

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Donnybrook



Annual School Performance Data 2022

The following information is a Federal Government requirement and pertains to the 2022 calendar year.

Vision

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Donnybrook is committed to empowering our school community to become compassionate, confident and capable individuals. Our inspiration and strength to achieve this, comes from our mutual support and the sharing of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Contextual Information

St Mary's School is a Catholic co-educational school catering for students from Kindergarten through to Year 6. St Mary's is concerned with the development of the whole child and as such develops the spiritual, academic, personal, social and emotional well-being of all students. Students are taught in single classes with Year 3 and 4 being composite. A differentiated curriculum ensures that the individual needs of each child are met.

In 2022, specialist subjects were offered in Languages (Auslan), Science, Physical Education, Humanities and Social Sciences and The Arts. iPads and Apple TV's can be found in each classroom. The school provided a 1:1 ratio of iPads in Years 3-6. 1:2 ratio of iPads to students in Years 1 and 2.

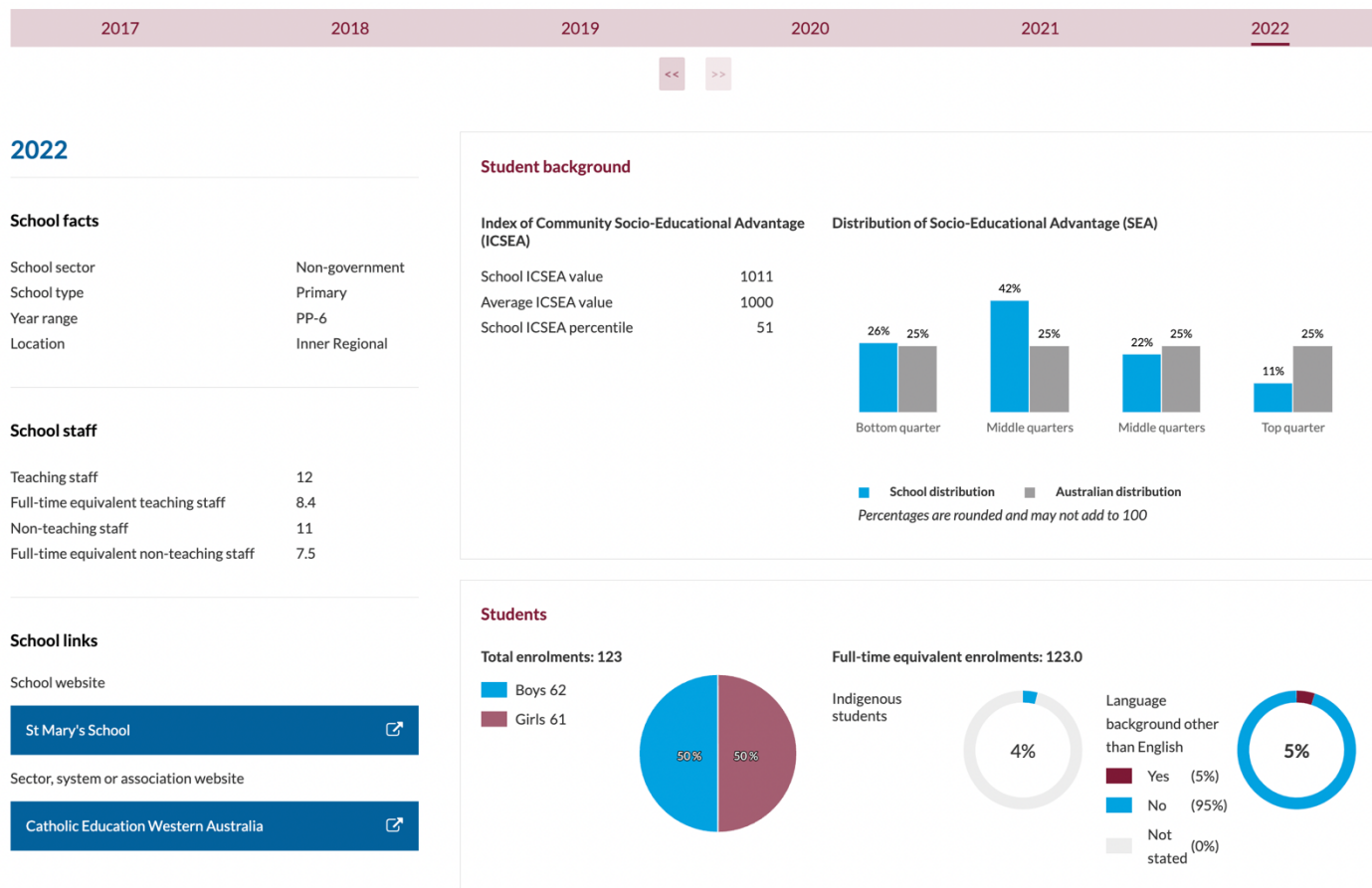
The school has excellent home-school relationships with parents taking an active role in all aspects of the school's daily operations. St Mary's develops the leadership qualities of students through the various roles on the student council. The Year 4/5 and 6 students are part of the student leadership team focussed on being a voice for the student body and leading whole school activities such as prayer and assemblies. There was a whole school focus on the eight Mercy values in the school; being courage, forgiveness, compassion, respect, service, justice, excellence and determination.

