

2021 ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS AND COMMUNITY

JUNE 2022



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 Physical Education, AUSLAN, Science, HASS 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 2021

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"> • Masters Degree (6 Staff Members) • Bachelor of Arts / Education / Science (13 Staff Members) • Graduate / Diploma in Education (5 Staff Members) • Diploma in Education / Teaching (4 Staff Members) • Certificate of Instructional Leadership (2 Staff Members) 																		
Workforce Composition	<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;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part Time</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</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;">4</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	8	Part Time	0	5	<u>Non-Teachers</u>			Full Time	1	4	Part Time	0	5
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Student Attendance	<p>Compulsory Years PP- 6 = 184 students Average Attendance Kindy to Year 6 = 93.07%</p> <p>The average attendance percentage for students:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Kindy = 89.79%</td> <td>• Year 3 = 93.22%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Pre-Primary = 91.45%</td> <td>• Year 4 = 94.37%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Year 1 = 91.21%</td> <td>• Year 5 = 95.38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Year 2 = 93.76%</td> <td>• Year 6 = 95.39%</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 = 89.79%	• Year 3 = 93.22%	• Pre-Primary = 91.45%	• Year 4 = 94.37%	• Year 1 = 91.21%	• Year 5 = 95.38%	• Year 2 = 93.76%	• Year 6 = 95.39%										
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Post School Destinations	<p>From a total of 19 Year 6 students;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 - Servite College • 1 - John Septimus Roe College • 2 - Dianella Secondary College • 7 - Mercy College • 1 - Australian Islamic College • 1 - Mater Dei College • 1 - Bob Hawke College • 2 - Ashdale Secondary College • 1 - Kingsway Christian College • 19 students in total graduated from St Gerard's Catholic Primary School in 2021 																		

Summary of NAPLAN Annual Assessments

At St Gerard's Catholic Primary School, we use our NAPLAN data to evaluate our programs, align whole school initiatives and focus on individual students to ensure that everything we do is driving student growth and development and all resources are supporting our goals.

Literacy

In 2021, the NAPLAN data for St Gerard's Catholic Primary School was taken from two sources, the My Schools website and the Power BI application. The data shows that in 2021, the Year 3 cohort made incremental progress across all areas of literacy, when compared with similar schools (similar SEA score and similar 'background'). The My Schools website shows that the Year 3 cohort are 'close to' the achievement of students from similar backgrounds. However, the Year 5 cohort showed a downward trend in all areas of literacy when compared with similar schools.

The majority of students in both Year 3 and 5 are above the National Minimum Standard for all areas of literacy, with strong effect sizes (demonstrating cohort growth over the years 2019-2021) between 1.18 (Year 5 Reading) and 1.47 (Year 5 Writing) which is above the effect size growth for other CEWA schools.

In 2022 the school appointed a Leader of Literacy to support all teaching and non-teaching staff to develop in evidence-based, best practice pedagogy relating to Literacy instruction. Furthermore, the introduction of Student Learning Meetings in Semester One has provided an opportunity for all teachers to meet regularly with the Assistant Principals to analyse data (individual, class, whole school), discuss learning programs and undertake coaching. An ongoing focus will be to continue to embed the whole school writing approach – Talk for Writing – across the school from Kindergarten to Year 6.

Numeracy

Overall, our results indicate there has been growth in academic achievement in the Mathematical Learning Area. There has also been marginal growth across the 2018 Year Three students to the same cohort of students in Year Five in 2021. In viewing the data in the Mathematical Learning Area across calendar years, a downward decline across both Year Three and Year Five cohorts is evident. To address this overall downward trend, a Leader of Numeracy has been appointed to drive school improvement in this area. An area of future focus will be on building the mathematical language to support students understanding of mathematical questions and to build the students capacity in the four mathematical proficiencies of Fluency, Understanding, Problem Solving and Reasoning.

With continued strong enrolments of new arrivals and families with English as a Second Language, the students' results through the NAPLAN Assessments are reflective of the students' developing English as a Second Language.

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 2021, 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.

In 2021 the school community completed the NSI School Climate Survey. This survey is conducted by an independent body and targets three subsections of the school. These include,

1. School Staff
2. Student Voice
3. Parent Community,

The results of this thorough data collection process were outstanding, and the following areas were highlighted as areas of strength.

- Inclusion for all
- Celebration of our faith traditions
- Student engagement and learning
- Staff relationships with students and families
- Support for families in need

The following areas were highlighted as areas of growth.

