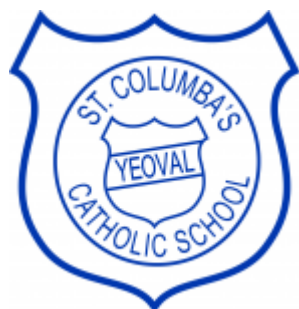


2024

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT



St Columba's Catholic Primary School

38 Forbes Street, YEOVAL 2868

Principal: Mr David Adam-Jones

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

About this report

St Columba'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

St Columba's is committed to providing a comprehensive Catholic education in a caring, family centred environment. We celebrate Catholic life and have a focus on Gospel values in the daily life of the school community.

Our core values include honesty, forgiveness, understanding, care, compassion, trust, respect, integrity, tolerance, acceptance and inclusion. The school recognises and celebrates God in everyday life. We strive to foster the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of each person. The school acknowledges the partnership between home and school as vital in building a vibrant school community.

St Columba's experiences success across all facets of school life. Whether it is on the sporting field, in the classroom or involvement in numerous community activities, the students continue to be upstanding role models for St Columba's and their families. Students strive to be successful in all facets of school life.

During 2024 students, staff and families have worked together in collaboration to ensure the learning of all students continued at high levels.

Congratulations to all of our students who continue to grow, learn and flourish each and every day and we look forward to continuing this journey in 2025. A special thank you to our school leaders who did a terrific job in setting such high standards throughout the year and I wish you well as you transition into the secondary schooling.

It has been a pleasure strengthening partnerships and working alongside the committed staff, supportive families and most importantly the wonderful students of St Columba's Catholic Primary School.

Parent Body Message

St Columba's Catholic School has, for many decades, maintained a very strong connection between the school and the parent body, represented by the Parents and Friends Association (P & F). In addition, the ongoing contribution of this school community within the broader Yeoval and surrounding district continues to be of significance and held in high regard.

The P & F provides the structure of an association for parents to be involved in activities which primarily involve fundraising additional funds to support and enhance the learning environment and opportunities for the students. The School's motto, 'Faith, Friendship, Futures' is core to the school community and referenced when identifying and prioritising goals and activities, together with practical maintenance that is required.

The very nature of a small school like St Columba's most often requires significant parental involvement in practical elements such as assisting in running carnivals, transporting children to excursions, carnivals etc. Larger events will always involve contributions from grandparents and local Parishioners.

The benefits of this extends beyond individual parents and school interaction, by allowing for the students and families alike to create bonds which typically last well beyond students' primary years. This is consistently demonstrated by the bond of former/past students with present day students and the importance of maintaining what is appreciated and embodied in our School's motto of 'Faith, Friendship, Futures'.

Student Body Message

St Columba's is a small school, and all students are involved in leadership activities and contribute greatly to the life of the school. We enjoy our buddy system which enables younger students to have the support from older students.

This year we were lucky enough to go on excursions to Dubbo Zoo and the St Joseph's Day event, 3-way sports carnivals with Cumnock and the Central School. These were fantastic opportunities.

There were a number of students who 'placed' highly in the annual Christmas Art competition, CWA public speaking and Spelling Bee participants. The Swimming and Athletics PP6 Relay team were successful and represented us at all levels.

We also had a nice farewell Mass, presentation day, lunch and Slip and Slide to finish off the year. It has been an action packed year in 'Faith-Friendship-Futures' and we hope that 2025 is just as good.

School Features

Yeoval is a small rural community with a population of 280 in the Central West of NSW. The school was established in 1929 and was operated by the Good Samaritan Sisters. In 1943 the Sisters of St Joseph arrived to take up the operation of the school. In 1975 St Columba's Convent closed after half a century of dedicated teaching and the sisters were replaced with lay teaching staff.

The two multi-stage classes at St Columba's consist of a wide range of ability levels and interests that stem from a variety of backgrounds. Almost all families have parents working full-time and all families rely on the agricultural industry as their main source of income.

St Columba's School strives for academic success. High achievement is celebrated and the school has a strong teaching priority for English and Mathematics. Provision of a well resourced learning environment at the school is another focus with each student being provided with a Chromebook to have access to online learning programs and capabilities to produce and share a variety of documents online.

A variety of stimulating extra-curricular activities are offered as part of our commitment to educate the whole child. These include the NAPLAN (all online except for year 3 writing), Diocesan Spelling Bee, University of NSW competitions, Country Women's Association Public Speaking, Christmas Art Competition, Sporting Schools grants.

The school values friendly competition, fair play, exercise and a healthy lifestyle and joins with two other local schools for swimming and athletics carnivals. St Columba's also enjoyed linking up with Dubbo schools when they participated in the annual Soccer Gala Day.

