

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

2017

St Mary's Primary School
MAFFRA

REGISTERED SCHOOL NUMBER: 1664



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Contact Details

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT EDUCATION ID (Formerly known as DEEWR number)	1163

Minimum Standards Attestation

I, Jason Slattery, attest that St Mary's Maffra is compliant with:

- All of the requirements for the minimum standards and other requirements for the registration of schools as specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007 (Vic), except where the school has been granted an exemption from any of these requirements by the VRQA.
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2017 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2013 (Cth).

07th May 2018

Our School Vision

At St. Mary's School Maffra, we are a Catholic School that strives to be authentic to the teachings of Jesus and the teachings of the Church. We aim to be an inclusive and nurturing community that respects, values and empowers each person to fulfil their dreams and potential.

We envisage a School that provides challenging, relevant and child-centered learning experiences. We believe that the social, emotional, moral, spiritual and physical wellbeing of our students is pivotal to student health, safety, learning and success.



School Overview

Bishop Corbett opened the original school in the parish of St Mary's in 1905. Under the care of the Sisters of St Joseph, the school was named St Joseph's and located adjacent to the Convent. The school moved to its new site in Duke Street in 1967. On February 4th 1968, Bishop Fox blessed and opened the newly name St Mary's Primary School. There have been several extensions and improvements since that time, the most recent being a major refurbishment in 2006 and a new library and technology centre in 2010.

Although the Sisters no longer teach in the school, it still retains many Josephite Traditions and is mindful of the debt it owes the Sisters of St Joseph.

In 2017 St Mary's completed a Strategic Improvement Plan for the next four years. This gave all stakeholders in the school community a chance to reflect, celebrate and be mindful of where and how school improvement needs to be addressed to support our current and next generations of students.

This includes

- A shared vision in the implementation *To Live in Christ Jesus*
- Teachers showing explicit learning intentions when addressing variability with each child in their class
- That Student Outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy are improved
- That the Leadership Team work collegially as a team and hold each other accountable for school improvement



Principal's Report

In 2017 St Mary's introduced some new Learning Strategies to address our Instructional Vision- 'Committing to improve student learning outcomes'.

The School Leadership Team after working closely with one another decided to change the school timetable in order for staff to discuss, plan, review and make recommendations together once a week. For this to occur a shift was made for all children be immersed in a variety of learning opportunities each Wednesday, These included: Performing Arts / Music, Sport, Art, Japanese, Technology and Science. These classes would see children give evidence of learning through Group-work, projects and individual directed tasks.

Wednesday Learning allowed all classroom teachers to meet together to discuss school data and importantly ensure the direction of the Diocese was in line with our own goals. The day involved reviewing data, planning for future lessons in Literacy and Numeracy and how the curriculum needs to be adjusted for individual children. Our parents were spoken to regularly and it was evident we had the support of the School Community.

St Mary's has continued with this timetable in 2018 with a full review occurring in Term Three.

With a number of new staff commencing in 2018 this will enable the review process to have a broader feedback base to plan ahead into the future. Our journey of School Improvement has been challenging, but all staff have agreed it was a process that was needed at St Mary's to improve student outcomes and also Culture.



Catholic Identity and Religious Education

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- That our school promotes a recontextualised and dialogical environment
- All teaching staff express deep understanding of scripture through a recontextualised and dialogic teaching practice in their planning
- Whole school plan RE units using a 'BIG IDEA' as a catalyst to make connections with the modern world of the children and the Victorian Curriculum through the use of a dialogical protocol
- Leadership Team to develop proficiency in using scripture as a focus for recontextualised learning in R.E.

Achievements

- Children have an obvious and purposeful role in designing, preparing and Implementing Liturgical Celebrations
- Displays in the school promote the liturgical cycle and Faith based learning
- Teachers more confidently plan collaborative Inquiry Units using a dialogical protocol
- Leaders attended "After the Data: Transforming Religious Education through Scripture with Professor Reimund Bieringer (KU Leuven)"
- Leaders are implementing "The normativity of the future" with staff to develop deep understanding of scripture

VALUE ADDED

- Holy Week Liturgy- as part of the Inquiry "Impact" Grade 5/6 wrote a comparative play about Forgiveness and presented alongside the Passion using the Gospel of John.
- Commitment Masses and Interactive Workshops for Reconciliation and First Eucharist involving parents and students
- The Social Justice group led the school in fundraising and various social events- Project Compassion, Socktober
- The Social Justice group participated in the first Mini-Vinnies conference in the area - hosted at St. Mary's and attended by St. Michael's Heyfield and St. Patrick's Stratford
- Liturgies for the Feast of Mary McKillop and ANZAC day were held at school.
- Mass for the school feast day was celebrated in combination with Grandparents day where children and Grandparents interacted together at school after a combined morning tea
- Graduation Mass
- Participation in the annual Peace Mass
- Mass for the End of the year combined with the work from the Social Justice group meeting with the leaders of the local St. Vincent de Paul society to organise a toy donation collection-these were presented at Mass
- Mass for the Sacred Heart of Jesus combined with Social Justice Group collecting Goods for St. Vinnies-these were presented at Mass
- Open Day during Catholic Education week where families were given a tour and information session

