

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL


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# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Jo Knight

It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of accomplishment that we present to you the St Paul's Catholic Primary School Annual Report for the 2023 academic year. As we reflect upon the past year, we are filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the faith, trust, and unwavering support that you, our school community, have shown us.

At St Paul's Catholic Primary School, we firmly believe that education is not only about imparting knowledge but also about nurturing the whole child – mind, body, and spirit. Rooted in our Catholic faith, we strive to create a loving and inclusive environment that encourages the development of each child unique potential.

In this report, we will take you on a journey through the milestones, achievements, and the vibrant life of our school, showcasing our commitment to academic excellence, character formation, and spiritual growth.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff who work tirelessly to ensure that our students receive a high-quality education, steeped in Catholic values. Our school's continuous strive for excellence was clearly noted in our School Improvement Tool External Review conducted this year. This year we undertook our School Improvement Tool (NSIT) External Validation. Through validation, we were acknowledged for our achievements over the past five years. This was a very affirming process for staff, students and members of our school community. Our teachers continue to work hard to ensure they are providing the best possible learning environment for our children each and every day.

Our primary goal is to provide a safe, nurturing, and inspiring learning environment where every child can flourish academically, socially, and spiritually. As we report on the year's accomplishments, we recognise that each milestone achieved is a testament to the collective efforts of our students, staff, and the wider community.

In this annual report, you will find details on academic achievements, extracurricular activities, spiritual development, community outreach, and the ways in which we have strived to meet the unique needs of our diverse student body.

We invite you to take a closer look at the pages that follow, as they highlight the heart and soul of our school. We are excited to share the stories of our students' growth, the impact of our faith-based education, and the positive contributions that St Paul's Catholic Primary School has made to the lives of our students and their families.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to our mission, inspired by our Catholic faith, and committed to the continuous improvement of our school. The annual report serves as a snapshot of our journey, and we hope it inspires a sense of pride in what we have achieved together.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education, and for your ongoing support. Together, we walk together and look forward to another year of growth, learning, and blessings.

# STATEMENTS

## Vision

We walk together in faith towards a future filled with hope and love.



We are growing in God's love



We are creating our tomorrow



We have love for ourselves, each other, our creation and our learning

## Mission

Our Mission is to provide our students with a high quality Catholic education filled with opportunities to thrive academically, emotionally and spiritually. We foster respectful relationships that nurture a safe environment and promote responsibility. We work in partnership with our community to lead strategic school improvement and stewardship of our charism and our resources.

# ST PAUL'S HISTORY

St Paul's Catholic School opened as an Infant School in February 1967 with two classrooms that were used as a Mass centre on Sundays. It was started by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Sister Virgil and Sister Gabriel. By the time Cyclone Tracy arrived in Darwin in 1974, St Paul's had grown to a school of 415 students. Many families had contributed much of their time and energy into developing St Paul's and within a short space of time Cyclone Tracy destroyed much of the parish and school.

The library and two-storey building were extensively damaged and the future of the school was unknown. Occupied by the army, what was left of St Paul's was used by the community for housing and relief. It was not until February 1976 that St Paul's was reopened with a new Principal, 15 new staff members and 315 students.

Throughout the late seventies and the eighties St Paul's grew into a large urban primary school of over 500 students. Today, St Paul's Catholic Primary School is a close knit community of around 200 students. Each child is known and as such their needs can be closely catered for.

This year, St Paul's continues to work on a Master Plan to consider further development and refurbishment of the school to provide contemporary facilities for the students and staff. Our school has a rich, proud history in Catholic education in the Northern Territory that we continue to nurture through strong academic performance and respectful relationships.

# WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

	Head Count	Fulltime Employment
Administrative and Clerical (including assistants)	3.5	3.5
Building Operations Maintenance and Other Staff	1.5	1.5
Computer ICT Support	.5	.5
Principal	1	1
Deputy Principal	1	1
Teaching Staff (including librarians)	18	1.2
Teacher Assistant	11	8
Total	36.5	16.7

# QUALIFICATIONS, OCHRE CARDS AND REGISTRATION

Bachelor Degree	12
Graduate Certificate	5
Graduate Diploma	1
Masters (Completed)	3
Masters (Studying)	3

## TEACHER STANDARDS

All teachers are registered with the Northern Territory Teacher Board (TRB) and all staff have ochre cards.

# STUDENT ATTENDANCE

## MANAGING NON-ATTENDANCE

St Paul's Catholic Primary School is committed to maximising the achievement of all pupils and there is a clear link between good attendance and educational achievement however this year our attendance was impacted by the waves of Covid-19 outbreaks.

In spite of this St Paul's continued to strive for a strong attendance rate by our students. We provided a supportive school environment to assist students and parents through these difficult times.

Our school records all attendance-related incoming messages from parents and we notify the class teacher. Our attendance registers are monitored in the front office daily and parents are contacted if there were no satisfactory reasons received to explain a student's absence.

## AUGUST CENSUS 2023

Trans	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total
26	38	37	29	35	24	27	216



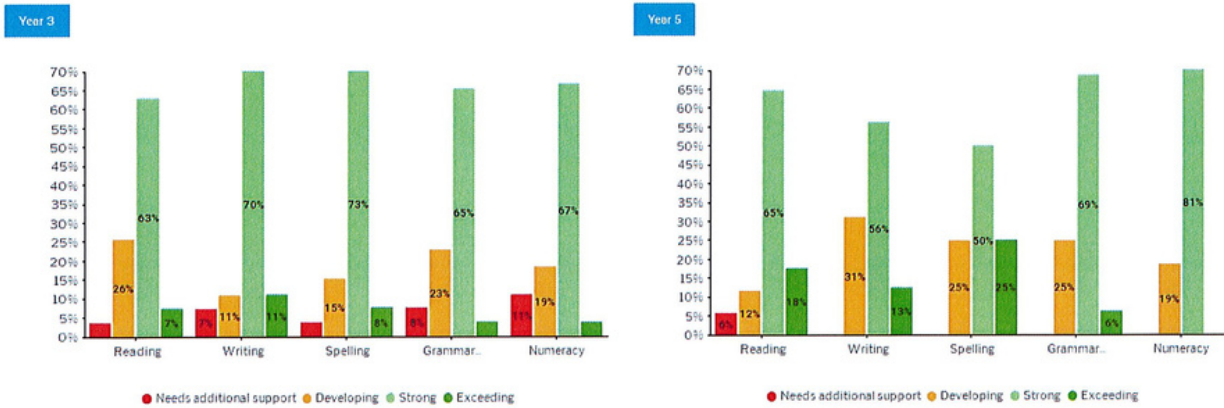
# NAPLAN

Year 3	Year 5
29	17

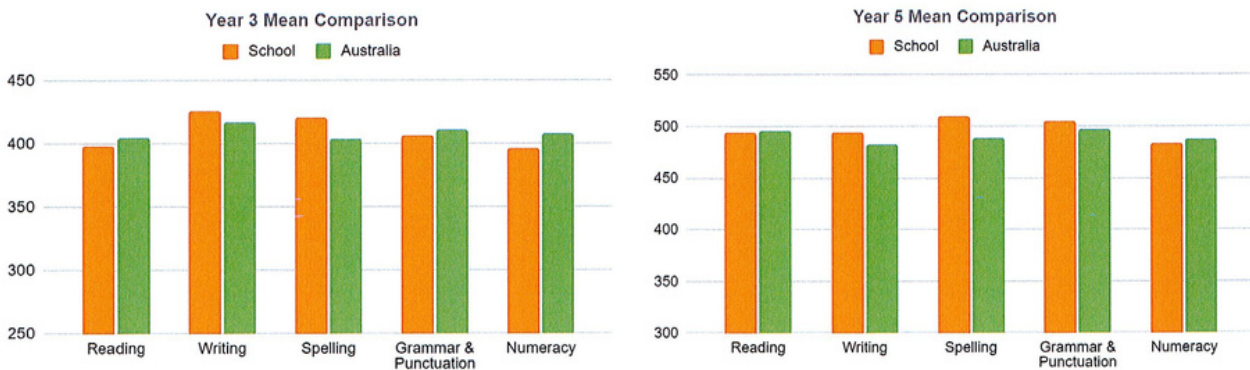
Year	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
2023	11 25%	10 23%	9 21%	12 29%	11 26%
Students	Not Proficient	Not Proficient	Not Proficient	Not Proficient	Not Proficient
46					
Schools	33 75%	33 77%	33 79%	30 71%	32 74%
1	Proficient	Proficient	Proficient	Proficient	Proficient

