

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
TO THE SCHOOL
COMMUNITY



2015

**St. Joseph's
Primary School
Kerang**

Contents

Contact Details	2
Minimum Standards Attestation	2
Our School Vision	3
School Overview.....	4
Principal's Report.....	6
School Education Board Report	7
Education in Faith	8
Learning & Teaching	10
Student Wellbeing	11
Leadership & Management.....	13
School Community	15
Financial Performance	16
VRQA Compliance Data.....	17



Contact Details

ADDRESS	89-100 Nolan Street Kerang, Vic. 3579
PRINCIPAL	Mr. Nicholas Hall
PARISH PRIEST	Fr. Eugene dela Corte
SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR	Mrs. Jenny Waterson
TELEPHONE	(03) 54521426
EMAIL	principal@sjkerang.catholic.edu.au
WEBSITE	www.sjkerang.catholic.edu.au

Minimum Standards Attestation

I, Nicholas Hall attest that St. Joseph's is compliant with:

- All of the requirements for the minimum standards and other requirements for the registration of schools as specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007 (Vic), except where the school has been granted an exemption from any of these requirements by the VRQA
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2015 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2013 (Cth)

20 May 2016

Our School Vision

At St. Joseph's, we believe we are:

A community who celebrates our Catholic Traditions, names Jesus Christ and promotes Gospel values as a framework for participation in society.

A school where respect for self, others and the environment is nurtured in partnership with all community members.

A community that strives to educate and challenge the whole child to reach their full potential and become life long learners.

A community that challenges all children by planning and facilitating enriching curriculum experiences.

Graduate Outcomes

At St. Joseph's Primary School, we commit to educating children in Christianity through the Catholic Tradition to:

Be able to grow in a relationship with God.

Have confidence to take their own path and reach their potential.

Be loved and know how to love.

Make their own decisions based on care, respect of themselves and others and the environment.

Be resilient, accepting, confident and independent.

Be a voice for those who have none.

Be active in the Reconciliation of our country.

School Overview

The Good Samaritan Sisters began teaching in Kerang in 1912. The Most Rev. Stephen Reville D.D.O.S.A. Bishop of Bendigo, laid the foundation stone of St. Joseph's School Kerang on March 3rd 1912. Local reports say that approximately 60 scholars started at the school on Wednesday 2nd October 1912. The Sisters remained in charge of the school until the first lay Principal was appointed in 1980. Extensions to the school buildings in 1958 enabled the Sisters to move out of the original school building. The school building was then converted into a Parish Hall.

Around 1968, further extensions were added including: four classrooms, a staff room, library, work room and toilets. The school has a strong history of proactive involvement of parents and parishioners from attending to ongoing maintenance through to school governance. The St. Joseph's School Board was one of the first School Boards to be formed and today the School Board is heavily involved in all areas of School Improvement.

Since 1997, the School Board has actively sought local and Capital Grant support to enable the community to provide for the current and future needs of its children. In 2002, we completed the first stage of a 4-phase Capital Works Program, the construction of a Library. In 2004, we completed the Second Stage of the overall project ~ Student Amenities, Storage Areas and an upgrade to the School Canteen. In 2005, Stage 3 was completed with an upgraded Administration area incorporating offices, a meeting room and a sick bay. In 2007, Stage 4 was completed with a new staff room and resource room. In 2008, we received a Water Grant and we were able to purchase 7 large water tanks which will collect storm water from our extensive roof. In 2009-2011 we were successful in our application for the P.R.I.D.E., B.E.R., Needy Schools and the Solar Government Grants which were available. These grants have enabled us to address improvements to the school from our Master Plan.

We are proud of the origins of the school and strive to maintain the traditions of old and remain a progressive and proactive educational community. We enjoy a high level of parental involvement in the school and continually seek new ways to engage our community for the good of the children in our care. We value the vital partnerships that need to exist between home, school, parish and the wider community.



Staff 2015

At the commencement of the 2015 school year our enrolment was one hundred and five students from sixty-six families. The organization and staffing is outlined below.

