

2024

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT



St Brigid's Catholic Primary School

8 Tooloon Street, COONAMBLE 2829

Principal: Mrs Gai Gilmour

Web: <http://www.stbrigidscoonamble.catholic.edu.au>

About this report

St Brigid's Catholic Primary School (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst (CEDB). CEDB as the 'approved authority' for the diocesan registration system formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act (1990), is responsible for monitoring the compliance of member schools in the manner that has been approved by the Minister of Education.

The Annual School Report (the 'Report') demonstrates accountability to regulatory bodies and CEDB. 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 faith formation, learning and wellbeing of its students.

The Report provides parents and the wider community with fair, reliable and objective information about educational and financial performance measures as well as School and system policies. This information includes summary contextual data, an overview of student performance in state and national assessments, a description of the achievement of priorities in the previous year and areas for improvement. Detailed information about the School's improvement journey is documented in the School 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

Principal's Message

2024 continued the growth and progress of St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Coonamble. Underpinned by Catholic values, our school works to encourage students to live like Jesus did. Our charisms of Strength and Gentleness from the Brigidine History of which we are proud are developed within our students and promoted through our daily living.

St Brigid's worked to ensure high-quality learning for all students. In addition, we worked with the community to promote our school and its achievements.

In 2024, St Brigid's was a single-stream primary school with classes from Kindergarten to Year 6. With a growing school population of around 160 students, we are big enough to provide diversity and small enough to care. Each of our students is treated individually to ensure the best outcomes.

Our staff is diverse and experienced, and new teachers make up our teaching team and support staff.

During 2024, our students achieved commendable results in a variety of areas. Students experienced academic growth, as reflected by our Naplan Results. Students reached representative levels for various sports and took part in lessons for music from the Macquarie Conservatorium to learn guitar. We showcased our students' dance and drama talents in our end-of-year Presentation Night Performances.

St Brigid's continues to strive to provide high-quality education for all individuals in a Christ centred environment encouraging the growth of the whole student.

Parent Body Message

St Brigid's is a Catholic School with a reputation for High Standards in the local community. They state they are proudly Catholic and the teachings of Jesus underpin the philosophy and operations of the school and all aspects of the curriculum, including our pastoral care and discipline.

There are a range of practical strategies to provide a welcoming and inclusive community. The growth in enrolments is a reflection of the positive interactions the school has with the community. Parents spoke positively about the reactive and proactive support provided by the school for their children and them.

Student Body Message

Student voice is evident in a variety of project-based activities across the school. E.g. SRC, Year 5 and 6 St Patrick's Day event.

Student-led, faith-inspired initiatives are integrated into the school's operations in response to contemporary social justice issues (e.g. Year 6 led St Patrick's Day). Teachers make learning links between faith, life, and culture through the formal and informal curriculum.

School Features

St Brigid's caters to students from Kindergarten to Year 6. In 2024 St Brigid's commenced two classes of Kindergarten in order to cater for the needs of thirty six Kindergarten students. Diverse students who require accommodations to access the regular curriculum and whose needs can be met by our school are also embraced as part of the school community.

Students who have previously attended Coonamble Community Preschool, Coonamble Children's Services, Smartkids and Coonamble Public School Preschool often seek enrolment at our school. Families moving to Coonamble also consider us as a choice for their child's education.

Our school is part of the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Coonamble and part of the Diocese of Bathurst. Currently, Bishop Michael McKenna is heading our diocese. St Brigid's was the first school founded by the Sisters of St Brigid when they arrived from Ireland in 1883. They commenced education for the students of Catholic families in the community. The charism of Strength and Gentleness

St Brigid's P&F is a strong group of interested parents who wish to be involved in the education of their children. It is a voice for parents to guide the school and represent parents in decision-making. Every odd year, St Brigid's holds a school fete. This is due to be held in 2025.

Parental involvement is also encouraged through volunteering at the school canteen, helping with reading groups in the lower grades, coaching sporting teams, attending Masses and school celebrations, and accompanying excursions, to name a few. At St Brigid's, we believe education is a partnership between parents and the school.

