



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

2023

Annual Report to the School Community



St Mary's School

91 Manning Road, MALVERN EAST 3145

Principal: Shane Tobin

Web: www.smmalverneast.catholic.edu.au

Registration: 1024, E Number: E1087

Principal's Attestation

I, Shane Tobin, attest that St Mary's School is compliant with:

- The minimum standards and other requirements for school registration and school boarding premises (if applicable) as specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic).
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2023 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2023 (Cth).
- The Child Safe Standards as prescribed in Ministerial Order 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards, Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises.

Attested on 31 May 2024

About this report

St Mary's School is registered by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). The Annual Report to the School Community (ARSC), provides parents and the wider community with information about the school's activities and achievements throughout the year including information about various aspects of school performance. The Report is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the school community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the learning and wellbeing of its students. 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 also be obtained from the [My School website](#).

Governing Authority Report

When Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) launched our inaugural strategic plan MACS 2030: Forming Lives to Enrich the World just over a year ago, I spoke about the need for our whole organisation to reflect on the biggest challenges that confront us, and to work at speed to find practical, ambitious, student-centred solutions.

As a relatively new governing authority, 2023 set us on the path to achieving our first goals, as we focussed our efforts on building strong foundations for success. The four pillars of MACS2030 – Inspired by Faith; Flourishing Learners; Enabled Leaders; and Enriched Communities - serve to guide our work on how we achieve our strategic intent.

When we surveyed our teachers in late 2022, over 80 per cent told us that they want access to quality teaching and assessment resources. So in January 2023, we secured a system-wide licence for MACS primary and secondary schools to access the Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) assessment suite. The inclusion of the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Survey allows schools to monitor the wellbeing of their students and target resourcing to specific areas of need. Together, these tools provide a coherent and systematic approach to student assessment.

In partnership with Ochre Education, we began work on F-6 Mathematics curriculum resources, being developed in a phased approach over three years, and delivered the first tranche for F-2. A key consideration in developing the materials is ensuring teachers retain autonomy to tailor curriculum implementation to meet the individual and local needs of students.

This is an exciting development for our MACS community, clearly demonstrating the commitment we all share to delivering the best possible education opportunities for our 120,000 students and supporting our 10,000 classroom teachers to be the very best that they can be.

Archbishop Peter commissioned a comprehensive review of Religious Education curriculum, the first in over a decade. It offers us some challenges, but fundamentally is a hope-filled report that invites a path of ongoing work to develop a new RE curriculum for all Catholic schools. We continued Working Together in Mission with Parish Priests throughout the Archdiocese, including through regular roundtable discussions.

Across greater Melbourne, one in five students attend a Catholic school and 2023 saw steady growth in enrolments across our system, demonstrating the value families place on a Catholic education and the high quality, holistic education MACS schools provide.

As a system of schools, we can be better together, reducing the administrative load on our schools and freeing our teachers and principals to focus on what they do best.

I would like to pay tribute to our MACS school and office colleagues who have worked so hard to achieve our goals. We look forward to further strengthening those partnerships as we work together to deliver an education that inspires young people to enrich the world.

Yours sincerely

Dr Edward Simons

Executive Director

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd

Vision and Mission

Vision

At St. Mary's Malvern East we are all responsible for being a welcoming, inclusive, Foundation to Year 6 Catholic community.

Through respectful partnerships, we strive for excellence and take action in a contemporary world.

Mission

Our aim is to foster the formation and growth of the whole person within a faith filled, safe and respectful environment.

We do this by...

- Living our Faith through action,
- Knowing, nurturing and challenging every child,
- Striving for excellence, innovation and inclusion in teaching and learning,
- Promoting positive partnerships.

School Overview

St Mary's is a Foundation to Year 6 Catholic Primary School, situated in Malvern East. Archbishop Mannix laid the foundation stone for the school in 1918 and the Brigidine Sisters were the first leaders of St Mary's School.

Over the years, St Mary's School has undergone many changes and improvements with building works and extensions. Our facilities include a variety of flexible learning spaces, dedicated Library, large Hall for sports and community gatherings and dedicated Visual Arts and Makerspace areas.

St Mary's School has a committed and innovative staff who strive for excellence in every area of the curriculum. The students are motivated and conscientious and achieve high results at a state and national level. St Mary's School prides itself on the education of the whole child and enriches the core curriculum with specialist subjects including, Digital Technologies, Mandarin, Visual Arts, Music and Physical Education.

St Mary's School is strongly supported by the parent and parish community. At St Mary's School we recognise and develop the potential of each person as a unique individual, and embrace a shared understanding that God's love, and Christ's teachings, are at the centre of our values and beliefs.

Principal's Report

It is with enormous pride that I reflect on the exceptional levels of success in 2023 demonstrated by students, staff and parents, exceeding that of previous years. The history we have of strong partnerships, locally and regionally, has been critical to this accomplishment. Of equal importance is our work in using evidence based practice across all aspects of school life. It also must be emphasised that our achievements are a tribute to the staff and the school's leadership team who work tirelessly to ensure excellence is synonymous with St Mary's School.