Fr. Eugene dela Corte:	Canonical Administrator
Mr. Nicholas Hall:	Principal
Miss. Joanne Richardson:	Deputy Principal & Grade 2/3 teacher
Mrs. Anne Jenkins:	Religious Education Coordinator & Grade Prep teacher
Miss. Courtney Jarman:	Grade 1 teacher
Mrs. Hayley Higgs:	Grade 4 teacher
Miss. Lauren Sporle:	Grade 5/6 teacher
Mrs. Alicia Makeham:	Visual and Performing Arts
Mrs. Fiona Kendell:	Reading Recovery & Extending Mathematical Understandings
Mrs. Kylie Leahy:	Library
Mrs. Debbie Garlick:	Administration
Mrs. Cathy Hutchinson:	Chaplain & Education Support
Mrs. Jenny Velacott:	Education Support



Principal's Report

The start of the 2015 school year brought new opportunities at St. Joseph's. Nineteen children began their primary education with their first day at school on the 30th January 2015. It reminds me of how fast our time in a school goes by and of the importance of making the most of every opportunity. We welcomed Mrs. Hayley Higgs, Miss. Courtney Jarman and Miss. Lauren Sporle to the teaching staff. During the year we welcomed Miss. Kinsley Friedberger and Mrs. Tanya O'Brien to the staff.

From the outset we set out to improve student reading. Why? Because it is critically important for choices in life and because we recognised we needed to do better. We have made significant inroads. The one hour uninterrupted reading block has allowed teachers to teach and the staff have been passionate and driven in this focus. The children have been supported to improve their skills and challenged to read more often. Just like any skill, practice, instruction and feedback are key. The school improvement focus included significant promotion across the year, however it is was the ongoing focus on improving teacher knowledge and practise that we believe will cause the greatest change. This school wide focus will continue in 2016.

The year has been marked by a whole range of achievements, events and celebrations, too many to name here. Some favourites include: St Joseph's Feast Day celebrations, Good Samaritan Cup at St Joseph's, the fete, school camps to Sovereign Hill & Canberra and the interest that the shed has brought in recent terms! Collectively they enhance the school community of St Joseph's and provide great joy, excitement and socialising for children and adults.

St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Parish welcomed Fr. Eugene dela Corte to Kerang in January. Fr. Eugene quickly endeared himself to the school community with his gentle nature, sense of humour and singing. We are blessed to have Fr Eugene in our community and thank him for his leadership, support and prayers throughout the year.

The parents and families of St. Joseph's have continued to actively support the students of the school in many and varied ways. The leadership and work of the School Board is an integral part of this. Their input, encouragement and time are greatly appreciated. I wish to particularly acknowledge Jenny Waterson, Cheryl Sarre and Marianne Kelly who will be stepping down this evening. The Parents and Friends again worked to support the school in a selfless and cohesive manner. The leadership of the executive are to be congratulated on the way they have been able to get things done.

Throughout 2015 all staff worked hard for the needs of the children (whatever they be) and have worked as a team. Their dedication, passion and commitment are a gift to our children. The school leadership team made a significant contribution in 2015 and are to be congratulated on their efforts. At the end of the year we farewelled long serving staff member Mrs. Kylie Leahy who had been employed at St. Joseph's since 2000. We also wished Mrs. Hayley Higgs well as she commenced parental leave at the end of the year.

We are blessed to have a school with such energetic, inquisitive and happy children. Every day I am amazed and inspired by them. They challenge us all to be better. The children have grown and learnt and I congratulate all the students on their achievements in 2015.

St. Joseph's maintains an excellent reputation in the local community and Sandhurst Diocese. I feel proud to be the principal of such a great school, a school that strives to make the difference for all the children.

School Education Board Report

2015 was a year of insight, reflection and action for our school board. We spent considerable time in discussion over how we can achieve the best learning outcomes for our children as a whole. This topic was ongoing throughout the year and I congratulate our wonderful teachers for not just talking about achieving the best learning outcomes, but for putting words into action. Every parent and child at our school would be aware of the significant work that is being put into creating a better reading culture for our children.

I can assure all parents in our community that the strong and continued focus on reading and literacy in our school throughout 2015 is aimed at bringing the best out of our children and I encourage every parent to jump on board and assist your children in maintaining these great reading habits. The board has been in the fortunate position to see the work that goes on behind the scenes and it is clear that our teachers and Nick are coming from a place of genuine care for our children. Most importantly, I know that this focus on our children's learning outcomes will continue well into the future.