St Paul's Catholic Primary School had a total of 44 out of 46 eligible students participate in NAPLAN 2023. This included 27 Year 3 students and 17 Year 5 students. Overall, students have demonstrated the highest proficiency in *Spelling* and the lowest proficiency in *Grammar and Punctuation*.

The below graphs show the proficiency achievements of the Year 3 and 5 students across the test domains.



The below graphs show the school's achievement compared with Australia's mean results in all test domains.



## Students' Proficiency in Reading and Writing

Proficiency	Year 3	Year 5
Reading and Writing	63.0%	58.8%
Neither	11.1%	11.8%
One but not the other* 7 students Yr 3 3 students Yr 5	25.9%	23.5%
*proficient in	Writing = 5/7 Reading = 2/7	Writing = 1/3 Reading = 4/3

## Students Proficiency in Numeracy and Reading

Proficiency	Year 3	Year 5
Numeracy and Reading	58.6%	64.7%
Neither	17.2%	5.9%
One but not the other* 3 students Yr 3 4 students Yr 5	10.3%	23.5%
*proficient in	Numeracy = 2/3 Reading = 1/3	Numeracy = 2/4 Reading = 2/4



# PARENT FEEDBACK SURVEY



**Tell Them From Me®**

In July & August of 2023, students, families and staff of St Paul's were invited to complete the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in a Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we sought parent and family feedback regarding our school. The information that was provided will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St Paul's. 71% of students from Years 4 to 6 completed the survey and 100% of teaching staff. 45 families, out of 140 St Paul's families, completed the survey.

## 70%

of students at St Paul's from Years 4 to 6 told us that they feel accepted and valued by their peers and others at their school.

### IN 2024 WE WILL

continue to foster positive relationships between students and their peers as well as students and staff through the explicit instruction of SEL (Social, Emotional Learning) in classroom teaching such as Zones of Regulation and Superflex.

## 80%

of parents feel welcome when they visit St Paul's and feel they can easily speak with their child's teacher. At St Paul's, we pride ourselves on creating and maintaining a welcoming environment for our students and families.

### IN 2024 WE WILL

continue to maintain this warm and welcoming sense through continued parent information evenings, open classrooms and family events.

## 40%

of our 2023 cohort of Year 5 girls have feelings of fear, anxiety or worry about particular events or social situations.

### IN 2024 WE WILL

Beginning in 2024, St Paul's will support upper primary girls with their wellbeing through multiple retreat opportunities to gather, connect and improve their self awareness and perception.

## 37% 30%

did not know how and why St Paul's encourages its students to participate in social justice action.