The school is supported by a committed group of parents who form both the Schools Advisory Council and the Parents and Friends Association, and whom support the school by attending school and community events.

In 2022, the school, community and wider population faced many challenges associated with Covid-19, these including potential for lock down and home learning, vaccine mandates, COVID-19 testing, higher than usual costs associated with relief staff and larger than normal student absences. These things combined made for continuity of learning challenging. Our Year 3 and 5 students participated in NAPLAN in 2022, along with other school and standardised assessments. In school assessments formed the basis for reporting to parents.

In 2022, St Mary's participated in Catholic Education's Low Fees Initiative. This initiative was designed to support schools in securing future enrolments and make Quality Catholic Education financially available to those who otherwise may not be able to afford non-government schooling for their children.

The following information regarding student demographics was taken from the MySchools website and can be found at <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>.



Teacher Standards, Qualifications and Workforce Composition

St Mary's Catholic School employs 24 staff (including part-time, full-time, cleaning and grounds roles). Collectively, the qualifications held by staff and the numbers of teachers who hold these qualifications are:

Diplomas	8
Bachelor Degrees	12
Graduate Certificates	2
Master's Degree	2

Staff Composition

Male	5
Female	19

Non-teaching staff (including grounds and cleaning)	12
Teaching staff	12

Expenditure and Teacher Participation in Professional Learning

All staff participated in Professional Development (PD) opportunities in 2022. A sample of PD opportunities included:

- Religious Education Accreditation – Faith Formation
- APRE days Bunbury Diocese
- Making Jesus Real
- Talk for Writing
- Strategic Planning
- Mandatory Reporting
- First Aid
- Work Health and Safety
- Gate Keeper Suicide Prevention
- Asthma and Anaphylaxis Training
- Code of Conduct
- CPPA Conference
- CEWA Leaders Forum

From the School’s audited accounts for 2022, \$15,135 was spent on Professional Development for staff..

Key Student Outcomes Student Attendance:

In order for students to reach their full potential it is important that they attend school regularly. Whilst it is the parents’ legal duty to ensure their children attend school regularly, our staff as part of their duty of care monitor attendance each day. The Class Roll is marked via SEQTA every day. Unexplained absences are followed up promptly by staff. Parents are requested to provide a satisfactory explanation for an absence by means such as a written note, telephone call, SMS message or email to the school preferably on the first day of absence. The principal is made aware of sustained student absences or absences reflecting a pattern. In these situations, the principal or delegated staff member contacts the parent/guardian. Parents are encouraged to arrange medical and other necessary appointments outside school hours. Prolonged periods of absence occur from time-to-time for various reasons. In these cases, students and their parents meet with the principal to discuss the leave request. The average student attendance rate for the school during 2020 is shown in the following table.

Kindy	Pre-Primary	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School
85.24%	87.96%	86.44%	85.81%	87.84%	84.63%	90.02%	92.37%	87.54%

2022 NAPLAN Information

The 2022 NAPLAN data shows that the academic program provided at St Mary’s is close to those schools with students from similar backgrounds.