Significant time has been spent discussing and prioritizing issues of maintenance and infrastructure. Of major interest to our board is ensuring we allocate appropriate funding and time to maintaining our beautiful buildings and surrounds. Considerations of safety and the practical requirements of maintaining such a large establishment can be quite a juggling act. However, we are in the fortunate position to have a broad range of parents from different backgrounds on our board, able to constructively contribute to discussions surrounding such issues.

As a result of these discussions the school will see some significant changes in the grounds with the shedding arrangements and importantly, the watering of our grounds. Such large projects take time in discussion, preparation and then of course there is the implementation phase. I encourage all parents and friends, who are able to, to actively donate their time where possible when the time comes to implement these great projects.

The board was also fortunate enough to have Mr. Paul Desmond, Director of Catholic Education, Sandhurst, attend a formation session which was held with St Marys Cohuna and St Patricks Pyramid Hill. Paul was an engaging speaker and opened our minds as board members to some of the broader issues we need to be considering as a school board. The questions posed by Paul provoked interesting and worthwhile discussion during our session and I encourage the board to reflect on the specific questions presented by Paul into the future.

I think it is important to note that I believe our school is benefitting greatly from the relationship we have with both St Marys Cohuna and St Patricks Pyramid Hill. This relationship is unique and is being actively nurtured by the Principals at all three schools. Thank you to all three principals for taking the time to maintain this relationship which is ultimately to the benefit of all of our children.

After several years on our school board I am now comfortably stepping off, knowing that I leave it in capable hands with some wonderful and actively interested parents and teachers. Thank you to those of you that have made my time on the board a productive and enjoyable one.

Jenny Waterson

School Board Chair

Education in Faith

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- Continue to implement the Diocesan Religious Education Guidelines: The Source of Life

Achievements

St Joseph's is a school community that gathers in a variety of ways to highlight and express its Christian beliefs and to reach out to others in sharing these beliefs.

The school gathered as a Christian family, supported by other parishioners to celebrate the beginning of school and end of school masses and picnic tea. It also celebrated the special Church feast days of Ash Wednesday, St Joseph's Day and Sacred Heart.

Each grade was rostered during each term to attend Friday masses where they experienced the celebration of the Eucharist. Each grade was respectively rostered to host a mass in their classroom where they welcomed families and parishioners. These masses were very successful with a wonderful attendance of families and parishioners who enjoyed a morning tea after each mass.

The children who were candidates for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation met in family groups to prepare for these sacraments. Religious Education Co-ordinator, Anne Jenkins provided the parents with an explanation of the sacraments prior to the commencement of the program. Classroom teacher, Jo Richardson, supported the children in the classroom with their preparation for the sacraments.

The Catholic Identity of the school was visually evident through displays in the foyer and corridors. The classroom prayer spaces were also identifiable in each room.

Staff members were immersed in the sense of our Catholic Identity through ongoing Religious Education professional development under the guidance of Kylie Smith from the Catholic Education Office, Bendigo. Through Kylie's leadership the teachers are continuing to deepen their students' knowledge and understanding of the scriptures. The teachers also participated in virtual meetings where they deepened their own knowledge around the topics of Prayer and Advent.

St Joseph's was founded in the tradition of the Good Samaritan more than a century ago. The example of the Good Samaritan sisters who established the school in 1912 continues in the life of the school through the various outreach programs such as Meals on Wheels, Caritas, St Vincent de Paul, Biggest Morning Tea and Catholic Mission Week that the school supports.

We strive to retain the ideals of their establishing motto: In All Things May God Be Glorified.

Our school chaplain, Cathy Hutchinson has maintained the operation of the school food bank that began two years ago. This service has been widely welcomed by the school community in providing meals that can be delivered to families who are experiencing challenges in their lives. The school community also continued the tradition of making and delivering Christmas cakes to the elderly of the Kerang district.

The spirit of the Good Samaritan is fostered in the children through such international and national programs as Caritas where as a community we reach out to communities needing support to build their capacity to provide for themselves. The Year 5 children are invited to participate as Just Leaders through a leadership program led by Caritas Australia. Eight Year 5s were selected to be the Just Leaders for 2016 and were able to attend a leadership day in Echuca to prepare them for this role.

Our link with the Good Samaritan Sisters is celebrated each year when we gather with our neighbouring St Mary's, Cohuna and St Patrick's, Pyramid Hill in a fun sports day, the Good Samaritan Cup, which begins with a liturgy where the story of the Good Samaritan is highlighted.