In 2021, our school reviewer wrote that, 'St Mary's is both an exemplary and high performing school'. In order to maintain and build on the existing culture of success, specific areas of focus in 2024 will include:

- Providing increased opportunities to enhance goal setting and feedback strategies in line with St Mary's High Impact Teaching Strategies
- Teachers and students will use pre-assessment English and Mathematics data to identify individual student goals
- Revisiting the High Impact Teaching Strategy, Goal Setting during professional learning community meetings
- Consolidating a range of protocols for staff to implement effective feedback practices
- Exploring the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) new 'Vision for Instruction'
- Exploring new system documentation around student voice
- Continuing to foster connections with local kinders in order to promote the school
- Consolidation of our Playgroup
- Maintaining a 'Kinder Liaison' Leader
- Continuing to build secure pathways to secondary school colleges
- Creating exchange visits with secondary schools to support enrichment opportunities and transition to secondary schools
- Establishing a 'Director of Connections' role
- Completing the \$3.8m school refurbishment
- Reviewing all practices in line with the Victorian Regulation and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) and the School Improvement Framework (SIF) in preparation for our 2025 School Review.

To support this work, we will continue to utilise, and seek to expand, existing partnerships with a range of institutions and consultants.

I wish to acknowledge the ongoing important roles that are played by a range of essential parent bodies in the life of St Mary's School. These include our School Advisory Council which provides advice on the strategic direction for our school, our Parent Committee and various sub committees which do so much to support significant fundraising and the development of social capital, and our Parish Pastoral Council, which works to support Father Gallacher and our community as we grapple with the implications of responding to the needs of what was previously four parishes under the umbrella of what is now one parish.

I am very excited about the possibilities that lie ahead as we work together and look to build on the exceptional success of recent years. I look forward to collaborating with you in 2024 and beyond, and thank you for your wonderful support; it is this support that makes St Mary's such a 'unique' place to be!

Yours sincerely

Shane Tobin

Principal

St Mary's School

Catholic Identity and Mission

Goal & Intended Outcomes

Goal:

To embed initiatives which promote student voice and agency in learning, wellbeing, safety and social justice issues.

Intended Outcomes:

Students will be valued and active decision-makers and innovators on matters of student learning, wellbeing, safety and responsibility.

Establish new partnerships to further support the development of student voice and agency in local and global social justice issues.

Achievements

Professional Learning:

- Annual yearly overviews were completed by each Year level. This ensured the renewed curriculum framework was covered.
- Some staff attended an Encountering the Sacred Prayer Collective throughout the year, with two other schools; Holy Family, Doveton and St. Paul the Apostle South and facilitated by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). This partnership offered opportunities to learn from other schools and share resources and knowledge about Prayer.
- The Religious Education Leader attended the Southern Religious Education Leader Network days. These days are valuable as the information gained allowed the RE Leader to pass on important messages from the wider system and to collaborate and share practice with other RE Leaders.
- The Religious Education Leader was invited to attend a meeting with MACS RE Leadership from James Gould House and to present a school's perspective on Faith Education today and to articulate current areas of challenge from a school's perspective. This came about as a result of the relationships built throughout the Prayer communities of practice in which St. Mary's Malvern East has participated for the past few years. As a result of the invitation, the RE Leader prepared and delivered a presentation about the importance of MACS providing professional learning and faith formation opportunities for staff and students in Catholic schools.

- The Religious Education Leader attended two sessions facilitated by MACS staff regarding the use of Provocations in RE lessons and the Assumption of Mary. These professional learning opportunities provided valuable resources and understandings which can be passed onto staff through Professional learning communities.
- Some staff availed themselves of online Professional learning opportunities which contributed towards their maintenance of the Accreditation to teach Religious Education. These workshops included exploring the Papal encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, the Assumption of Mary and preparing for Advent.
- The Religious Education Leader attended a briefing about the Religious Education Curriculum Framework report. This report will establish the framework for the teaching of Religious Education in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for the next four years. Further work will be completed on this report and its introduction into schools in 2024/2025.
- Staff explored the MACS Accreditation policy and were shown how to update the TAP portal on CEVN to note their hours for the purposes of gaining and maintaining accreditation according to the policy. The TAP portal was updated to register all professional learning during 2023 and accreditation hours applied to individual staff profiles.
- One staff member completed their Accreditation to teach Religious Education in a Catholic School.
- Two staff members attended the “Fanning the Flames” RE workshop and then presented to the rest of the teaching staff about their learning from the day. Focussing on bringing Scripture to life, the teachers explained the opportunities for Bibliodrama, creating liturgical spaces, liturgical music and Art in the RE classroom.

Faith Development:

- In Professional Learning Communities meetings, teaching staff engaged in professional learning about Sacramentality and Prayer.
- Monsignor Stuart Hall led a whole staff session about the signs and symbols present in our Church. This is important as staff need to be knowledgeable for when they bring students into the Church as part of their Religious Education learning.
- Some staff completed faith formation online opportunities facilitated by the MACS Southern Region Learning consultants.
- Weekly seasonal prayers were published in the staff and school newsletters.
- Individual staff prepared a prayer before Professional Learning meetings.