St Brigid's benefits from programs such as Sporting Schools. We also work with the Macquarie Conservatorium to access weekly guitar lessons for students via zoom.

Each class or year at St Brigid's has an excursion which takes place during the year and provides them with access to facilities or places beyond the local community. During 2024 the following excursions took place:

- Kinder - Dubbo Theatre
- Year 1 - Baradine Sand Structures
- Year 2 - Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo
- Year 3 - Warrumbungle National Park
- Year 4 - Coonamble Weir and Warren Wetlands and Aboriginal History centre.
- Year 5 and Year 6 - Canberra

These excursions support students' in-class learning while providing various stimuli for associated tasks.

In 2024, further school modifications took place to allow the commencement of Kindergarten classes. This saw Year 2 move to the rear building or Block B which has traditionally been the Primary building. Year 2 settled well with the Kindergarten classes utilising the upstairs classrooms in the front building and Year 1 occupying the downstairs classroom.

Student Profile

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 2024:

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
83	70	5	153

* Language Background Other than English

Enrolment Policy

Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst has an Enrolment Policy for Systemic Catholic Schools in the diocese. The policy has been developed in the context of government and system and parish requirements. Children from families who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church may be considered eligible for enrolment. Total fees are made up of a Single School Fee (which incorporates local costs), the Capital Works Levy and Subject Specific Costs. A pastoral approach is adopted for parents experiencing genuine difficulty with the payment of fees. Information about enrolling may be accessed through the [Diocesan website](#) under the About Us drop down menu - see Policies tab or by contacting your local Catholic School.

Student Attendance Rates

The average student attendance rate for the School in 2024 was 88.72%. Attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group						
Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
88.86	88.16	88.15	89.77	88.53	86.60	90.98

Managing Student Non-Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. The School, in partnership with parents, is responsible for promoting the regular attendance of

students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, School staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

School staff, under the Principal's leadership, support the regular attendance of students by:

- providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the School community
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance
- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise.

The Principal is responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by ensuring that:

- parents and students are regularly informed of attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance
- all cases of unsatisfactory attendance and part or full day absences from school are investigated promptly and that appropriate intervention strategies are implemented
- documented plans are developed to address the needs of students whose attendance is identified as being of concern
- the Executive Director of Schools and designated CEDB Safeguarding Officer are provided with regular information about students for whom chronic non-attendance is an issue and for whom the School's strategies have failed to restore regular attendance.

Staffing Profile

Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2024:

Total number of staff	22
Number of full time teaching staff	8
Number of part time teaching staff	6
Number of non-teaching staff	8

Total number of teaching staff by NESA category

Teachers at this School are accredited as conditional, provisional or proficient as defined by the NSW Teacher Accreditation Act 2004. Accreditation at the levels of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher are voluntary. The number of teachers within the Diocesan Schools System at these levels is as follows:

- 39 Conditional teachers
- 28 Provisional teachers
- 920 Proficient teachers
- 1 Highly Accomplished and Lead (HALT) Teacher
- 1 Lead Teacher
- 8 HALT Candidates

Additionally, there are 14 teachers who are currently actively engaged in the submission process at the higher levels of accreditation. Teacher status at individual schools can be sourced directly from the School.

Catholic Identity and Mission

Catholic Schools have a unique role in the evangelising and educating mission of the Church. Catholic Schools encourage and support parents in their responsibility for the faith formation of their children. This formation is supported by prayer and opportunities to participate in the life, mission and liturgy of the broader Catholic community.

The School follows the Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student resources *To Know, Worship and Love*, and *Understanding Faith*, as authorised by the Bishop of Bathurst.

Students in Years 6 and 8 in Catholic schools in the Bathurst Diocese undertake the Diocesan Religious Education Test annually. The test consists of multiple-choice questions with the results analysed by CEDB to inform diocesan teaching and learning in Religious Education.