Our Catholic Identity was shared and highlighted with the wider community during Catholic Education Week.

The local media has been supportive in promoting our Catholic Identity, publicly highlighting our involvement in various community events such as the ANZAC Day march, delivery of the Christmas cakes, various Caritas fund-raisers and Catholic Education Week.

Religious Education remains a significant aspect of learning at St Joseph's.

Mrs. Anne Jenkins
Religious Education Coordinator

VALUE ADDED

Reality Meal for Caritas

Just Leaders Leadership Day

Catholic Education Week celebrations

Class Masses

Good Samaritan Cup



Learning & Teaching

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- Improve student outcomes in Reading.

Achievements

2015 began with our whole school focus to improve reading outcomes for children in our school. The Leadership Team began a journey with Helen Timperley, in collaboration with St. Mary's, Cohuna and St. Patrick's, Pyramid Hill to learn about school improvement through an inquiry focus. Initially, after scanning, we surveyed the children to gauge their attitudes towards reading, offered reading parent sessions, collected and analysed a number of sources of data based on the children in our school and their reading ability.

Alongside the scanning stage, Professional Development was supplied to teachers by the Catholic Education Office and the expertise of Ellen Hauser to further inform and skill teachers' in the area of reading. Assessments required at a systemic level were explained and the Guided Reading component of the Reading Block were modelled and explored.

From the start of the year, it was decided that the first hour of every day would be dedicated to an uninterrupted Reading Block with whole class instruction, small group instruction and then back to whole class instruction. Staff also made a commitment that the reading standards of the children in our care was the responsibility of us all, not just classroom teachers. Reading Recovery was reintroduced at St. Joseph's, with Mrs. Fiona Kendell commencing the training for this role and implementation from the start of 2015.

Throughout the cycle of improvement, the Leadership Team have met regularly to ensure that improvement was ongoing. A Professional Learning Community was organised so that staff would meet weekly to discuss, share and learn about the reading process. Sometimes, the staff were completely out of their comfort zone but it has all been for the benefit of the quality of learning and teaching in our school.

From the beginning of the 2015 school year, there was a clear focus and approach to the teaching of reading in our school. Throughout the process, there has been expectations but throughout the year, there has been ongoing support for all staff involved in the school improvement focus.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The fluctuations in NAPLAN data from 2012 through to 2014 are reflective of the changes in cohorts that have completed NAPLAN testing over the past three years.

Student Wellbeing

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- Continue full implementation of PBiS

Achievements

Our three clear school rules have continued to be promoted and reinforced across our school. The rules being: Respect for Self, Others and the Environment. For children struggling with acceptable behaviours at school, a referral form is completed including the inappropriate behaviour, where it happened and at what time. We subscribe to an app in which we can place this information and the app collates the data. This has been very beneficial to help us track behaviours, where they occur and at what time. This is enabling staff to be proactive and assist children who have trouble finding things to do in the yard.

On the upside, positive behaviours are rewarded with a ticket system. Children completing positive behaviours that are spotted in classrooms or in the yard are given a 'PBIS' ticket to reward that behaviour. Individual awards are given in classrooms when children reach their targets and the school, as a whole, works for a common reward. Whole school rewards can include extra play time, icy poles or ice cream in a cone. These occasions are great celebrations and the children work hard to achieve them.

In 2015 funding acquired through the National School Chaplain Programme supported the appointment of Mrs. Cathy Hutchinson to the role of Chaplain. Cathy's work with students and families has had a positive impact throughout the year. Through this appointment the school was able to offer Seasons for Growth for three groups of students, offer parent education opportunities and establish the 'shed' workshop.

Student Attendance

At St. Joseph's we recognise the importance of student attendance for student success at school. The newsletter is used to regularly communicate the importance of student attendance at school and students being on time. Teachers mark the attendance roll twice a day as per registration requirements and absences are recorded. When unexplained absences occur, communication is forwarded to families to clarify the reason why. Ongoing absences are investigated by the principal or classroom teacher, which includes late arrivals and early departures.

VALUE ADDED

- Excursions to Bendigo, Ballarat, Canberra, Swan Hill
- Seasons for Growth
- Good Samaritan Cup
- Student Leadership Day
- Cooking and delivery of Christmas cakes to the elderly and sick
- Meals on Wheels
- Lions Club Public Speaking
- School Community Foodbank

STUDENT SATISFACTION

Students at St. Joseph's reported feeling safe at St. Joseph's and that relationships with staff are positive.



