as four Learning Support assistants who provide in-class support for teachers, enabling greater access to differentiated learning. A Gifted Education Mentor (GEM) provides professional and learning support to gifted learners and their teachers, across the school. An Aboriginal Education Teacher and an English as an Additional Language or Dialect teacher, raises awareness and supports the school community in celebrating our Indigenous and multicultural heritage whilst assisting the academic growth and cultural development of our Indigenous students. We look forward to an ongoing range of improvements to our outdoor learning and play spaces and all the benefits this will bring for our students.

### Location/Drawing Area

St Columba's Primary School mainly draws students from the suburbs of Adamstown and Adamstown Heights, Kotara, Merewether, Broadmeadow and Hamilton. However, we also have students who live in other areas and where family circumstances require a placement in our school. Our school is a part of the All Saints Blackbutt South Parish which also

# 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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- Staff Development Day on Mathematics
- Weekly Staff Meetings, Stage/Faculty Meetings and PLTs/Collaborative Planning/PLCs

# Catholic Identity and Mission

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Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-

- hospitality
- compassion
- justice
- courage

Our Mission and Vision statements reflect the Catholic Schools Mission Statement of "At the Heart of Everything, there is always Jesus Christ". St Columba's Vision statement is "Faith, Opportunity and Inspired Learning for every child."

## 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 Columba's continued to be engaged in the Leading Learning

# Student Performance in Tests and Examinations

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## NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia participated in the National Assessment Program Literacy

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[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

## 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



## 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 to be resolved satisfactorily. Addressing such matters within a framework of dignity, respect and truth can provide powerful opportunities to model the love of Christ in the reality of our contemporary world. CSO monitors the implementation of this policy.

The full text of the [Complaints Resolution Policy](#) may be accessed on the School's website, the administration office or at the CSO website.

## Initiatives promoting respect and responsibility

In 2023 our Pastoral Care worker Sr Paula continued the Seasons for Growth program with both infants and primary. This program promotes the high level of respect we have for students social and emotional health and through the program, children learn some strategies about coping with change and things they are/are not responsible for. Positive feedback from this program was received.

The executive staff at St Columba's worked alongside executive staff at St Columban's Mayfield to plan a collaborative professional development day where learning walks and talks and case management meetings took place. For this day to be successful a shared understanding of respect and commitment to professional conversations had to occur. The day began with learning intentions, success criteria and agreed norms. The outcome of the day was a shared understanding of the fact as employees of Maitland Newcastle Catholic Diocese, we have a shared responsibility and commitment to the learning of all students, not just the ones in our classroom at our school. Coming together to share knowledge, expertise, ideas and experiences, resulted in teaching staff walking away with practical strategies to use with their students and a wider network of colleagues to liaise with.

Our students gained a greater understanding of respect and responsibility through the establishment of the "LCM" club - "Let's Create Mercy!"



# School Improvement

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The School implements the system's review

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Following the "identified areas for improvement" on the School Religious Literacy Plan.  
Targeted approaches to teaching Religious Education from Kindergarten



develop our skills in all periods of learning such as physical, spiritual and our general knowledge."

### Teacher satisfaction

The staff express satisfaction with the expectations, support and current direction of the school. The staff team works together to improve outcomes and provide for the learning and growth of all the students at the school.

Staff are encouraged to share their skills and abilities and are committed to the welfare, growth and development of all students. The staff of St Columba's agree that the school has a strong Catholic Identity and that teaching and learning is of a high quality.

Staff are welcoming and friendly

St Columba's has a highly supportive and cohesive staff.

This year we gathered for a Formation Retreat with a social evening attached to it. This

## 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>	\$2,699,249
Government Capital Grants <sup>2</sup>	\$0
State Recurrent Grants <sup>3</sup>	\$715,117
Fees and Private Income <sup>4</sup>	\$581,524
Interest Subsidy Grants	\$0
Other Capital Income <sup>5</sup>	\$145,846
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,141,736</b>

Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2023	
Capital Expenditure <sup>6</sup>	\$19,877
Salaries and Related Expenses <sup>7</sup>	\$2,765,031
Non-Salary Expenses <sup>8</sup>	\$1,384,224
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$4,169,132</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.

