

2019 ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS AND COMMUNITY

JUNE 2020



Contextual Information

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School is a co-educational primary school from Kindergarten to Year Six, serving families within the north-eastern suburbs of Perth in the Mercy tradition. Situated next to St Gerard Majella Church, the school is committed to providing an outstanding faith filled education to all in a safe, secure and caring environment. Members of St Gerard's Catholic Primary School live out the School Motto of 'Truth, Love and Mercy', where each person is encouraged to develop their full potential as a living witness to Christ.

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School is committed to developing the whole child. This includes the intellectual, physical, social, emotional and faith development of all and is accommodated through the differentiated learning programs offered.

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School aims to meet the learning needs of a diverse multicultural cohort of students which is reflected in the learning programs. This begins with a play-based emphasis in the early years and moves into the purpose built, flexible, open classrooms from Year 1 to Year 6, particularly supporting students where English is an additional language.

All elements of the school are designed to strengthen and enhance learning opportunities across all curriculum areas, to promote collaboration, foster creativity and problem-solving skills and drive a strong focus on literacy and numeracy.

Contemporary resources and excellent facilities are a feature of the school environment. With upgraded playing facilities, nature play areas and sporting fields, students learn both indoors and outdoors. Teachers are well supported with the latest teaching tools and resources, including technology, to deliver a curriculum that is relevant, and student centred.

Learning areas offered by specialist teachers include Information and Communications Technology, Physical Education, Library Studies, STEM, Italian and The Arts. This is further supported by the school's homework club and many extra-curricular opportunities in sport, music and service.

The staff aim to work with each family as valued partners in their child's education to meet the needs of all whilst at St Gerard's Catholic Primary School.

Dear Members of St Gerard's Catholic Primary School,

The Australian Government accountability regulations require schools to report information on school performance to their community. The headings listed below are the mandatory areas that are required to be reported on annually to members of our School Community.

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School Data 2019

Teacher Qualifications	<p>All teaching staff members are registered with the Teachers' Registration Board of WA and all staff have their Working with Children Check.</p> <p>The following is a breakdown of qualifications of Teaching Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Education (11 Staff Members) • Diploma of Teaching (2 Staff Members) • Graduate Diploma of Education ECE (1 Staff Member) • Graduate Certificate of Education – Learning Difficulties (1 Staff Member) • Master of Education (2 Staff Members) 																	
Workforce Composition	<p><u>Teachers</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Male</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Female</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Full Time</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part Time</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Non-Teachers</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Full Time</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part Time</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Male	Female	Full Time	2	7	Part Time	0	6	Full Time	1	2	Part Time	0	7	<p>There are no indigenous Staff</p>	
	Male	Female																
Full Time	2	7																
Part Time	0	6																
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Student Attendance	<p>Compulsory Years PP- 6 = 159 students Average Attendance Kindy to Year 6 = 95.32%</p> <p>The average attendance percentage for students:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">• Kindy = 89.92%</td> <td style="width: 50%;">• Year 3 = 94.26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Pre-Primary = 92.65%</td> <td>• Year 4 = 94.84%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Year 1 = 91.75%</td> <td>• Year 5 = 96.16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Year 2 = 91.26%</td> <td>• Year 6 = 95.53%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Student attendance is monitored on a daily basis and if a student is not at school without an explanation a SMS message is sent to the parent in the morning. Extended absence is reported to the leadership team who may wish to follow-up by contacting the parent. Written explanation is required for absence and if not forthcoming a proforma is sent home requiring a written reply. If attendance becomes prolonged, then the school principal and/or social worker may request an interview with the parents.</p>			• Kindy = 89.92%	• Year 3 = 94.26%	• Pre-Primary = 92.65%	• Year 4 = 94.84%	• Year 1 = 91.75%	• Year 5 = 96.16%	• Year 2 = 91.26%	• Year 6 = 95.53%							
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Post School Destinations	<p>From a total of 13 Year 6 students;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 - Servite College • 1 - John Septimus Roe College • 1 - Balcatta Senior High School • 2 - Dianella Secondary College • 1 - Girrawheen Senior High School • 7 - Mercy College • 1 - Overseas • 28 students in total graduated from St Gerard's Catholic Primary School in 2019 																	

Summary of NAPLAN Annual Assessments

The results of our students as captured by the NAPLAN Assessments which occur annually in Year 3 and 5 show growth occurring as the students move through the Primary School years. Interested parties are directed to the My School website at www.myschool.edu.au where NAPLAN information can be depicted in various formats including graphs, numbers and bands as well as showing student gain between Year 3 & 5 in reading and numeracy.