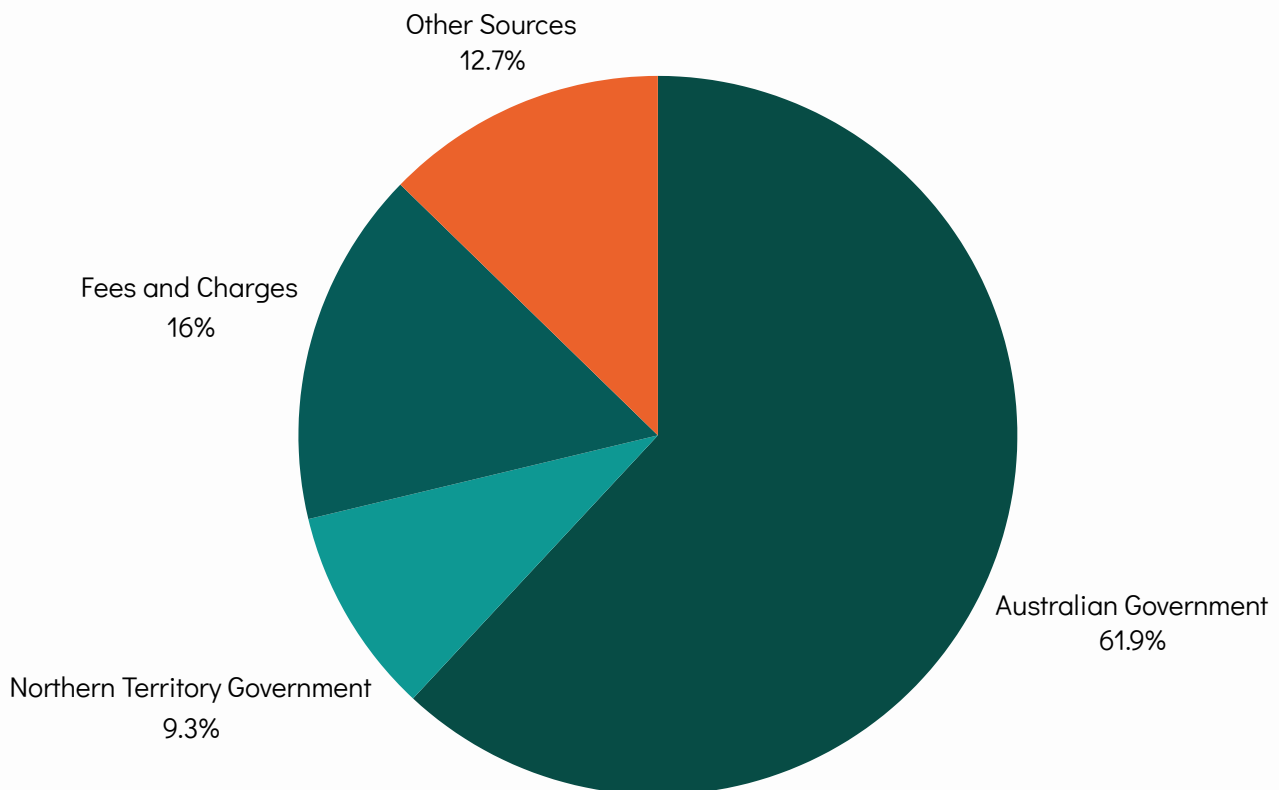
### IN 2024 WE WILL

bring to the forefront the many events and ways that the St Paul's school community ensures social justice is highlighted as a key strategy to develop more empathy, more justice, and more equality in students and their families.

# FINANCE, FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

## School Recurrent Income 2023

Source	Amount	Proportion
Australian Government	2,339,516	61.9%
Northern Territory Government	352,442	9.3%
fees and Charges	605,600	16%
Other resources	480,246	12.7%
	<b>3,777,805</b>	<b>100%</b>



# CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Catholic schools are an integral part of the Church and Christ-centered communities based on Gospel values. We share our journey in faith as followers of Jesus through our service to each other, our schools, parishes and the wider community.

At St Paul's we recognise and value parents as the first educators of their child and work in close partnership with parents and the local community to achieve desired outcomes and developments in all students.

Our school was built by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, who established Catholic schools throughout the Territory and we celebrate the continuing journey of faith of the people of God. We operate as a school under the auspice of the Bishop of the Diocese of Darwin. Staff of the Catholic school contribute to their local faith community (Parish) and the wider community of the Church in the world.