St Columba's had success with our 4 x 50m freestyle swimming team and 4 x 100m athletics (PP6) representing our Diocese and State level championships. Students in Term 4 engaged in Pottery classes and visited Orange to see the Archibald Prizes, participated actively in swimming and safety lessons at the Yeoval Pool and our older students visited Cumnock Oval for six weeks as part of our new Sporting Program. To conclude the year our students celebrated their learning and achievements with a Graduation Mass and then the community gathered together in the Yeoval Hall for the Dinner of Gratitude and Art Show. During the night, our older students worked as waiters serving to over 162 guests that included their

parents and wider community. The night concluded with speeches from our Year 6 leaders and cutting of the graduation Cake followed by a visit from Santa.

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
12	16	3	28

* 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 92.53%. 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
93.93	90.25	94.28	95.72	88.04	88.56	96.93

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	9
Number of full time teaching staff	2
Number of part time teaching staff	3
Number of non-teaching staff	4

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

Through the eyes of Jesus, we, at St Columba's Catholic School, strive to achieve high levels of learning for all. This is achieved through our School Motto "Faith Friendship Futures".

Faith – Through Gospel Values, we foster our faith with an understanding of its relevance to life and contemporary culture.

Friendship

In partnership with family, parish and community St Columba's is committed to the development of the dignity of each person and the nurturing of self-esteem.

Futures - In a Christ centred differentiated environment, St Columba's encourages high levels of achievement, inspiring students to be lifelong learners.

Vision

St Columba's Catholic School aims to provide a well-rounded high quality education that empowers students to achieve their potential and use their gifts to serve God and others. St Columba's celebrates all important feast days. Prayer is an important ritual in everyday school life with students having the opportunity to pray at the beginning and end of the day as well as before each meal break. All students and staff gather every morning for whole school prayer. Regular class visits from the Parish Priest reinforce and support Catholic values being upheld at St Columba's. Teaching staff follow the Religious Education Units from the Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst and teachers are enhancing their learning and teaching by incorporating Catholic values into their units for each Key Learning Area.

Each year commences with an Opening School Mass as a way of welcoming in the new year for the students, staff, families and community. The Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are celebrated throughout the year. The End of Year Mass concludes the year and allows us to celebrate as a school community and thank God for our achievements throughout the year.

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.

Teachers differentiate within their teaching programmes in order to meet these requirements and the needs of the students in their class. Teaching programmes and student work samples are collected by the principal each term in order to make sure that all requirements are being met.

A learning support program exists at the school to assist students needing extra help with literacy and numeracy and class teachers facilitate extension and enrichment activities for students. All students have a personalised learning plan which enables them to set goals to ensure to they are achieving high levels of learning.

Students then regularly check in with their teachers to monitor progress, receive feedback and seek support if necessary. St Columba's is very conscious of keeping abreast of Contemporary Learning in the 21st Century and the need to ensure the students are receiving a high quality Catholic education.

St Columba's is a Professional Learning Community where the teachers regularly meet, share and work collaboratively to improve student learning and achievement through data analysis of DIBELS 8th Edition, SA Spelling Test, Spelling Mastery, Waddington Reading and PAT Reading.

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 Columba'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	20%	54%
	Reading	40%	66%
	Writing	60%	77%
	Spelling	20%	61%
	Numeracy	40%	64%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2024		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	100%	65%
	Reading	100%	71%
	Writing	67%	67%
	Spelling	100%	68%
	Numeracy	100%	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

Parents were given the opportunity to complete a School Improvement Survey in May 2024. We had a positive response rate for families completing the survey. The average score from the three frameworks surveyed was a 4.4 out of 5. This indicates that parents are very satisfied with the quality Catholic education that St Columba's provides their students and families and would recommend our school to prospective parents.

Student satisfaction

Year 5 and 6 students were given the opportunity to complete a School Improvement Survey in May 2024.

Overall students were satisfied with the faith, learning, friendships and environmental aspects of St Columba's. The students were happy to promote the school as a wonderful place to learn and grow. An area to focus is the play equipment and improved sporting facilities, like a multi-purpose court, would be very much encouraged.

An area of great strength was the friendly nature of the school, and the teaching and learning that has been provided to the students of St Columba's. The school provides us with lots of different opportunities such as carnival, spelling bee, public speaking and ma

Teacher satisfaction

All teachers thoroughly enjoy teaching at St Columba's. This is evident in the retention rate of

teachers and staff and their willingness to participate in school activities and care for students.

Teachers are given the opportunity through regular meetings with the Principal and staff meetings to discuss any areas of concern and to collaborate on ideas and activities that enhance student Faith, Learning and well-being.

Staff completed a School Improvement Survey in May 2024 outlining some very positive responses to the questions. On average teachers scored 98% in the overall Net Promoter Score.

An area to focus into the future is improvement to our playground and infrastructure. A highlight from the data is that the 'Warm, friendly and welcoming Environment' of the school is evident and plays a huge role in the growth of the school.

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	\$873,231
Government Capital Grants ²	\$0
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$223,933
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$62,317
Interest Subsidy Grants	\$0
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$9,221
Total Income	\$1,168,702

Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2024	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$11,120
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$883,918
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$285,722
Total Expenditure	\$1,180,760

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