Liturgies / Community Partnerships:

- The Principal, Mr. Shane Tobin, led a prayerful liturgy for staff on the first day back at school. St Mary's is a Catholic school and the importance of Prayer as central to our vision and mission is underscored by the priority which is given by the Principal as the first thing we do as a staff at the commencement of a new year.
- The Principal attended some Parish Council meetings. This attendance supported the building of school and Parish connections through a shared understanding of the perspectives of each.
- A whole school welcome Mass was celebrated in the first week of the new school year which included the blessing of class candles. This allowed an opportunity to welcome new families and students into our school community.
- A Commissioning Mass for Year Five and Six students, Parent committee members and Staff was held followed by a morning tea catered for by the parent community. This was an opportunity for the whole community to come together to begin the school year.
- The whole school celebrated the Feast of St. Patrick at a Mass. This Mass also celebrated Catholic Education Week. Some senior students attended Mass at the Cathedral together with the Principal and senior school teachers.
- Students, staff and parishioners celebrated Shrove Tuesday by enjoying a feast of pancakes, provided by our Parent Committee.
- Ash Wednesday was marked by a whole school Mass and Caritas Project compassion boxes were distributed to each family.
- In March, renowned liturgical singer Andrew Chinn re-visited St. Mary's and facilitated workshops for each class concluding with a whole school concert at the end of the day to which parents were invited. Students loved singing along with songs they knew and learning some new ones. St. Mary's subscribes to Andrew's catalogue of music through Butterfly House which teachers can access for liturgies, Feast days and special events.
- Reflection days for each of the Sacramental classes were held. These days provided an opportunity for a deeper understanding of the Sacrament to occur in the week preceding the Sacramental Mass. Rehearsals are held and a question and answer session with Monsignor Stuart Hall were held for Eucharist and Confirmation. Father Gallacher attended some of the Reflection day for Reconciliation.
- The Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation were celebrated with students and families in attendance. In addition, two students were baptised prior to the Sacrament of First Communion.
- A Family Faith Night was facilitated for students in Foundation. This night was well attended by families.
- A junior school family mass was celebrated on Palm Sunday followed by refreshments provided by the class representatives. This Mass offers an opportunity for the community to come together at the commencement of Holy Week.
- Advent liturgies were led by different Year levels during December.

- The Stations of the Cross were dramatically depicted by Year Five and Six students who had read and interpreted a passage of Scripture relating to each Station. In addition, other classes became involved through the preparation of artwork relating to the modern interpretation of the Stations.
- St. Mary's welcomed a new Parish Priest, Father Michael Gallacher and farewelled Monsignor Stuart Hall as he took up his new role at St. Patrick's cathedral.
- Commemorative liturgies for Mother's Day, Father's Day, ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day were celebrated as a whole school led by various year levels.
- Sacramental Classes regularly attended Parish Masses.
- Altar servers attended various Masses throughout the year.
- The parish Feast day was commemorated with a whole school Mass followed by a whole school incursion.
- Father Gallacher, the Principals, Deputy Principals and Religious Education Leaders from St Mary's, St. Roch's and St. Joseph's Malvern came together to plan coordinated calendars for 2024 in order to facilitate greater whole Parish engagement.
- The Religious Education Leader liaised with, and supported, the RE Leader from St. Joseph's Malvern and the Parish Catechist about the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Foundation students performed a Nativity play for families in the final week of the year. This occurred in the Church and was very well attended by families who then processed outside to enjoy a carols sing-a-long.

Social Justice:

- Project Compassion fundraising occurred in each classroom throughout Lent and boxes were distributed to each child.
- A successful Colour Run at the end of Term One raised significant funds for Fight MND, a charity chosen because of the devastating impact Motor Neurone Disease has had on our school community over a number of years including losing a parent to the disease in 2023.
- Student in Years Five and Six created and sold merchandise at a charity fete with each small group selecting a different charity to raise funds for. Students had to justify their decision to their teacher and make a profit after costs of goods sold so that the charity received funds.
- Great Indigenous Book swap raised funds for Indigenous Literacy during Book Week.
- Fundraising initiatives led by the school Student Representative Council.
- Easter raffle donation of hampers for St. Mary's Care families.
- ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day merchandise was sold by Year Five and Six students to raise funds for Legacy and the RSL.
- An annual award named after St Mary of the Cross was presented to the student in each class who embodied the saints philosophy of seeing a need and doing something about it.

Value Added

As above.

Learning and Teaching

Goal & Intended Outcomes

Goal:

To use research, evidence informed and consistent pedagogical practices to implement high quality learning and teaching that enables every student to thrive.

Intended Outcomes:

Teachers and students will use two way feedback to enhance student learning and teacher practice.

Students will utilise metacognitive strategies to improve awareness of their own learning, to self regulate and sustain motivation to learn.

Achievements

- Acknowledged National Reconciliation Week. The theme, 'Be a Voice for Generations' called on Australians to honour our long history of allyship and solidarity to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation for the generations to come.
- All curriculum leaders attended regular Network sessions facilitated by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) staff, including the School Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) network meetings.
- Our Enrichment Program continued throughout the year, whereby a range of students from Year One to Year Six were selected, based on data, to take part in a range of enriching activities and competitions, including by not limited to, Dorethea MacKellar Poetry, ATOM Photography and the Australian Catholics Young Journalist competition. These enriching experiences provided authentic opportunities for students to further develop skills in a range of areas such as photography and poetry writing.
- Another aspect of our Enrichment Program has seen the continuation of the student newspaper, 'The Mary-Go-Round', whereby a number of students contributed a range of articles that were published in the newspaper. The Mary-Go-Round has become an integral part of the programs being offered here at St Mary's School.
- Our Camp Programs for students in Year Three to Year Six were once again well received. Year Three enjoyed a night at Camp Manyung in Mount Eliza, Year Four spent two nights at Lady Northcote, while our Year Five and Year Six students experienced three nights in our nations capital, Canberra.

