

2020 ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS AND COMMUNITY

JUNE 2021



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 or Dialect (EAL/D).

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 2020

<p>Teacher Qualifications</p>	<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 (10 Staff Members) • Bachelor of Social Science (1 Staff Member) • Diploma of Teaching (3 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) 																		
<p>Workforce Composition</p>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Teachers</u></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;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part Time</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><u>Non-Teachers</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full Time</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part Time</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There are no indigenous Staff</p>	<u>Teachers</u>	Male	Female	Full Time	2	5	Part Time	0	8	<u>Non-Teachers</u>			Full Time	1	3	Part Time	0	5
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<p>Student Attendance</p>	<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 border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Kindy = 60.64%</td> <td>• Year 3 = 92.37%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Pre-Primary = 90.00%</td> <td>• Year 4 = 94.71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Year 1 = 91.45%</td> <td>• Year 5 = 94.27%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Year 2 = 92.13%</td> <td>• Year 6 = 95.96%</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 = 60.64%	• Year 3 = 92.37%	• Pre-Primary = 90.00%	• Year 4 = 94.71%	• Year 1 = 91.45%	• Year 5 = 94.27%	• Year 2 = 92.13%	• Year 6 = 95.96%										
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<p>Post School Destinations</p>	<p>From a total of 17 Year 6 students;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 - Servite College • 1 - John Septimus Roe College • 4 - Dianella Secondary College • 3 - Mercy College • 1 Kingsway Christian College • 17 students in total graduated from St Gerard's Catholic Primary School in 2020 																		

Summary of NAPLAN Annual Assessments

The NAPLAN testing for 2020 did not take place due the interruptions caused by COVID-19

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction.

The work of 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 2020, 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. To support our families, translators were engaged on occasions where required but always offered. EAL/D Learning Plans and EAL/D Reports were also produced.

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 2020 Annual School Improvement Plan, demonstrating the school's strategic direction and progress in these defined areas

LEARNING

In the area of Literacy, we endeavor to improve student outcomes/achievement through the implementation of a whole school approach to the teaching and learning of reading 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.
- To implement the EAL/D report for Semester 1 and Semester 2
- Work closely with CEWA Languages Coordinator to support the school EAL/D Leaders
- Implement Learning Plans for all EAL/D students
- Dedicate time to inform parents of their child's progress through dedicated EAL/D meetings and by engaging interpreters
- Ensure ALL staff receive professional learning on how to deliver the whole school writing process Talk 4 Writing

In Numeracy we 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.
- Development of a sequence of learning for Mathematical vocabulary
- Look into specific numeracy intervention programs to support our students and develop a support process that also delivers staff professional learning

Students engaged in online learning as the state was in lockdown. The student's wellbeing was also heavily focused on at this time.

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
- Due to COVID many of the engagement opportunities were cancelled or significantly reduced.
- A new Newsletter format was introduced which could allow it to be viewed online and on a smart phone
- Videos used to send information to families about events and important COVID information
- Students and families were supported heavily as the school implemented online learning

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.
- Look at other school's process for supporting a culture of growth for staff
 - Possible implementation of Growth Plans

School Board informed of the introduction of the new Catholic School Advisory Council Terms of Reference

DISCIPLESHP

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 to 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.
- Mercy Charism overnight retreat supported by Melissa Ciullio
- Support provided to families who were financially affected by COVID

Annual School Improvement Plan 2020 - Success Measures

- Key improvements within the teaching of literacy and numeracy measured by the Assessment Schedule
- Provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the school in meaningful ways
- 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 2020

- To bring into focus the area of evangelisation through buddy class activities, praying the Rosary and Christian Meditation.
To further promote the Mercy Charism at every opportunity
Continue to work with our Parish Priest to promote the Catholic faith and develop the Catholic Identity of our school.
To engage in service learning opportunities for our students
- 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 report progress to our parents using EAL/D Progress Maps and the EAL/D Report
- To make school culture an area of focus particularly in terms of well-being.

2020 St Gerard's Catholic Primary School Board

Chairperson's Report.

Good evening and welcome.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to attend tonight, your support and presence is appreciated. I would firstly like to thank the members of our school community who volunteered to serve on the School Board this year, Cristelia Duffy, Lien Le, Norberto Flamenco, Tom Monks, and Moses Rogers. I thank them for their time, commitment, service, and skills that they have shared for the benefit of our school. Their service has ensured that the school remained supported throughout the unusual and at times difficult circumstances of this year.