We believe that the teaching programs in place across the school, including the class teacher's programs, intervention through referrals, data analysis, observation surveys & testing, teacher and education assistant support, and extracurricular activities such as Homework Club are all contributing positively to student learning.

With continued enrolments of families newly settled in Australia and families with English as Additional Language or Dialect, the students' results through the NAPLAN Assessments are as expected and reflective of the students' developing English literacy skills. This being noted, the school continues to offer an outstanding education to every child.

These are the NAPLAN results for Years 3 & 5 for 2019:

<u>Year 3</u>	School Mean	Australian Mean
Reading	407	432
Writing	398	423
Spelling	419	419
Grammar & Punctuation	393	440
Numeracy	363	408

<u>Year 5</u>	School Mean	Australian Mean
Reading	503	506
Writing	476	474
Spelling	525	501
Grammar & Punctuation	500	499
Numeracy	483	496

Year 3

Year 3 had gains in Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy due to the dedicated programs implemented and the continued focus on students with English as an Additional Language or dialect (EAL/D). For our EAL/D students, accessing the questions being asked can be difficult and by using the EAL/D progress maps, individual learning plans and continued teacher development we will continue to support this area of our school. While the results are below the Australian Mean, the growth achieved by our Yr 3 students from their entry into the school is positive. Numeracy continues to be an area our students remain below the Australian Mean and this has been targeted through a more consistent approach to the use of mathematical vocabulary and mathematical support offered by the school.

Year 5

Our Yr 5 results highlight the growth our students are able to make once they have been given a solid foundation to educational concepts in the early years of our school. With growth in every area from 2018, we can see that once our students have overcome challenges with English being a second language or dialect, they are able to achieve outstanding results.

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction.

The work at creating a positive school culture by the staff is an ongoing focus at St Gerard's Catholic Primary School. This is centred in Christ and well founded in the Mercy Charism and traditions. Community satisfaction is gauged through surveys, interviews and enrolment data.

The benefits to our students' learning, created through improvements to the physical environment of the School continue to help shape many positive learning experiences for our students. Support structures are in place to enable students to build on their individual ability level and gain the required literacy and numeracy skills to operate successfully. This is measured through a range of diagnostic, summative and formative assessments along with observations and anecdotal evidence. Ultimately, it is through quality relationships with staff that students are able to learn to their full potential.

Again in 2019, the learning opportunities within the classroom were supported by the wide range of extra-curricular activities that are offered including special celebrations such as Harmony Day, Mothers' & Fathers' Day celebrations, liturgies and sacramental events, excursions, sports training, after school sports and Homework Club. Each were taken on enthusiastically by the students and their parents.

School Income

Interested parties can view details of the net recurrent income and capital expenditure of St Gerard's Primary School at www.myschool.edu.au and following the links from the school data tab.

Annual School Improvement

The following is a summary of St Gerard's Catholic Primary School's 2019 Annual School Improvement Plan, demonstrating the School's strategic direction and progress in these defined areas

LEARNING

In the area of Literacy, we will endeavor to improve student outcomes/achievement through the implementation of a whole school approach to the teaching and learning of reading comprehension and writing.

Some initiatives in this area include:

- Staff to become more fluent in the use of EAL/D (English as an Additional Language/Dialect students) Progress Maps and checking individual student progress in the areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading/Viewing and Writing.

In Numeracy we will endeavor to improve student outcomes for all students who are at or below national benchmark or stanine.

Some initiatives in this area include:

- A focus on mental fluency strategies.

ENGAGEMENT

We aim to continue to encourage more effective partnerships to support children's access, inclusion and participation in the school learning program

Some initiatives in this area include:

- Goal setting for education staff (Performance & Development);
- Implementation of ideas to invite families to share a language, food or cultural element with the students'; Develop a better staff understanding of the Cultural Competency Matrix which explores indigenous learning opportunities

ACCOUNTABILITY

For all staff to actively pursue their set professional goals.

Some initiatives in this area include:

- Staff Meetings;
- Professional Learning Community meetings;
- Committees;
- Quality Catholic School reviews;
- Goal setting (Performance & Development).

Leadership Team and teachers to engage in two-way reflection about teaching and learning process.

Some initiatives in this area include:

- Timetabled classroom involvement and reflective meetings.

DISCIPLESHIP

Increase the students' understanding and awareness of our vulnerable, poor and marginalised.