STEM Inquiry

- All teaching staff were supported with planning new units of work through participation in personalised meetings, at the end of each term. These sessions provided teaching staff with an opportunity to plan and prepare a rich and engaging unit of work based on a range of core curriculum areas, structured from an authentic problem and following the Design Thinking Process.
- Staff were able to prioritize a range of engaging learning activities through both excursions and incursions.

English

- Two opportunities for Public Speaking courses were again offered during 2023. Advanced Presentation Skills coordinator, Mrs. Sandra de Geest worked with Year Five and Six students during Term One on learning the basics of debating. Then, in Term Three, Year Four enjoyed a workshop run by Superspeak/Speak Stars with a focus on building public speaking skills. Well attended parent sessions were held for both year levels.
- Regular English Updates featured in the School Newsletter, sharing resources and overviews of what has been explored in classrooms, and across levels.
- Literacy Intervention continued for low attaining students across a variety of year levels. The Literacy Intervention facilitators worked with small groups of students across multiple sessions each week through the MiniLit Sage program, with a particular focus on alphabet recognition and decoding strategies. In addition, Learning Support Officers implemented the MultiLit program for a number of Year Two and Year Three students. Selection for the programs is considered by the Intervention team through fortnightly meetings and the analysis of current data.
- A range of whole school Literacy assessments took place throughout 2023, all of which helped to monitor growth and achievement. These assessments include, but are not limited to Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark assessments, South Australian spelling tests, Phonics check for Year One students, Record of Oral language, Writing moderation and the annual Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) Reading.
- In 2023, Foundation students undertook the English on-line (EOI) assessment. This 40 minute individual assessment will be mandated to be completed by Catholic schools from 2024, however in 2023 the assessment was optional. The assessment includes foundational skills of reading and writing including phonics and phonemic awareness, reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, writing and oral language skills.
- The Heggarty phonemic awareness program was introduced as part of the Foundation - Year Two Literacy block. Resources were purchased and staff involved underwent training during a Professional Learning Community meeting. MACS staff attended the school to witness the program in action.
- Staff participated in professional learning sessions including analysing 2022 Progressive Achievement testing results, NAPLAN data, sentences, the use of metacognitive strategies in reading, and improving writing.

- Four parent helpers literacy course sessions were run to upskill parents to be able to assist in the classrooms.
- St. Mary's students participated in National Simultaneous story time when anyone can join a link to a live story reading of The Speedy Sloth, at the same time across Australia.
- Book Week 2023 involved an author visit from Coral Vass for Years Three to Six, Perform Education session for Foundation to Year Three, and the Great Indigenous Book Swap which raised funds for Indigenous Literacy. In addition, the Flying Bookworm theatre company performed a special performance based on the work of Banjo Patterson for Years Three to Six. Throughout the year literature texts including dual copies of all of the shortlisted CBCA books were purchased for the library.
- An analysis of NAPLAN data in Reading, Language Conventions and Writing was undertaken
- The Premiers Reading Challenge was completed by 27 students including every Year Five and Year Six student.

Mathematics

- St Mary's School was awarded a significant grant through Melbourne Archdiocese Catholics Schools (MACS) to improve the Learning and Teaching of Mathematics. Specifically, St Mary's used the grant to support teachers in using data to make purposeful choices and adjustments to content, process and product of the mathematics learning and teaching to maximise the learning of each student.
- Key focus on assessment, data and differentiation through staff Professional Learning
- Leader of Mathematics presented at the Southern Region MACS Mathematics Network, showcasing St Mary's work in the area of data and assessment.
- Mathematics Leaders from various neighbouring schools were supported by the St Mary's Mathematics Leader to develop their school approach to data and assessment. St Mary's was recognised as an exemplary school in this area of teaching and learning.
- Teachers developed capacity to create and implement teacher designed pre and post assessments.
- A range of whole school Mathematic assessments took place throughout 2023, all of which helped to monitor growth and achievement. These assessments include, but are not limited to Pre and Post Assessment, Westwood Speed tests, Early Number and Algebra interviews and the annual Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) Mathematics.
- Regular Mathematics updates included in the School Newsletter, sharing resources and overviews of what has been explored in classrooms, across levels.
- Mathematics Intervention offered for students requiring further support in mathematics. The Mathematics Intervention teacher worked with small groups of students twice a week, with a particular focus on number intervention, including place value, the four processes and a strong emphasis on mental strategies.

- Implementation of the Early Years Numeracy and Algebra assessments and targeted teaching across Foundation to Year Two. Early Number and Algebra further enhances knowledge of the Victorian Curriculum in the Number and Algebra strand, progressions of learning and assessment practices and pedagogical approaches, in order to plan and implement learning cycles for students at their point of need.