Learning & Teaching

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To improve student performance in each percentile in NAPLAN Reading in Year 3 and Year 5
- To improve student performance in each percentile in NAPLAN Numeracy in Year 3 and Year 5
- To build the teacher capacity of all staff at St Mary's

Achievements

Our main focus at St Mary's was to improve student learning outcomes and what support was required for teachers in order to meet the intended outcomes. After a major review of curriculum processes and student achievement it was recognised that our children needed were not meeting the benchmarks (in some cases) that they were capable of. From this review the Leadership Team after consultation with staff formed our Instructional Vision:

We are committed to improving student learning outcomes

Our staff now work more collaboratively which is supported in a Wednesday Learning Timetable with teaching staff working closely together to help shape our Instructional Vision. Student Data and the planning of the curriculum has been enhanced through Wednesday Learning together with a focus of ensuring Learning Adjustment is evident in teacher planning and preparation.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The overall NAPLAN results are generally consistent over the three year period but it does give teaching staff an idea on areas to become a focus for children.

It is pleasing to see that our goals of all children meeting the minimum standards in Reading and Numeracy were achieved. The ongoing goal for 2018 will be to improve the results from both the bottom 10th percentile and 90th percentile in Year 5 in Numeracy and Reading and in Year 3 an improvement in Reading and Numeracy in the 90th percentile.

The challenge for our school is to continue to build on the capacity of teachers to ensure a rate of progress for each child.

School Community & Student Wellbeing

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- That students become more actively engaged in their learning through a whole school approach to student wellbeing.

Achievements

In 2017 each child from Grade 2 through to Grade 6 worked in partnership with another child in the same grade to discuss school climate, learning goals and questions they had for the classroom teachers. A discussion every Friday before assembly followed which ultimately strived to improve the working climate and relationships between students and staff.

The principal held Communication Meetings twice a term for parents to act as way to explain the new direction of the school and how they can become involved in the overall learning process and development of the children. This proved to be very successful with an excellent attendance and positive feedback from parents. The school was also fortunate to have representatives of the Catholic Education office attend some of these meetings.

Regular Student Voice Meetings for senior children and the principal gave selected students the opportunity to have a voice and discuss the future directions of the school. It was pleasing to see mature approach each selected child displayed in the meetings.

The school promotes regularly for children to arrive at school by the beginning of the school day at 8.55am. If this is not occurring this results in disruptions to the class.

Late arrivals need to report to the office and signed in by a parent. If a child is absent for the day a phone call or note via the school APP needs to be sent on the day of absence and a short note when the child returns to school.

If an absence becomes a frequent occurrence the principal will ring for an appointment with the family.

VALUE ADDED

School Choir
 Communication Meetings
 Student Voice
 Buddy Program
 Sporting Events
 Musical Productions
 Camps
 Variety of Masses
 Art Show
 Winter Sport
 Community Relationships Program
 Catholic Education Week

STUDENT SATISFACTION

This year we had three areas as major focus points from last year's data-

- Eagerness to learn
- Student Motivation
- Purposeful Teaching

All three areas increased substantially but we would like to further improve to all areas within the top 25% of schools within two years.

PARENT SATISFACTION

When reviewing all of our data the parent opinion was the most satisfying from a leadership perspective.

Our school went from having 17 out of 19 areas at the bottom of the 25th percentile to having 17 out of 19 at the top 25th percentile.

Feedback suggests the parents at our school have confidence the school will continue to improve in learning, culture and partnerships.

Child Safe Standards

Goals and Intended Outcomes

St Mary's along with the Sale Diocese has been very proactive in ensuring all members of the School Community understand and agree to the purpose and principles of the Child Safe Standards. The purpose of the policy is to demonstrate the strong commitment of St Mary's to the care, safety and wellbeing of all students at our School. The policy takes into account relevant legislative requirements within the State of Victoria, including the specific requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards as set out in Ministerial No.870

Achievements

Following on the progress of last year the main achievement in 2017 was working closely with St Mary's Parish and Pastoral Team and Catholic Education Office to introduce a policy of use of the School Hall which was the old Church and is on school grounds.

From December 2017 it was Policy that the Hall could not be used during school times which further promoted our endeavour to ensure Child Safety.



Leadership & Stewardship

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To strengthen the capacity of staff to focus on an accelerated progress of learning for all students

Achievements

In 2017 the staff at St Mary's undertook a full review of the curriculum processes, planning, protocols, programs and strategies that were in place to assist children in their learning. As a Leadership Team we introduced the concept of working together each Wednesday to plan, review and monitor assessment of all students.