Some initiatives in this area include:

- Support of:
 - Term 1-Caritas
 - Term 2-Lifelink Day
 - Term 3-Aus Sudan Missions
 - Term 4-St Vincent de Paul
- Open enrolment policy of the vulnerable, poor and marginalized in our community and support through scholarship programs and the establishment of an affordable fee payment initiative.
- Faith Story & Witness opportunities for Staff.

Annual School Improvement Plan 2019 - Success Measures

- Key improvements within the teaching of literacy and numeracy.
- Provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the School.
- Provide opportunities for all staff to share their ideas towards school improvement initiatives.
- Increase our School participation in helping the poor, vulnerable & marginalised.

Annual School Improvement Plan - Key Goals for 2019

- To bring into focus the area of evangelisation through buddy class activities, praying the Rosary and Christian Meditation.
- To provide opportunities for Staff to explore the Cultural Competency matrix and expand our knowledge of Indigenous affairs.
- To encourage more effective partnerships to support children's access, inclusion and participation in the learning program
- To focus on developing confidence in students towards mental maths and developing student mental fluency.
- To implement the EAL/D Progress Maps to demonstrate student progress to parents.
- To make school culture an area of focus particularly in terms of well-being.

2019 St Gerard's Catholic Primary School Board

Chairperson's Report.

Good Evening and thank you all for taking the time to attend tonight. Firstly, I would like to thank the other members of the school board, Cristelia Duffy, Lien Le, Norberto Flamenco, Kaye Flamenco, Tom Monks, Moses Rogers & Fr Giosue who have provided their service and skills for the benefit of the school this year.

Due to the lower student numbers this year, classes were reduced with no 3-Year-Old Pre-Kindy program and combined 3/4 and 4/5 classes. Despite the changes in class makeup we were fortunate to be able to welcome two new staff members, Mr Evans as Year 4/5 teacher and ICT Coordinator and Miss Colliva as Year 6 teacher. Mid-year we also welcomed Mrs Barrow into the role of Finance Officer. St Gerard's is fortunate to have them as members of our school community.

With the addition of these new members of staff, we are again indebted to all the staff of the school who work continuously in the interests of our children. Our school leadership, teaching and support staff are a team of dedicated professionals devoted to delivering the highest standards of education that is tailored to the individual needs of our children. Their knowledge and care for our children facilitates the growth of every student and makes St Gerard's a very special place. Thank you all.

Many events have occurred over the school year from the Welcome BBQ Picnic and Information Night, Harmony Day Mass and Morning Tea, Faction Sports Carnival, disco, Open Night and Book Sale, Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, the various Sacrament Celebrations, special masses as well as the upcoming Christmas Carols. I thank everyone that helped strengthen our school community by being involved in these activities. I also encourage you to become more involved in enriching our school by sharing your talents and time, through serving on the P&F Committee and assisting with the activities and events, becoming a member of the School Board or helping in your child's classroom or elsewhere at the school and events.

The School Board has been privileged to be involved in many projects this year, including the implementation of the Low School Fees initiative, the approval of a new Children's Crossing on Majella Way (that will hopefully be in place by the start of the new school year), upgrades to safety and security to the school, through fencing replacements and upgrades to the school gates to allow remote access and separation of pedestrians and vehicles. The building of the new caretakers shed has also allowed this workspace and storage to be together in one easily accessible area. Other projects, completed in conjunction with the P&F, include new secure charging stations for electronic devices, the purchase and installation of the basketball ring and backboard, replacement of shade sails over playground equipment, ICT resources, and various library, sport and classroom resources and equipment.

A major 'project' for the School Board this year was undertaking the process of appointment of a new school principal. Members of the Board generously gave their time, knowledge and input into the process to ensure the best possible choice was made for the benefit of the school and our children. I would like to warmly welcome Mr Mitch Bristow who was appointed to the position of St Gerard's school Principal from 1 January 2020. I hope you all get the chance to meet with him this evening and welcome him to our St Gerard's school community.

Finally, as you would be aware, we are sadly farewelling Mr Mark Miloro who has been principal of St Gerard's for the past 12 years. We thank Mark for all his hard work and dedication to the school over his time here. During his time, he has overseen the successful funding and construction of the

new classroom block, toilets, library and hall. He was instrumental in ensuring the installation of the Nature Playground and has provided guidance and support to staff, students and families across his time at St Gerard's. We wish you well in your future endeavours and travels, you will be sincerely missed.

On behalf of St Gerard's School Board for 2019 I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2020.

Thank you

Clare Browne
St Gerard's School Board Chairperson 2019