STEM and eLearning

- Staff participated in STEM and eLearning Professional Learning Community meetings throughout the year that focussed on a number of core aspects, including a refresher on Cyber Safety issues relating to current students, along with consolidating Digital Tools including integrating AI into class learning, Robotics and Coding.
- In 2023, students participated in a designated specialist program with learning aligning to the Digital Technologies curriculum. Students participated in a range of lessons based around coding and robotics.
- In 2023, St Mary's introduced a new Digital Education Support program in partnership with Inform and Empower enabling staff to deliver explicit lessons to students on Cyber Safety issues in order to meet curriculum outcomes.
- Senior school students, along with Year Four students enrolled in enrichment programs, participated in the STEM Mad Showcase Aviation Program in which they designed, built and completed in a range of competitions based on the speed and design of a model aeroplane.
- National Science Week was celebrated by the whole school in 2023 with a range of activities and science experiments showcased around the school.
- St Mary's School partnered with Young Engineers Melbourne to host a fun and engaging after school STEM learning PLUS coding program.

Other Specialists

- **Visual Arts:** St Mary's School celebrated our bi-annual Visual Art Show in 2023, with the theme, Inspiration Everywhere. Students worked extremely hard during Visual Art classes, culminating in a very impressive presentation at the end of the year. Each student proudly showcased a range of both two-dimensional and three-dimensional art pieces. The art show was opened on a Sunday morning to allow parishioners to be able to view and enjoy the beautiful presentation. Two new initiatives were introduced in 2023;
 - Each class created a large collaborative canvas art piece which was available to buy through a silent auction during the art show.
 - As part of our Kinder Connections program, children from local kindergartens who opted to participate, contributed to a beautiful Flourishing Friendships art piece.
- **Music:** Our Music program continued to flourish throughout 2023, with musical instruments being learnt and connections being made with STEM Inquiry learning

across the classrooms. Music World also continued to facilitate the Guitar Ensemble before school to those families who were interested.

- **LOTE: Mandarin:** Students continued to participate in weekly Mandarin classes, for the duration of a Semester, whereby they were immersed in the culture of China, as well as the language.
- **Physical Education:** In 2023 our students participated in sporting opportunities which included, but was not limited to, lawn bowls, soccer, cross country, hockey, netball, AFL, athletics and swimming. Two events throughout the year which were no doubt a highlight on the calendar for all students was the annual Footy Colours Day and the Annual Colour Run.

Student Learning Outcomes

Our student learning outcomes in NAPLAN for the 2023 school year were exceptionally strong.

Year 3

Of the five marked areas of NAPLAN, the two strongest results for Year Three were from the Writing and Numeracy assessments.

- Writing - 97% of students scored in the top proficiency strands, strong and exceeding.
- Numeracy - 89% of students scored in the top proficiency strands, strong and exceeding.
- The three remaining assessments saw 81% of students within the top bands for Reading, 74% within the top bands for Spelling and 81% within the top bands for Grammar & Punctuation.

Year 5

At the time of the NAPLAN assessments taking place, St Mary's School had less than 11 Year Five students. However, the students who sat the assessment scored exceptionally well.

- Reading, Writing, Spelling and Numeracy - 100% of students scored in the top proficiency strands, strong and exceeding
- Grammar & Punctuation - 83% of students scored in the top proficiency strands, strong and exceeding

NAPLAN - Proportion of students meeting the proficient standards			
Domain	Year level	Mean Scale score	Proficient
Grammar & Punctuation	Year 3	466	82%
	Year 5	*	*
Numeracy	Year 3	464	89%
	Year 5	*	*
Reading	Year 3	453	82%
	Year 5	*	*
Spelling	Year 3	436	74%
	Year 5	*	*
Writing	Year 3	471	97%
	Year 5	*	*

*A school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants and 80% participation rate. Data not reported for 2023 due to participation not meeting these criteria or no students were assessed. Participants include students who were assessed, including non-attempt, or those exempted from the test.

Student Wellbeing

Goal & Intended Outcomes

Goal:

To embed initiatives which promote student voice and agency in learning, wellbeing, safety and social justice issues.

Intended Outcomes:

Students will be valued and active decision-makers and innovators on matters of student learning, wellbeing, safety and responsibility.

Establish new partnerships to further support the development of student voice and agency in local and global social justice issues.

Achievements

- St Mary's School once again celebrated and promoted a dedicated week to Student Wellbeing (SWELL Week) at the beginning of the year, where all classes took part in an engaging Brickworks session to build teamwork, and positive and respectful relationships. As part of the week, students met with their Buddy classes and enjoyed a picnic together.
- The National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence was supported by creating a whole school collaborative art project, showcasing the many ways we promote a Kindness Culture.
- A range of resources were purchased to further support the teaching and learning of wellbeing, including new sandpit toys and social and emotional picture books.
- Our House Point reward system for the 2023 school year proved to once again be very well received, with the use of coloured business cards, worth five points each being earned and posted in house tubs. At the end of each Term, the house who collectively earned the most points enjoyed extra play, an icy pole and an opportunity to wear casual clothes to school.
- Students across all classrooms were assigned a buddy class, with Foundation students receiving a buddy from the senior classroom. These buddies and buddy classes provided wonderful opportunities for students to connect across a range of year levels, build friendships and support each other with a range of classroom based activities.