When COVID-19 threatened to interrupt the normal school program both an 'Incident Team', to respond to any possible infection and a 'COVID-19 Taskforce', to provide support and prepare for the delivery of remote learning programs were set up. These ensured that the necessary processes were in place to ensure safety and that ongoing learning could be achieved. Thank you to all who contributed and were involved. Additional cleaning and hygiene practices were also implemented both in the classrooms, other internal areas, and the playgrounds. Thank you, Mr Quick, for undertaking this additional cleaning to ensure the health and safety of our school. Students were also advised about the need to take care of their personal hygiene and were reassured of their safety at school. Staff ensured that cleanliness was maintained, and hygiene practices followed. Parents were also notified of all the practices in place and the supports available to them and their families. These practices ensured that school could continue to operate as normal as possible for our children.

During this time, the staff upskilled to develop and produce remote home learning programs and work packages. They collaborated and supported each other and worked tirelessly to produce these physical and online learning packages, so that our children could continue their learning at home when schools were mandated to close. Once the school was directed to close, staff distributed learning packs and delivered lessons online. They inquired about and developed students' wellbeing, and they contacted families to check in on them and how they were faring. This support of our students was guided by the leadership team headed by Mr Bristow and Mrs Vivante. They provided guidance, support, and care towards staff, families, and children. They maintained a supported, calm, connected and informed community across this turbulent time. They acted responsibly and compassionately to ensure both the physical and mental wellbeing of our school community. The Board thanks you for your leadership across this period.

Reflecting on all of this has once again highlighted just how privileged we are at St Gerard's Catholic Primary School. We have highly skilled, hardworking, compassionate, and dedicated staff educating and caring for our children. Their individualised knowledge and care of our children has ensured continued educational, spiritual, and emotional growth for all students despite the difficulties encountered this year. Thank you once again. The Board would also like to thank Fr Giosue who has provide support to the school and parish community during this difficult time. After restrictions were lifted, he worked to ensure the students undertaking the sacramental program were able to receive the sacraments in the parish this year.

Despite the difficult circumstances of the year The Board continued to meet, at times utilising Zoom, to support and work with the leadership team, to assist with the financial management of the school, to implement improvements and to plan for the future. Some of the projects supported by The Board included: the repair of reticulation system and laying of grass around the new Pre-Primary playground, new flag poles, new plantings and relocation of plants to Kindy and Pre-Primary areas, removal of dangerous tree from Pre-Primary area, painting of Kindy fencing to make area brighter and more welcoming (Thanks Ms King for all your hard work in painting this and thank you also to Miss Collova for assisting), expanding of walkway paving near oval to improve safety, removing of fencing and relocation of plants from garden on oval area, painting of Pre-Primary fence by year 10 students from Mercy College to make the area more welcoming and brighter. Thank you all, development and updating of new school website, online newsletter, school logo, name, and signage to better promote the school and reflect its values, new IT Leasing for 2021-2023, development of the behaviour support plan, painting of administration block, library resource room and multipurpose room (to be undertaken in upcoming school holidays), and the refurbishment of library resource room, restructure of the leadership positions to include two Assistant Principals and other staffing changes. The Board also received confirmation that the school crossing on Majella Way will be installed over the upcoming school holidays.

The Board would also like to acknowledge the service of staff departing St Gerard's Catholic Primary School this year:

Mrs Fitt who departed earlier in the year to undertake a role supporting a student at Newman College. Thank you for your time supporting our Year 1 and 2 students.

Miss Collova who is moving to Whitford's Catholic Primary School in a classroom teaching role. We thank her for her service to our school, the positive attitude she displays and the calm way she provides guidance and support to our upper school students. We wish you all the best in your new role.

Mrs Laurence who is retiring after 13 years at St Gerard's. She has taught and encouraged many, many children and across the years has undertaken roles including Year 2 classroom teacher, Reading Recovery Teacher, support teacher, Year 5 classroom teacher and involved in the promotion and celebration of Aboriginal culture and heritage. She has worked tirelessly and has positively influenced, supported, and inspired many over her time here. We wish you a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Mrs Vivante who is moving to Our Lady of Lourdes in the position as Assistant Principal. Congratulations on your appointment and thank you for all your hard work at St Gerard's. You are a great leader who inspires and supports others. You always have the needs of the children at the forefront and have had a positive impact on our school community. We wish you all the best in your new position.

The Board would also like to welcome new staff that have commenced this year:

Mrs Melissa Billy-Rooney in the role of Transforming Lives Engagement Officer and Mrs Jacque Barns as Year 1 and 2 Education Assistant.

Further we welcome staff members who will commence at St Gerard's in the new year, a new upper school classroom teacher, as well as Mrs Lisa Meyers as Assistant Principal and Mrs Natasha Gregory as Assistant Principal. We look forward to getting to know them better and welcoming them to our school community.

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School continues to be a school of choice, with strong educational and faith values that seeks to encourage our children to grow and develop to become the best versions of themselves. We thank the leadership team, teachers, education assistants and support staff for working together with our families to build a positive school community.

On behalf of St Gerard's Catholic Primary School Board for 2020 I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2021.

Thankyou.

Clare Browne
St Gerard's Catholic Primary School Board Chairperson 2020.