Leadership & Management

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- The leadership team to actively lead the school improvement priority in Reading.

Achievements

The school leadership team, consisting of the Principal, Deputy Principal and Religious Education Coordinator were responsible for monitoring the implementation of the annual action plan. The team were fortunate to engage in ongoing professional learning with Professor Helen Timperley to enable them to use an inquiry spiral for school improvement. This collaborative learning involved the leadership teams from St. Mary's, Cohuna and St. Patrick's, Pyramid Hill and had a significant impact on learning and teaching at St. Joseph's.

Professional learning for staff was a continued priority. In Term 1 all staff participated in the Northern Plains conference 'Engagement for Improved Student Outcomes' at St. Mary's school in Echuca. The conference was organised and lead by the principals of the eight schools involved. Keynote presentations and workshops were facilitated by both external experts and experts from within Catholic Education, Sandhurst. The learning experience challenged and inspired us all for the year ahead.

Throughout the year a clear focus on developing teachers' knowledge and understanding of the reading process and how to effectively teach reading was a key action to the school improvement plan. Regular professional reading and viewing, teacher observation and student centred conversations formed the basis for this learning. The impact was evident in teacher practice, the staff valued these learning opportunities.

All teachers at St. Joseph's were registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching and the majority were accredited to teach Religious Education in a Catholic School. We recognise the importance of maintaining a safe place of learning and all staff updated their First Aid qualifications at the end of term 1.

In accordance with the Charter of Sandhurst School Improvement (CoSSI), St. Joseph's engaged in the process of self-review in the dimension of Learning and Teaching that was ratified at the end of term 3. The recommendations give clear direction and endorse the use of an inquiry mindset for school improvement.



EXPENDITURE AND TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

DESCRIPTION OF PL UNDERTAKEN IN 2015

Northern Plains Cluster Conference: 'Engagement for Improved Student Outcomes'

School Improvement through an Inquiry Mindset: Helen Timperley

Literacy Assessment Data – What does it tell us about the students?

Weekly Reading Professional Learning Team Meeting

School Self Review: Learning and Teaching

First Aid Training: Level 2, Anaphylaxis, Asthma (STITCHES Training)

Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support (CEO)

Religious Education Curriculum Planning (CEO: Kylie Smith)

Seasons for Growth

Reading Recovery

NUMBER OF TEACHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN PL

11

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER TEACHER FOR PL

\$1,435.00

TEACHER SATISFACTION

Insight SRC surveys indicate staff at St. Joseph's experienced professional growth and role clarity at St. Joseph's in 2015.

School Community

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- Engage the parent community in the life of St. Joseph's school.

Achievements

St. Joseph's has a strong tradition of being an active school community that engages regularly with the local community. Parents are present in the life of the school in many and varied ways and the school works with the local schools and community groups throughout the year. This community mindedness was evident in 2015 in the below achievements.

- The School Board's commitment to future planning to ensure the building, grounds and facilities are maintained and that education at St. Joseph's is affordable for all families.
- A dedicated group of parents who formed the Parents and Friends with a clear focus on supporting the students and families of the school.
- The Closed Door Sale, an event that generates significant income for local businesses each November.
- The school fete in November that is a highlight for the Kerang community and relies on the support of the vast majority of families from St. Joseph's.
- The appointment of a School Chaplain and her work in supporting a community members.
- The Parents and Friends committee worked well last year to raise funds and hold some great community events to reflect a positive outlook for our beautiful school. These events included; annual wood raffle, St. Joseph's Ladies High Tea, hosting of the Good Samaritan Cup and a Trivia Night for parents.
- Support of families through provision of uniforms and the school food bank.

PARENT SATISFACTION

Parents at St. Joseph's reported experiencing a high level of community engagement and recognize that staff engagement is also high.

Financial Performance

REPORTING FRAMEWORK	MODIFIED CASH \$
Recurrent income	Tuition
School fees	47322
Other fee income	40338
Private income	15398
State government recurrent grants	312871
Australian government recurrent grants	1116186
Total recurrent income	1532115
Recurrent Expenditure	Tuition
Salaries; allowances and related expenses	889775
Non salary expenses	253014
Total recurrent expenditure	1142789
Capital income and expenditure	Tuition
Government capital grants	0
Capital fees and levies	11370
Other capital income	11270
Total capital income	22640
Total capital expenditure	0
Loans (includes refundable enrolment deposits and recurrent, capital and bridging loans)	
Total opening balance	22161
Total closing balance	10434

The information provided above does not include system levies charged to individual schools, intra-systemic transfers and, for primary schools, the diocesan supplementary capital fund supporting primary schools' capital borrowings.