- The Student Representative Council (SRC) was once again well received from the beginning of the year, with a number of students across all grades writing to apply for the positions. After applying, students were then democratically elected by their peers and SRC badges were awarded to students during an assembly in Term One. Amongst many other initiatives, our SRC leaders hosted the annual Pyjama Day, where students and their families donated non-perishable items to St Vincent de Paul. Our SRC students also thoroughly enjoyed the Crazy Hair Day in 2023 which was merged with a special Inflatable fun day with the St Kilda Football Club. The SRC were also very supportive of the St Mary's Fair, in that they hosted Jazzy Jar and chocolate donation days.
- Student Wellbeing Updates continued to be a weekly feature in our School Newsletters this year, covering a range of topics, including Growth Mindsets, Habits of Mind, Mindfulness, mindful breathing, helpful resources for families, and of course updates from the classrooms and SRC meetings.
- Ongoing use of our Happy Families membership with appropriate articles being shared with parents through our weekly school newsletter, which provided expert resources for staff and parents.
- Registration and participation in the GRIP Leadership Conference, to support our Year Five and Six students in building their growth and confidence as a School Leader.
- Dedicated a professional learning community meeting to discuss, analyse and action our 2023 student MACSSIS data.
- Explored and discussed the Child Safety Standards during regular staff briefings and professional learning communities.
- Acknowledged and celebrated special days, including, but not limited to; R U Ok? Day, Harmony Day, Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson and National Ride to School Day. All of these days promote such wonderful messages, that as a school we greatly value.
- The Wellbeing Leader, thanks to the financial support from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools was able to collaborate with all classroom teachers in administering the ACER Social and Emotional Wellbeing survey from Foundation to Year Six, which provided an overall reassuring message that our students feel happy and safe at school.
- Wellbeing Leader attended the inaugural MACS Wellbeing Leader Conference
- Transition programs were prioritised for students transitioning to Foundation in 2024 and also Year Five and Six in 2024 through a range of strategically planned experiences and opportunities. All students across each level also took part in a transition morning to assist in transitioning to a new class with a new teacher and peers.

Value Added

As above.

Student Satisfaction

Students in Years Four to Year Six were invited to participate in the 2023 Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools - School Improvement Survey (MACSSIS). Overall, 46 students completed the survey and answered a series of questions covering ten domains as listed below.

1. Rigorous Expectation
2. School Engagement
3. School Climate
4. Teacher - Student Relationships
5. School Belonging
6. Learning Disposition
7. Student Safety
8. Enabling Safety
9. Student Voice
10. Catholic Identity

The results demonstrate that our students scored St Mary's School well above the 2023 MACS average across all ten domains.

The strongest scoring domain for 2023 was Rigorous Expectations, with an overall positive score of 84%. This domain asked students to reflect on how much they feel that their teachers hold them to high expectations of their effort, understanding, persistence and performance. With an overall positive score of 83%, domain six, Learning Disposition was our second highest score. This domain asked students to reflect on their mindsets as a learner.

Student Attendance

At St Mary's School all class teachers are required to maintain the electronic roll on SIMON (online management system).

Rolls are completed twice daily; morning and afternoon. Office staff contact parents, via telephone, of any students marked as "absent" without any prior parent notification. Parents are requested to notify the School Office of any absence prior to 9am. This can be done by either calling or emailing the Office. Parents can alternatively mark their child as absent for the day, directly on the Parent Access Module (PAM), though SIMON. A record is kept on SIMON of any Parent Notified Absences.

Parents/carers must sign their child in, if they arrive after 8:50am. Parents/carers must sign their child out if leaving the school before 3.10pm. This can be done through the Student Kiosk, on the iPad in the School Office. The Student Kiosk updates the classroom rolls automatically. If there is unsatisfactory attendance, the parents are contacted to discuss

ways of assisting and supporting in order to improve the situation. Parents are asked for an explanation and invited to respond.

Average Student Attendance Rate by Year Level	
Y01	91.8%
Y02	92.0%
Y03	90.9%
Y04	92.4%
Y05	*
Y06	93.4%
Overall average attendance	92.1%

Leadership

Goal & Intended Outcomes

Goal:

To continue to grow and maintain a staff culture of high performance and development.

Intended Outcomes:

Embed consistent school wide approaches for staff to give and receive feedback on a regular basis to refine teaching performance.

Develop and implement staff individual professional learning plans and associated goal setting in line with St Mary's SIP and AAP.

Leadership capacity is built and enhanced across the school.

Achievements

- The Principal and Deputy Principal attended a Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools professional development day, 'Created and Loved: A Guide for Catholic Schools on Identity and Gender'
- The St Mary's building refurbishment commenced in December 2022 and was completed in January 2024. Throughout the 2023 school year the Principal and Deputy Principal attended fortnightly site meetings, ensuring the school community would benefit from decisions needing to be made throughout the building upgrade. We look forward to our Grand Opening & Blessing of these refurbished spaces in 2024.