The staff at St Paul's share in the promotion and the formation of the whole person. This is achieved through developing positive rapport with students and through a clearly-directed and well-planned school curriculum which enhances student learning and personal development. The staff perform an essential personal role in the teaching ministry of the Catholic Church. Staff bring to the students a realisation and knowledge of the richness and joy of a life lived in accordance with Gospel values.

St Paul's emphasises personal and social development as fundamental enduring values and requirements in an ever-changing world. We are now fully emerged into new units of work through the Religious Education program called Journey in Faith. The units within the program are specifically developed in and for schools in the Northern Territory and as such, has a certain uniqueness about it. Made in the Image of God is the human sexuality component of our Religious Education program which is taught throughout the school.

Prayer is embedded within the school through participation of liturgies, masses, assemblies, lunch time prayer, end of day examen and formal classroom lessons. Students celebrate Mass at school a number of times throughout the year and parents are encouraged to attend.

Our main focus for this year was finding our Heart for these Times: Fullness of Life for all (John: 10:10)

- The Performing Arts, Dance Extravaganza- Firefly, showcasing Fullness of Life for all.
- The celebration of dance and drama talents from students.
- Catholic Identity Day for staff which provided the opportunity to enter into a time of listening, encounter and dialogue in the ways we create Kingdom Spaces in our school communities for the fullness of life for all.

## LITURGIES AND MASSES

- Opening School Mass
- Commissioning Mass for all those involved in Education
- Ash Wednesday
- Holy Week/Good Friday
- Easter/Lent (resurrection liturgy)
- Mother's Day, Father's Day and Grandparents Day
- Saint Paul Feast Day (end of Semester One)
- ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day
- Public Speaking Mass (Year 6 only)
- Assumption Of Mary
- Mission Month
- Advent (covered over four weeks)
- Year 6 Graduation/ End of Year Mass combined

## Make Jesus Real(MJR):

The Catholic faith is lived everyday through the Spirit of Jesus by finding the God Moments that are always happening around the students. We live by the Making Jesus Real way. It links faith and spirituality with resilience. MJR is all about inviting students to be alert for and reflect upon the God Moments. MJR is embedded through the curriculum content and is promoted through fortnightly assembly focuses followed by awards to students who have demonstrated the Spirit of Jesus. We have displays of MJR language and signage in classrooms and around the school as visual reminders for everyone. We are thrilled to invite Marty Ogal from Tasmania back to the school in Term One 2024 to continue staff development on MJR.

## LAUDATO SI:

This year we became a registered school through the Laudato Si Action Platform. The Laudato Si' Action Platform is used as an initiative of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development inspired by Pope Francis's encyclical letter, Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home. The staff have been exposed to the virtual platform which has given them ideas and strategies on taking action to care for the earth and the poor. At St Paul's we continue to embed Laudato Si throughout the school and curriculum. This year we also celebrated Laudato Si week through the following activities:

- Nature Mandalas
- Nature Collages from a variety of leaves
- Naughts and Crosses games using sticks and rocks
- Postcards made with images of plants and animals around the school

## SACRAMENTS:

Reconciliation- 10 children from St. Paul's

Eucharist- 15 children from St. Paul's

Confirmation- 10 children from St. Paul's

St Paul's supports Project Compassion, Caritas, Mission Australia and St Vincent De Paul charities. We have a Mini Vinnies action group with students involved from years 3 to 6. Students attend regular meetings and discuss ways to help the community.

## FUNDRAISING:

Project Compassion- \$864.30

Caritas K's- \$1266.85

Mini Vinnies Appeal \$693.89

Mission Month \$2213.50

Christmas Carols \$489.45

## MINI VINNIES:

This year we had many wonderful students from year 3-6 become part of Mini Vinnies to promote Social Justice. We held numerous fundraisers and supported events throughout the school. The main events held by the Mini Vinnies Action Group were:

- PJ day to promote Saint Vincent De Paul CEO Sleepout appeal
- Whole school Christmas Food Drive Donation
- St Vincent De Paul Feast Day
- Bagging and delivering bread to classrooms weekly