The information provided in this VRQA template is not comparable with other educational sectors or to ACARA school-level income reports displayed on the MySchool website. ACARA school level reporting requires system level income from Government grants and some private income to be allocated to each school resulting in a small adjustment to the total level of school resources. Currently, recurrent income from Government sources, school generated income and capital expenditure are reported by schools. When assessing the private income of the school, both recurrent and capital school fees are included..

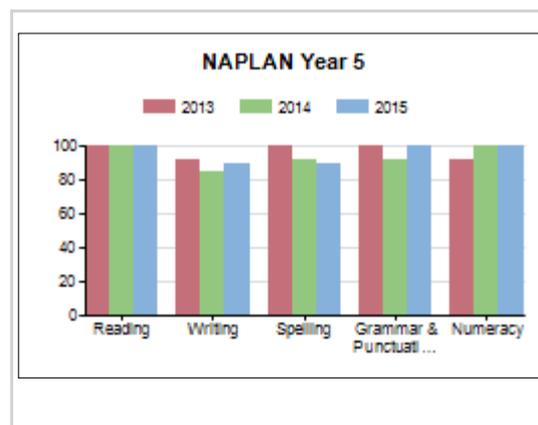
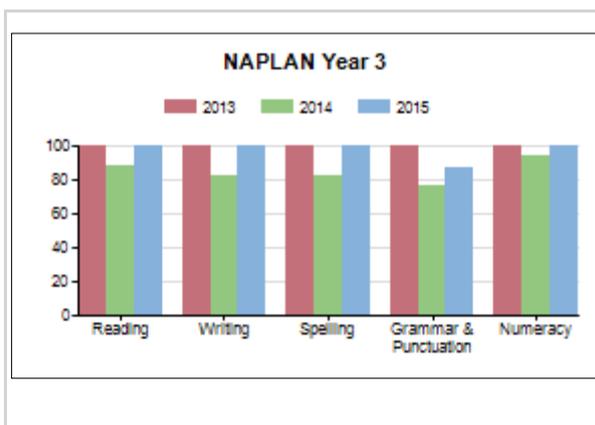
VRQA Compliance Data

E3026

St Joseph's School, Kerang

PROPORTION OF STUDENTS MEETING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS

NAPLAN TESTS	2013 %	2014 %	2013–2014 Changes %	2015 %	2014–2015 Changes %
YR 03 Reading	100.0	88.2	-11.8	100.0	11.8
YR 03 Writing	100.0	82.4	-17.6	100.0	17.6
YR 03 Spelling	100.0	82.4	-17.6	100.0	17.6
YR 03 Grammar & Punctuation	100.0	76.5	-23.5	87.5	11.0
YR 03 Numeracy	100.0	94.1	-5.9	100.0	5.9
YR 05 Reading	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Writing	92.3	84.6	-7.7	90.0	5.4
YR 05 Spelling	100.0	92.3	-7.7	90.0	-2.3
YR 05 Grammar & Punctuation	100.0	92.3	-7.7	100.0	7.7
YR 05 Numeracy	92.3	100.0	7.7	100.0	0.0



AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE BY YEAR LEVEL	%
Y01	92.63
Y02	92.86
Y03	94.46
Y04	92.98
Y05	91.84
Y06	95.60
Overall average attendance	93.40

TEACHING STAFF ATTENDANCE RATE	
Teaching Staff Attendance Rate	97.28%

STAFF RETENTION RATE	
Staff Retention Rate	66.67%

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS	
Doctorate	0.00%
Masters	12.50%
Graduate	12.50%
Certificate Graduate	12.50%
Degree Bachelor	100.00%
Diploma Advanced	50.00%
No Qualifications Listed	0.00%

STAFF COMPOSITION	
Principal Class	2
Teaching Staff (Head Count)	11
FTE Teaching Staff	9.360
Non-Teaching Staff (Head Count)	5
FTE Non-Teaching Staff	3.934
Indigenous Teaching Staff	0