Mission

Our mission at St Brigid's is to reflect our Brigidine Charism in all we do and centre our students in living like Christ. Our mission statement reflects this:

Living and Learning in Strength and Gentleness

Vision

As the first Brigidine School in Australia we will continue to focus on education through authentic and contemporary practice as a Catholic learning community to:

- Inspire
- Motivate
- Be inclusive
- Educate to shape the future

Our Catholic identity is linked to the life of the Parish, and as such, the school teaches students as they prepare to receive Sacraments as part of the local parish.

The school also regularly attends Mass and works with the resident Priest to ensure that the liturgy is authentic and regular.

The school promotes Diocesan events such as Rise and World Youth Day to staff and students to enhance their faith and foster spiritual development.

Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

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 (S&T), Human Society and its Environment (HSIE), Creative Arts (CA) and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). In addition to this, the School implements the Diocesan Religious Education syllabus. Staff members are committed to continuous improvement of teaching and learning in all facets of the curriculum.

St Brigid's implements and works towards meeting the outcomes of the NESA syllabi as mandatory in New South Wales. The subjects covered by these syllabi include English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, History and Geography, Physical Development, Health and Physical Education and Creative and Practical Arts.

The Religious Education Syllabus implemented is approved by the Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst using the recommended strategies and following the scope and sequence as prescribed.

In 2024 the new Maths Syllabus was implemented in all classes following the successful implementation in Kinder to Year 2 the previous year.

Due to an increase in challenging students, all staff also spent time with the CEDB Behaviour Team to develop knowledge on how to de-escalate a situation involving challenging behaviour to maximise the safety of staff and students in the school environment.

CPR is also essential training that all staff undertakes on an annual basis during our school year. All staff are required to attend this.

Student Performance in Tests and Examinations

NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia participated in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The purpose of NAPLAN is to provide information to parents and teachers about the achievements of students in literacy and numeracy. The test provides a measure of the student's performance against established standards and against other students in Australia. Each year the results are analysed by the school to inform teaching with a view to improving student performance.

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards with 4 levels of achievement to give teachers, parents and carers clearer information on how students are performing:

- Exceeding: The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- Strong: The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- Developing: The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- Needs additional support: The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

The percentage of student achieving at Exceeding and Strong proficiency standards in NAPLAN at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School for 2024 is reported in the table below.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2024		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 3	Grammar and Punctuation	60%	54%
	Reading	70%	66%
	Writing	70%	77%
	Spelling	55%	61%
	Numeracy	60%	64%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2024		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	83%	65%
	Reading	83%	71%
	Writing	56%	67%
	Spelling	44%	68%
	Numeracy	67%	68%

Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

Pastoral Care Policy

The School's Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing policies, guidelines and procedures are underpinned by the guiding principles from The Australian Student Wellbeing Framework (ASWF) that represent fundamental beliefs about safe, supportive and respectful school communities. These guiding principles emphasise the importance of student safety and wellbeing as a pre-requisite for effective learning in all Catholic school settings.

Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework provides a vision and guiding principles that assist school communities to develop positive school cultures that promote student wellbeing and develop respectful relationships. It assists schools to identify priority areas and measure progress in the development of safe school communities. The diocesan Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework assists schools in:

- planning, implementing and maintaining a safe, supportive and protective learning community that promotes student safety, pastoral care and wellbeing
- creating teaching and learning communities where all members of the School community are safe from harassment, aggression, violence and bullying
- responding to new and emerging pastoral care and student wellbeing challenges.

The Diocese of Bathurst Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework was revised in 2024 and is now titled Student Wellbeing Framework. The Framework can be accessed at [Student Wellbeing Framework](#).

The full text of the School's Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Policy and procedures may be accessed on the School's website. Changes made to the policy are notified to the community via the School's newsletter.

Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy

The School's Behaviour Management and Student Discipline policies and procedures are aligned to the diocesan Student Wellbeing Framework. The School's policy operates within a context that all members of the school community share responsibility to foster, encourage and promote positive behaviour and respectful relationships. The policy aims to promote a safe and supportive learning environment to maximise teaching and learning for all students. It supports the development of positive social behaviour based on respectful relationships and clear behavioural expectations. The dignity and responsibility of each person is

promoted at all times along with positive student behaviours while ensuring respect for the rights of all students and staff.