- The Principal and Deputy Principal met on a regular basis with a Marketing Consultant covering many aspects of our strategic school marketing, including but not limited to the following;
 - Maintaining and updating the School website, including the publications of regular blogs to increase website traffic
 - Promoting Google reviews from families
 - Monitoring Enquiry Tracker in regards to possible student enrolments across all levels, although predominantly for Foundation 2024
 - Social media support
 - Community marketing including the Calendar campaign for 2024
 - Continued strategic marketing / communication in regards to student retention (Year 5/6)

- Hosted our annual Open Days and Open Night for prospective families. All events were well attended, and with families booking a space for their tours, St Mary's School was able to provide personalised, follow up communication after tours took place.
- For the second year in a row, St Mary's School hosted an Open Night for Kinder Directors and Educators. In 2023, Kinder Directors and Educators were able to benefit from this night as we had a professional development focus on wellbeing, in addition to being able to tour our facilities and hear what St Mary's School can offer.
- On National Primary Principals Day, we were provided with an opportunity to show our immense pride and gratitude to the dedication and contribution our Principal, Mr Shane Tobin makes to the St Mary's School community each and every day.
- Invested in a professional photographer to capture a series of photographs to be used in promotional materials and on social media accounts and on our website.
- Celebrated World Teachers' Day, which provided an opportunity to acknowledge and thank our amazing teachers and staff. We are so blessed to have such a dedicated group of teachers and staff. They work hard each and every day to make sure every student is known, nurtured and challenged!
- The School Advisory Council (SAC) met regularly throughout the year and provided ongoing support and feedback to the school on matters including, but not limited to policies, financial matters, class structures.
- Continued to support a staff member in their final year of studying Masters of Educational Leadership at Australian Catholic University and one staff member continued their studies for their Accreditation to teach Religious Education.
- Provided ongoing resourcing and support structures, including regular communication with the school Business Manager, to maintain the Information Communication Online Network (ICON) platform
- Continued utilising the online platform, Enquiry Tracker, as a resource to be able to better manage school enrolment enquiries, including Open Day attendees and enrolment applications.
- Ensured all staff maintained current Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) certification, Mandatory reporting modules and all relevant First Aid, CPR and Anaphylaxis training.

- Provided a series of opportunities for professional learning around developing staff professional development plans. Staff were able to set themselves a goal and develop some targeted actions to help themselves achieve this goal.

Expenditure And Teacher Participation in Professional Learning

List Professional Learning undertaken in 2023

St Mary's School strategically prioritises ongoing professional development for all staff. We are proud to have made significant investment and commitment to staff professional learning to further support key aspects of our 2023 Annual Action Plan.

Core professional learning activities held throughout 2023 have been listed below.

- PAT data analysis workshops - Reading Comprehension and Mathematics
2023 NAPLAN data analysis workshops
- First Aid training - CPR, basic First Aid skills and administration of EpiPens
- A continued focus on the five High Impact Teaching Strategies, including a dedicated School Closure Day with a focus on Metacognition
- Staff development continuing to explore the Child Safe Standards
- A range of staff development workshops based on designing pre-assessments in mathematics
- Exploration of the new Mathematics 2.0 curriculum, which as a school we decided to implement in 2024
- Increased professional development opportunities for all staff around neurodiversity, specifically Development Language Disorder (DLD)
- Professional development around utilising Elastik, a new online teaching and learning resource
- Deepening staff understanding of Holy Week - facilitated by Monsignor Stuart Hall
- Further opportunities for staff to develop and action their own Professional Development Plans
- All staff participated in the 2023 Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools - School Improvement Survey (MACSSIS)

Curriculum Leaders:

- Principal meetings
- Deputy Principal Networks
- Religious Education Leaders Networks
- Student Wellbeing & Learning Diversity Networks
- Digital Education Networks
- School Wide Improvement Forum (SWIF)
- School based Leadership Days

Number of teachers who participated in PL in 2023	25
Average expenditure per teacher for PL	\$1632.00

Teacher Satisfaction

All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, were once again invited to participate in the 2023 Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools - School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS). Feedback was received from 24 staff members. Staff answered questions covering fourteen domains.

St Mary's School is once again very proud of our extremely positive results, which have continued consistently since MACSSIS began in 2021. Our 2023 staff data once again places us well above the 2023 MACS average.

Our strongest domain was Collective Efficacy, which indicates teachers' perceptions that staff at the school have what it takes to improve instruction. A perfect percentage score of 100% was achieved for this domain. The second highest scoring domain was Collaboration Around an Improvement Strategy, with a percentage score of 99%. This indicates the perceptions of the coherence of the schools improvement strategy. These positive results indicate that our staff are extremely focussed and dedicated to working collaboratively on a shared improvement strategy, and reinforces the message that everything we do is for the benefit of our students.

Teacher Qualifications	
Doctorate	0.0%
Masters	18.5%
Graduate	11.1%
Graduate Certificate	3.7%
Bachelor Degree	63.0%
Advanced Diploma	3.7%
No Qualifications Listed	0.0%

Staff Composition	
Principal Class (Headcount)	2
Teaching Staff (Headcount)	21
Teaching Staff (FTE)	16.2
Non-Teaching Staff (Headcount)	10
Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	6.5
Indigenous Teaching Staff (Headcount)	0

Community Engagement

Goal & Intended Outcomes

Goal:

To provide opportunities to foster and promote parent engagement and community connections.

Intended Outcomes:

Build strong partnerships to engage parents in their child's learning journey.

Seek authentic connections with organisations and businesses to support student learning and promote the school.