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PD) FOR STAFF:

This year there were many accreditation opportunities for staff to undertake throughout the year and are accessible through the Catholic Education Office, via zoom or in schools. We were also fortunate enough to have three staff members undertake Cornerstone, working towards gaining Religious Education accreditation. At St Paul's we are committed to quality professional and faith formation to enable all staff members to be confident witnesses to the gospel. The following PD were taken up by staff:

- Teaching & Learning: Formation Day
- Mission and Vision of the school
- Network Meetings
- Made in the image of God (MITIOG) Training
- Catholic Identity Day

## FAITH GROUPS:

This year we introduced Faith Groups at St Paul's. Faith groups played a pivotal role in fostering a sense of community and shared beliefs among our students. These sessions were established around religious themes and provided a supportive environment for prayer, moral guidance and the cultivation of shared values. Through rituals, teachings and social activities, faith groups contributed to spiritual development, promoting a sense of belonging and purpose within a broader religious context. Students were put in mixed groupings from Transition to Year 6 providing opportunities for relationship building across the school.

## NET TEAM(National Evangelization Team):

We were very fortunate to develop a strong connection with the NET Team. Our young people need real connection with other young people, young people that have hope, vitality and empathy, that are ready to journey alongside them. The NET team were involved in many whole school activities such as swimming carnival, athletics carnival, daily lunchtime play, classroom learning sessions, Public Speaking Competition and Specialist classes.

# COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

At St. Paul's Catholic Primary School we value the support of parents across the range of school life. This includes management, maintenance and fund raising through the School Board and Parents & Friends Association. The fundraising that takes place in the school is vital for providing the necessary resources for student learning.

Parents are also invited to assist by supporting teachers in the classroom on a regular or casual basis. Helping with excursions, NT School Sport Events (coaches, managers, transport) and sporting events run by the school.

In 2023, the school continued to use Class Dojo to connect with families to improve student learning. The school also continues to use Operoo (formerly known as Care Monkey) an efficient and paperless means for gathering medical data, excursion and permission forms and also uses the SchoolZine website and app. The school also has a very active Facebook Page.

## PARENT SATISFACTION:

There are a number of ways we collect evidence of the satisfaction of the parents at St Paul's Catholic Primary School including these below:

- Annual Parent and Community Survey
- Termly Parent Engagement Evenings (introduced 2021)
- Parents are encouraged to meet the teachers at an open night at the beginning of the year
- Parent participation in our school functions is very high
- Parents are always welcome at any activities organised by the school, and we encourage you to be involved in school events whenever possible.

## SCHOOL BOARD:

The School Board is an advisory and support group which assists the Principal, staff and Parish Priest to ensure the smooth running of the school.

All parents have the opportunity to participate in policy development and planning by joining the School Board for a set term. Members are elected annually. Information on participation on the Board can be obtained through the Principal.

## PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION(P&F):

All families are encouraged to belong to the Parents & Friends Association. An elected executive committee works with the school to maintain a strong sense of community amongst the parent body and organise fundraising, purchase resources and assist in planning for the future of the school. The P & F are represented on the School Board.

The Parents and Friends organised the following events in 2023:

- Welcome Night and Disco
- Mother's Day Breakfast and Stall
- Father's Day Breakfast and Stall
- BBQs at Swimming Carnival and Athletics Carnival
- Assisting with catering Art Show

We are extremely grateful for the hard work of the P&F over the last couple of years and their continued fundraising towards the development of the senior playground area. This year also highlighted the power of community and the way that everyone in our school community truly cares for and support each other.



# ENDORSEMENT

Principal  
Jo Knight

Handwritten signature of Jo Knight in black ink on a white background.

Date: 2/04/2024

Chairperson of School Board  
Steve Roberts

Handwritten signature of Steve Roberts in black ink on a white background.

Date: 2/04/2024

Director of Catholic Education  
Paul Greaves

Handwritten signature of Paul Greaves in black ink on a white background.

Date: 2/04/2024