There is no growth data available as Year 5 students sitting NAPLAN in 2022, did not sit NAPLAN in 2020.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Compare to	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Students with similar background		<input type="radio"/> All Australian students			
	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy	
Year 3	425	407	379	401	400	
Year 5	520	480	495	492	513	

NAPLAN participation for this school is 82%
 NAPLAN participation for all Australian students is 95%

Interpreting the table

Selected school's average when compared to students with a similar background

- Well above
- Above
- Close to
- Below
- Well below
- No comparison available

Image captured from <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>

Value Added

St Mary's CPS offers a wide variety of opportunities outside the classroom, which allow students to grow and develop. Such activities include:

- Year Six School Camp
- Children's Book Week Parade
- Western Australia Book Week celebrations
- School Faction Carnivals
- Interschool Athletics
- ANZAC Day Service (both school and community services)
- Excursions
- Incursions and Performing Artists' visits
- Missions Fundraising
- Visiting Sporting Clinics
- Winter Carnival
- End of Year Concert

Parent, Student and Staff satisfaction

St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools focus on building community and parent engagement means the school is a well-respected and central part of the Donnybrook community. Staff have refined their practice and further developed the evidence-based decisions made during their time in the Fogarty EDvance program. Staff morale is high, and this has been supported by the numerous climate surveys and feedback opportunities the school has been involved in. Parents are happy too and support the school both through the Schools Advisory Council and Parents and Friends committee. Community events are always very well supported, though this was challenging during the early parts of the year. Staff model respectful relationship and as such our students enjoy coming to school and are engaged in their learning.

Post School Destinations - Year 6 Destination Schools 2022

School	Number of Students
Donnybrook District High School	2
Bunbury Baptist College	1
Bunbury Catholic College	19

Financial Information

The ACARA website www.myschool.edu.au hosts the My School profile of Australian schools. Visiting this site gives further comparative information including financial data.

School Improvement Plan

The school had a number of goals as outlined in its annual School Improvement Plan (SIP). These included:

- Staff Faith Formation – Through prayer, participation in Mass and opportunities for faith formation, the staff were challenged to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus.
- Making Jesus Real – The school leadership team further developed a Making Jesus Real culture in the school where Christ alive in the school is made visible through words and actions.
- Letter and Sounds – Staff from Kindergarten to Year 3 continued to implement the Letters and Sounds program. This systematic synthetic phonics program is an evidence-based reading instruction program teaches students to read letters and their sounds as the building blocks for effective reading.
- Prime Mathematics – All staff have been trained in Prime mathematics and it is being delivered from Year 1-6. Prime is a world class explicitly taught Maths program based on effective teaching and learning practices developed by top performing nations in international studies.
- Talk for Writing – All staff completed further training in the delivery of the Talk for Writing program. The school developed, through professional development, a whole school scope and sequence and lesson planning documents.

2022 Reports

Principal Report:

Well, what a year 2022 has been. Leading up to the commencement of school, things were looking strong. To complement our existing staff, we had a number of new teachers commencing; some willing, able and ready to share their knowledge gained over many years in education and some just starting out, energetic and ready to tackle their new role. We also had a new leadership team who started the year learning about high performing teams and what it takes to become one. Things were looking positive.

However, COVID reared its head early and government restrictions dampened our start to the year. We had to cancel some events, modify others and again prepare for the possibility of online learning. From an administrative point of view, the year became burdened with changing directives, endless online briefings and updates, constant parent communication, vaccination spread sheets and online processes for the reporting of COVID-19. From there it became about contact tracing and the administering of official health department isolation directives, as well as dealing with large student and staff absences making continuity of learning and practice across the whole school very tricky. When I reflect on this time, I am filled with pride at how flexible and adaptable our staff were, and how they continued to provide for our students and each other despite the challenges and sometimes personal battles that they were facing. At some stage throughout the year, everyone had their turn at the bottom, but in true testament to the staff culture we have built at St Mary's, there was always someone there willing to say. "I've got you" or "I've got this." I would like to offer our staff my sincerest appreciation for their efforts throughout the year.

From a strategic point of view, the school has continued to improve in line with our strategic direction. The building and painting program was completed for the commencement of the year and will now be maintained over the next six years. We have two new playgrounds being developed over the December/January holidays which should be completed in time for the students return in 2023. I would like to extend my appreciation to the School Advisory Council who have been instrumental in getting these

initiatives off the ground. I would also like to extend my appreciation to our P&F, Donnybrook Amcal Life Clinic, Donnybrook Chamber of Commerce, Donnybrook Community Bank and the number of anonymous donors whose financial support have contributed to the playground development which will benefit our students for many years to come.