Achievements

- St Mary's Playgroup was successfully launched on a fortnightly basis during Term Two and Three. Not only did this provide an opportunity for St Mary's School to showcase staff and facilities to prospective families, it also provided a wonderful service to the local community for young children to have a safe and happy space to play.
- Our newly appointed Kinder Liaison Leader proactively collaborated with a range of local kindergartens for the purpose of assisting future students and their families to be "School Ready" by facilitating a range of School Readiness Information Nights. This achievement also benefited the school in regards to a positive marketing strategy and being able to promote our school, especially after our Year Four students (their future buddies) visited the Centres!
- Launched the St Mary's School Instagram page, alongside the well established, very successful Facebook page.
- New shade sails and passive play area, including sandpit and artificial grass were installed beside the tennis courts, which have become a wonderful, safe additional space for students to be able to enjoy during recess and lunch breaks, as well as a space where classes can participate in outdoor lessons and activities.
- The biannual St Mary's Fair was a huge success in 2023, especially in considering the organisation of the event had to be carefully navigated through an intensive building program. The Fair was a wonderful day which greatly benefitted the entire school and broader community. The Fair Committee who worked tirelessly all year were very proud to announce they had raised an impressive \$71, 000, all of which will be going towards an upgrade to our student playground.

- St Mary's continued to communicate regularly with all families across multiple platforms. The weekly school newsletter is the main platform, and is emailed directly to all families each week. Hard copies are always available in our school office. Communication to class and year levels also continued through Konnective, and later in the year through PAM and SIMON Everywhere.
- The Parent Committee held a Welcome Morning tea for all parents at the beginning of the school year, this was a wonderful way to ensure all new families to St Mary's felt connected and welcomed.
- Summer Drinks were also hosted by the Parent Committee in February, as a way of celebrating the commencement of the new school year, providing another opportunity for families to connect in an informal way.
- The Parent Committee kindly organised a range of hot food day treats for students such as hot cross buns during Easter celebrations and party pies and a drink on Footy Colours day.
- Students involved in the Enrichment Program produced a Termly Student Newspaper 'The Mary-Go-Round', which showcased a range of school highlights and achievements and this was published across the school community, including the school newsletter.
- In support of National Tree Day, our senior students were invited by Stonnington Council to participate in their fabulous tree planting initiative. Collectively, we planted over 500 trees and plants at Sydare Reserve in Malvern East.
- Regular communication was made with families of pre-school age within the Parish to promote St Mary's School.
- St Mary's School hosted our biannual visual arts show, Inspiration Everywhere. This significant event provided a wonderful opportunity for the whole school community to gather and celebrate the arts.
- Parents were again provided with opportunities to engage directly with their child's learning journey through the publication of work samples in their Learning Journal, through the Seesaw platform.
- Continued Meet and Greets at the beginning of the year, which provided an opportunity for families to connect with their child's new classroom teacher and inform them of their hopes and expectations for the year ahead.
- Modified and increased our Parent Teacher meeting schedule to be more supportive of reporting timelines. Semester One meetings took place mid-Term Two before formal reports were released to ensure families had a clear understanding of how their child was progressing. Semester Two Parent Teacher meetings were also added in 2023, again providing an opportunity for families to discuss their child's growth and progress prior to the Semester Two formal reports being released.
- What has become a much loved annual event, the St Mary's Colour Run took place again at the end of Term One.
- St Mary's School once again supported the Poppy Appeal as we prepared to commemorate both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

- Students in Year Five and Six participated in a series of Interrelate Respectful Relationships program, following a parent information session.
- St Mary's School is fortunate to have a very proactive and supportive Parent Committee who meet regularly throughout the school year with the purpose of not only fundraising, but also promoting a range of social events for parents, which assist in building connections. Social events include, Golf Days, Year Level dinners, breakfast for Mother's Day and Father's Day, and the annual Mid Life Crisis (MLC) Cup in collaboration with St Roch's Primary School.

Parent Satisfaction

St Mary's School continued to work proactively throughout 2023 to ensure parent feedback was regularly sought, both formally and informally. A significant formal aspect of seeking parent feedback during the year was in the form of the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools - School Improvement Survey (MACSSIS). All families were invited to participate anonymously in MACSSIS, pleasingly, 33 families contributed, which in comparison to 2022 when only 19 families completed, is a considerable improvement.

MACSSIS questions once again covered seven domains as listed below.

1. Family Engagement
2. Barriers to Engagement
3. School Fit
4. School Climate
5. Student Safety
6. Communication
7. Catholic Identity

Overall, the results indicate that families have scored St Mary's School in line with 2023 MACS averages. Our strongest domain was once again, domain four, School Climate, which is an indication of families' perceptions of the social and learning climate of the school. A percentage score of 82% was achieved for this domain, which has grown from 74% in 2022. Pleasingly, the strongest and most positive question within this domain was question six, which asked families to consider, "How much respect do you think staff at your child's school have for the children?" For 2021, 2022 and now 2023, this question has received the highest possible score - 100%.

In addition to the positive MACSSIS results in 2023, St Mary's School also received a number of thoughtful and wonderful reviews through Google. Some excerpts have been included below.

- *Our experience attending St Mary's has been exceptional from the moment we had our first enquiry into the school...We are proud and thankful to be a student and family of St Mary's school.* - Kimberly
- *Great school: excellent teachers, academically strong, amazing sporting opportunities and most importantly, a brilliant supportive, fun and kind community.* - Jane
- *St Mary's is special to the family.* - Kay

Financial Performance

The school's financial performance information and a report of the financial activities of the school's boarding premises (if applicable) have been provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available for the community to access from their website at www.acnc.gov.au.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at www.smmalverneast.catholic.edu.au