This has enabled the staff to target areas that need improvement and what programs and strategies may benefit the children in their learning. Between 9.00am and 1.00pm all classroom teachers are involved in professional learning that is aimed at student improvement through analysing data and setting goals for the coming week. Data Walls highlighting student achievement are discussed and linked back to outcomes.

EXPENDITURE AND TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

DESCRIPTION OF PL UNDERTAKEN IN 2017

Learning and Teaching Network
Collectives
CPR
First Aid
Religious Accreditation
Master of Clinical Teaching
Graduate Induction
Scope PD

NUMBER OF TEACHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN PL

18

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER TEACHER FOR PL

\$800

TEACHER SATISFACTION

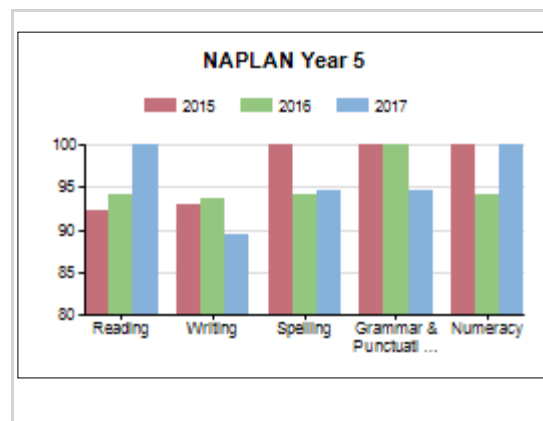
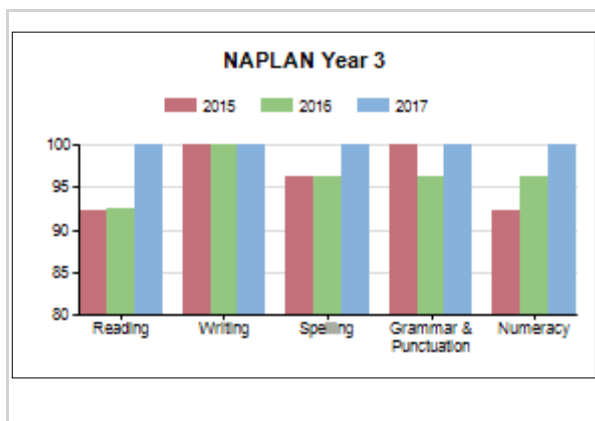
The Culture and School Climate from the perspective of the teaching staff is one area that has been very low. For 2018 a goal for our staff is to have Role Clarity and Learning improve from the percentiles of 7.7 and 2.2 to rise to above 20.

Currently the percentile level of Empathy and Engagement are 0.6 and 3.4. Our goal is to have both cultural pillars to also be above 20.

We believe we have a strong and united Leadership Team who will work towards attaining these goals with all staff members.

VRQA Compliance Data

PROPORTION OF STUDENTS MEETING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS					
NAPLAN TESTS	2015 %	2016 %	2015 - 2016 Changes %	2017 %	2016 - 2017 Changes %
YR 03 Grammar & Punctuation	100.0	96.3	-3.7	100.0	3.7
YR 03 Numeracy	92.3	96.3	4.0	100.0	3.7
YR 03 Reading	92.3	92.6	0.3	100.0	7.4
YR 03 Spelling	96.2	96.3	0.1	100.0	3.7
YR 03 Writing	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Grammar & Punctuation	100.0	100.0	0.0	94.7	-5.3
YR 05 Numeracy	100.0	94.1	-5.9	100.0	5.9
YR 05 Reading	92.3	94.1	1.8	100.0	5.9
YR 05 Spelling	100.0	94.1	-5.9	94.7	0.6
YR 05 Writing	92.9	93.8	0.9	89.5	-4.3



AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE BY YEAR LEVEL	%
Y1	92.86
Y2	93.05
Y3	93.12
Y4	92.71
Y5	94.34
Y6	92.00
Overall average attendance	93.01

TEACHING STAFF ATTENDANCE RATE

Teaching Staff Attendance Rate

83.46%

STAFF RETENTION RATE

Staff Retention Rate

62.50%

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Doctorate

0.00%

Masters

14.29%

Graduate

21.43%

Certificate Graduate

0.00%

Degree Bachelor

71.43%

Diploma Advanced

28.57%

No Qualifications Listed

0.00%

STAFF COMPOSITION

Principal Class

4

Teaching Staff (Head Count)

22

FTE Teaching Staff

14.255

Non-Teaching Staff (Head Count)

14

FTE Non-Teaching Staff

12.370

Indigenous Teaching Staff

0

NOTE:

The School's financial performance information has 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.