- Continuing to include all staff in the decision-making process.
- Helping students with difficult social interactions
- Offering parents the opportunity to connect even more with the school (COVID has impacted this).

The independent body conducting the survey on behalf of the school made a particular point in highlighting the astronomical increase in parent participation from 5 parents in the last survey cycle to over 50 in the current one.

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 2021 Annual School Improvement Plan, demonstrating the school's strategic direction and progress in these defined areas. A robust evaluation process was conducted by the staff to determine success criteria and to celebrate achievements.

Evangelisation Plan Goals

- To promote the Catholic ethos of our school by understanding the Charism.
- Understanding service and discipleship as members of our Catholic community.

Aboriginal Education Plan Goals

- To provide a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are (imbedded, practiced, lived).
- Staff are confident to teach the Aboriginal perspective across all learning areas because of their own personal knowledge and commitment to providing a culturally safe environment.

Curriculum Plan Goals

- Supported by the Curriculum plan, children will improve learning outcomes.
- Use data to inform the teaching and learning practices that occur.

English as an Additional Language or Dialect Goals

- EAL/D students will demonstrate growth against the EAL/D Progress Maps.

Early Childhood Education Goals (QIP)

- Develop quality outdoor teaching space.
- Leverage our understanding of the benefits of quality outdoor environments to support effective learning outcomes.

Information and Communication Technology Goals

- Staff will feel supported and confident in using DT in their classroom. Their digital pedagogy will be supported by training, coaching, scope and sequence and additional resources.

Wellbeing Goals

- Students, Staff and Community will feel supported and heard in a safe school environment by the introduction of programs and activities by the Wellbeing and Leadership team. This will be measured by a wellbeing survey/feedback processes later in the year.
- This will show feedback as to if our goals and current wellbeing activities are working within the school and community.

2021 St Gerard's Catholic School Advisory Council AGM

Chairperson's Report.

Thank you to everyone for attending today's AGM. I cannot believe how fast this year has flown by, with the school year ending in just a few short weeks. The most amazing thing is, as a parent, to watch our children grow and develop under the guidance and care of the dedicated teachers and staff of this school.

I have been fortunate to be involved with school board and through its transition towards an advisory council. This year started with lingering effect of COVID-19 where the staff and student adapted to this new normal. The strength and resilience shown by whole school is nothing less than stellar.

Throughout this year, we have seen nothing less than amazing professionalism and focus by the all staff of this school in carving a pathway of stability for our children in this continuing uncertain time. As a Board we have worked with Mr Bristow in defining our future. To develop and enhance our school identity and to galvanise our position in the local community.

This year we have managed to build on the school's legacy by identifying the future needs and as such the master plan was created. I will not go into this any further as you probably have heard enough from Mr Bristow, but all I can say is watch this space or rather that space over there as the school transform.

St Gerard would not be the school that it is without the teaching and support staff. Furthermore, it would not be where it is without the dedication of the school's leadership team.

First off, I would like to thank the backbone of the school, these are the people that make the school tick along without letting anything get in their way. I would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Quick, Mrs Barrow, and Mr Quick. Without them, the gate would not open, the telephone enquiries will not be attended to and we will probably be audited to an inch of our life.

Then to the most important people in this school, and no Mr Bristow it is not only you, but to the teaching staff and assistant principals. This school could not have function without your dedication to the profession. I and I know I speak for the parents at this school, thank you. It is greatly appreciated that you have gifted our children with a little bit of yourself. Through this we have seen the seeds of curiosity, resilience, love, compassion, knowledge, and leadership sprout and grow.

And... now it is your turn Mr Bristow. Thank you, for your energy, focus and determination. We look forward to working with you over the coming 12 months on the Advisory Council.

It is also with sadness that we have to say goodbye. I like to farewell Ms Liz Di Carlo and Ms Joy Gordon. We wish you all well as you pitch your umbrella over the coast and sip your well-deserved 'special drinks'. Thank you for your dedication and commitment.

I also would like to acknowledge and thank the following people who have made significant contributions over the past years. Thank you to

Christina La Cava
Julie Goode
Brendan Evans
Amanda King
Megan Jenkins; and
Carly Vartesi

You will all be missed.

Also, I would like to acknowledge Fr Giouse for his generosity, leadership, and guidance over the years. And to extend our welcome Fr Daniel.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the parent and guardians that form part of this community. You all play an essential role to the success of this school, and I will end with this final remark by using a Dr Seuse quote: sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.

Mr Tom Monks
St Gerard's Catholic Primary School Advisory Council Chairperson 2021.