The full text of the School's Behaviour Management and Discipline policies and procedures may be accessed on the School's website. Changes made to the policy are notified to the community via the School's newsletter.

Anti-Bullying Policy

The School's Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures are based on and informed by Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst policies for Diocesan Schools and are aligned to the Student Wellbeing Framework. All students, their families and employees within Catholic education have a right to a learning and work environment free from intimidation, humiliation and hurt. Anti-Bullying policies support school communities to prevent, reduce and respond to bullying.

The full text of the School's Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures may be accessed on the School's website. Changes made to the policy are notified to the community via the School's newsletter.

Complaints Handling Policy

Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst has a Complaints Management Policy which is implemented across the diocese. The policy recognises that at times misunderstandings, differences of opinion, and complaints and grievances will occur, and that these need to be resolved. 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.

The Policy and procedures reflect the legislative responsibilities and demonstrate our diocesan commitment to protect the safety and wellbeing of students while supporting our employees and volunteers working with children and young people in our educational context.

The full text of the Complaints Management Policy may be accessed on the school website or by contacting Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst.

The full text of the Complaints Management Policy may be accessed on the school website also.

In addition to this policy, there are also policies and procedures related to Child Protection, Code of Conduct and Whistle Blowers. All of these are available through the CEDB website and the school website.

Community Satisfaction

- The opinions and ideas of parents, students and teachers are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving improved outcomes for students. This year 2024, the School has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, students and teachers.

Additionally CEDB undertakes extensive surveying of all stakeholder groups through annual School Improvement Surveys. This data is used to further inform school improvement.

Both Data and Comments from these School Improvement Surveys are summarised here.

Parent satisfaction

Parent responses were positive and examples below indicate this:

- "Upgrades to the school offices and buildings. Safe place for kids to be schooled. Recent employment of a male teacher has been a positive step. He has been a fantastic addition to the team, encouraging children in different arenas (class- sport). He has been a positive impact being a male and adding some diversity to the teaching team."
- "Well mannered students at the school."
- "I feel the principal is an amazing leader having my 3 children attend through out the years an is always approachable. And as she is a strong leader all others follow an all teachers are extremely approachable and get to know the individual child."
- "Well done on implementing the introduction of acknowledgment of country. It would be a step forward to get the children in involved in this process as well. St Brigid's is a welcoming environment and the children are always put first. I noticed the change over the past term, with the school exploring new options for the children (i.e music lessons) thank you! We are very lucky to have devoted teachers & staff, keep up the great work!."

Student satisfaction

Here are examples of student responses to our survey:

- "Everything is great at our school."
- "Makes sure that students are happy about their work."
- "Teachers engage with us in games."
- "The teachers are kind people who care about our learning and achievements."
- "It helps you learn in areas you need. It gives you extra time to finish your work."

- "The school is good at giving children good classrooms, work and opportunities."
- "They do well with sport activities."
- "They help and care for others."
- "There is a lot of support for children with learning difficulties here."
- "The teachers look after the environment, and the teachers look after the kids."
- "Our school is very involved in religious activities."

Teacher satisfaction

Teacher satisfaction examples:

- "A welcoming environment for children and parents. Pastoral care is excellent. Understanding and extremely supportive and helpful leadership team. Never too busy to help with whatever you need both professionally and personally."
- "Teachers care for their students and work to provide a safe, happy learning environment for them."

Financial Statement

School Financial Information is based on the detailed information provided to the Commonwealth Government in the Commonwealth Financial Questionnaire.

School Financial Information for the 2024 year is detailed here:

Recurrent and Capital Income 2024	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants ¹	\$2,291,320
Government Capital Grants ²	\$0
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$590,303
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$346,897
Interest Subsidy Grants	\$0
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$65,209
Total Income	\$3,293,729

Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2024	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$963,395
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$2,210,373
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$1,067,610
Total Expenditure	\$4,241,378

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.

END OF 2024 REPORT