At the beginning of Term 2, we completed a school climate survey. The climate survey sought feedback from parents, students and staff regarding school operations, teaching and learning, and culture and wellbeing. Overall, the results were very positive. Most notably for our parents was that we provide a welcoming school environment. For our students, it was their connectedness to school and low social harm. For our staff it was job satisfaction. Our biggest areas for improvement included parent engagement and feedback on academic performance. Both of these could be expected given the challenges we have faced this year, however, we will continue to build upon them in 2023.

This year we have focussed on developing our culture within the school and have tried to bring to life the eight Mercy values (forgiveness, courage, respect, compassion, service, justice, excellence, and determination) in everything we do. We have implemented the Making Jesus Real framework and many great initiatives, including Random Acts of Kindness Week, student leadership development and many social justice opportunities. Our Mercy values have influenced everything we do at St Mary's from our Student Code of Conduct, to our behaviour management plan, to our MJR awards and rewards system. Our students understand what is expected of them and I am continually in awe of their willingness to accept and care for others in the school. We really do have some great students at St Mary's.

Early on this year, we were fortunate enough to secure a place in a cohort of 30 schools implementing the RULER approach to social and emotional learning. RULER is an acronym which stands for Recognise, Understand, Label, Express and Regulate our emotions. It is a framework with useful tools that will allow us to support our students in developing their emotions literacy and self-awareness. Emotions drive our learning, decision-making, creativity, relationships, and health so it is important that we support our students in developing the skills and strategies that are going to help them to become more emotionally aware and able to enact their best selves when dealing with challenging or problematic situations. Our staff have been developing their understanding of the RULER approach this year and are looking forward to implementing it with our students next year.

This year, our senior leadership team including Mr Luke Skehan, Mrs Jo Wright and myself have been working with a leadership consultant from Catholic Education hoping to position ourselves as a high performing team, who complement each other's strengths and areas for growth, who are wise in our decision making and available to support our staff and students, and who inspire hope and positivity around our school. Recently, we completed a feedback process where our staff were able to offer their thoughts on our leadership across a number of measures. We were the first senior leadership team in our system (Catholic Education) to embark on this journey, and the only ones in our system who have sought feedback as part of commitment to growth and development as a team. This process itself was very affirming and has provided us the opportunity to reset our goals and refocus on the future needs of our staff and school.

This year we have had 20 students move through our sacramental programs (Confirmation 7, First Holy Communion 5, Reconciliation 8). The school continues to be a beacon of hope for our parish, and I would like to offer my gratitude to Fr Joseph for his support and guidance throughout the year. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Mrs Jo Wright, Mr Luke Skehan and Mrs Eileen Thomson for their contributions in coordinating the sacramental programs this year.

Throughout the year, we have continued to provide our students with many opportunities to compete and develop their skills across many physical activities and sports, including involvement in community sporting clinics and carnivals such as the SW Cross Country Championships and the Slam Basketball Carnival. We also

hosted our first ever Swimming Carnival and won the 2022 Interschool Athletics Carnival. Thank you to Mrs Pettersen for her efforts in coordinating the carnivals and clinics this year.

In Term 3, our Year 3 and 5 students sat NAPLAN. NAPLAN is a measure of students reading, writing and mathematics ability. Whilst we did see some improvements in our class averages across most assessments, we agree there is still much work to be done. Our school data including DIBELS, PAT testing, Easy Mark and various screening tools suggests that our students are growing and learning, and that our alignment to the Science of Reading approach (which includes evidence-based approaches to teaching, resourcing, assessment and intervention) are making a difference.

Our staff have continued in their knowledge and understanding of Talk for Writing. This year we have worked with Dyslexia Speld Foundation (DSF) to create both unified whole school planning documents and whole school unit planners. Writing club and class walk through's have allowed for the sharing of practice and the development of common approaches. This will be an area of continued development in 2023.

We have also looked closely at our pedagogical approach to the teaching of Mathematics and are revising our practice for 2023, which will include transitioning from Prime Maths to iMaths. Prime Maths is an explicit program that has served a purpose at St Mary's for many years now, however, we believe it has become too rigid for continued student improvement. The iMaths program will still allow for the explicit teaching of new concepts, but also has an online component that students can access, is better aligned to the Western Australian Curriculum, has greater opportunities for extension and support, and has inquiry style activities that allow students to be creative, to problem solve and to use their skills being developed in differing scenarios. The teaching and learning team at Catholic Education is going to support us in this transition, as well as the writing of a Mathematics position statement.

Next year, we will also be offering a new STEM program for our students in Years 1-6. STEM is an approach to learning and development that integrates the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Through STEM, students develop key skills including problem solving, creativity, critical analysis, teamwork, independent thinking, initiative, communication and digital literacy. More information will come of this new initiative in 2023.

Unfortunately, this year, we say goodbye to Mrs Emma Reynolds who is leaving her HASS position to spend greater time with her family, and in their family business. We also say goodbye to Mrs Nicola Cross who has been on maternity leave this year and fulfilling a contract at a school closer to her home next year. I thank both Emma and Nicola for their contributions to our school over a number of years.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to our School Advisory Council for their advice and support this year, and to the Parents and Friends committee for their efforts in friend and fund raising. A special mention must also be given to Tara Nietrzeba for her efforts with Meal Deals and to Brenda Aisbett for organising Book Club for our students.

Also, last but certainly not least, I'd like to thank our staff. Thank you for continually showing up each and every day, putting our students first and working hard to create a Christ centred and child focussed learning environment. Thank you to my leadership and administration team including Mr Luke Skehan, Mrs Jo Wright and Mrs Katja Humphries who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure school operations are in order and that we are continually striving to make St Mary's the best it can be for our students.

Next year we have increased enrolment numbers which is exciting. This may be partly due to our involvement in Catholic Education's Low Fees Initiative, but also because our staff have a shared vision and understanding for our students which has been widely accepted and appreciated by our community.

At St Mary's we aim to graduate confident, compassionate and capable members of society. There will be ups and downs along the journey, but we believe we have the people and processes in place to support our students in becoming the next leaders of society who are prepared to go out into the work and lead with their head, their heart and their hands.

Thank you all for your support this year, and I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas break with your family and friends.

Thank you

Andrew Gammon

SAC Chair Report:

On behalf of the St Mary's School Advisory Council of 2022, I would like to present our report to the school community. The ACM, School Report and the Principal's Report are a great opportunity to reflect on the outcomes and accomplishments of the past year (as well as the challenges which have been overcome), of which there have been many. Overcoming challenges, and achieving progress and success, is a team effort. And so, to the entire team of St Mary's Donnybrook, ably led by the leadership group of Andrew Gammon (Principal), Jo Wright (Deputy Principal) and Luke Skehan (Deputy Principal), a heartfelt thankyou is offered from the School Advisory Council.

Whilst the Principal's Report details the many successes, challenges and progress achieved over the year, special note is made of plans and funding for the new playgrounds, to be ready for student's return to school in 2023. With funding contributions from the School P&F, local Chamber of Commerce, local Bendigo Bank, Donnybrook Pharmacy and a number of anonymous donors, the playgrounds will be an exciting addition to the school grounds for next year.

To the team that helps make the school a place of community, and not just a place of education – the P&F, we thank you for your energy, enthusiasm, dedication and countless volunteer hours! In an era of ever decreasing 'free time', and with family life stretched between work, children, sport, home life and other community commitments, to volunteer your time to the P&F is a big undertaking and the School Advisory Council and the broader school community genuinely thank you for it.

To outgoing teachers and staff members over the course of this year – thank you all for your contributions, and to those teachers and staff incoming – welcome aboard.

Lastly, a very big vote of thanks goes out to the School Advisory Council members; those continuing, as well as those seeking re-election. Your advice, guidance and teamwork has been instrumental in the School community's success and progress over the past year.

As the end of the year draws closer, we begin to plan time with family and loved ones. Please be sure to travel safe and enjoy the festive season; 2023 holds much anticipation, hope and opportunity for us all.

Trustworthy and constant, Benjamin (Ben) Rose
Chairperson, St Mary's School Advisory Council