



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

2023

Annual Report to the School Community



St Aloysius' School

34 Stevens Street, QUEENSCLIFF 3225

Principal: Miriam Leahy

Web: www.saqueenscliff.catholic.edu.au

Registration: 1036, E Number: E1089

Principal's Attestation

I, Miriam Leahy, attest that St Aloysius' 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 06 May 2024

About this report

St Aloysius' 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

At St Aloysius we recognize the right of each child to a complete education and therefore the curriculum of our school needs to foster the total development of each child:

Spiritually
Academically
Aesthetically
Emotionally
Socially
Culturally and
Physically

Mission

To develop in children an awareness and appreciation of the environment in which they live and respect for it as part of God's creation.

To develop an appreciation of education as a lifelong process that enables individuals to adapt in a rapidly changing technological society.

That through education one develops an understanding of self, others, our society and the world in which we live.

To assist students to develop skills, attitudes, values and actions which will support them in becoming valued effective members of our society.

To cultivate an environment where children, parents and staff grow together in a Catholic community.

To have time for reflection so the Spirit of God can be seen in action.

To endeavour to show each child that they are special and individually loved for who they are.

School Overview

St Aloysius is a Catholic Primary School with an enrolment of 100 students, situated on the beautiful Bellarine Peninsula.

The St Aloysius community is made up of families not only from Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale but also surrounding areas of the Bellarine Peninsula including St Leonards, Clifton Springs, Indented Heads and Portarlinton. While being very proud of its 122 year history, St Aloysius Primary School is intent on providing the most contemporary and engaging learning and teaching programme for our students today and into the future. Being part of a Catholic Community, the St Aloysius students are guided by Catholic values and Catholic Social Teaching so as to make a difference in our world both locally and globally.

Principal's Report

At Saint Aloysius Catholic Primary School we:

- provide an effective learning environment where educational opportunities positively address the individual needs of all children
- enhance self esteem through our appreciation of cultural background, gender equality and recognition of the talents of all children
- cater for children's different learning styles
- encourage risk taking, responsibility and independence
- foster a nurturing atmosphere in which staff, parents and children work as a team to develop in the children the skills to meet life's challenges with confidence, resilience and enthusiasm

We achieve these aims through our Learning and Teaching program that is based on the Science of Learning and the Science of Reading, our Outdoor Learning program that creates a sense of wonder and awe and the preciousness of God's creation and through our community partnerships with the Parish and families.

Catholic Identity and Mission

Goals & Intended Outcomes

St Aloysius Primary School is a faith-filled, dynamic community who proclaim the mission of Jesus. We believe it is essential that we aim to promote the self-esteem of others and that we assist children to feel positive about the future.

Our school works within the Parish of Holy Trinity to develop a mutual awareness of what it means to be a member of a Catholic Community. To make this work we need cooperation between the school staff/students, families and members of our Parish.

Achievements

At St Aloysius Primary School we;

Foster a spirit of acceptance, appreciation, sharing and friendly cooperation with all others in our school community. Our school is to be a happy place where people respect and support each other.

Facilitate the professional development of staff, who can then use evidence informed methodologies for the benefit of all children

Facilitate a relationship between staff/parents so that parents too can understand the changes that are taking place in the education process.

Provide a variety of learning and spiritual experiences that encourage children to act with wisdom, love and compassion.

Build and expand the experience of our children so that each comes to a fuller realization of belonging to a faith and wider community.

Value Added

Full Sacramental Program

Involvement with many aspects of the the local Holy Trinity Parish, eg;

- Participate in the Parish Concert
- Celebrate mid-week mass with local parishioners
- Work with the Parish to support Project Compassion
- Work with the local St Vincent's committee to provide support for families in need.

Learning and Teaching

Goals & Intended Outcomes

At St Aloysius we are committed to supporting and developing the literacy skills of our students. Our structured Literacy blocks are tailored to build and enhance the oral language, writing and reading skills of all our students. We endeavour to use evidenced based instructional strategies that build on and use students' personal experiences as well as engaging their interests within each session.

Reading is a fundamental skill that we scaffold throughout all the years of schooling, building on the body of evidence around the Science of Reading. It is supported in small group guided reading workshops which support the skill development of all children. As students move along in their schooling, we encourage independence in their learning where they are involved in literature circles and book discussions, challenging our students to develop comprehension skills.

Mathematics

At St Aloysius we believe that Mathematics has an integral role in students' lives. Therefore, we believe that active and effective participation in Australian society is dependent upon learners being numerate and able to apply mathematical thinking and skills in everyday life with confidence, understanding, purpose and enjoyment.

At St Aloysius we enhance the development of students' numeracy skills through actively engaging them in investigations. We aim to enable and extend our students to achieve personal success across all Mathematics areas. We place an emphasis on problem solving, finding patterns and making connections. Students are encouraged to apply skills to real life problems leading them to become independent thinkers.

Achievements

Literacy

Writing is supported throughout the literacy block and is incorporated throughout the sessions. We develop student's oral language skills in order to see this transfer into their writing. Students develop their understanding and knowledge of spelling patterns during this time and are supported using elements of the SMART spelling process to do this. Students

are encouraged to use the components of the writing process to develop meaningful pieces. They are supported in small group writing workshops to develop key skills to enhance the work they produce. We use Little Learners Love Literacy and MacqLit as our evidenced based explicit teaching programs.

We understand the importance of student-centred learning and use a range of data and assessment to cater for this. We set high expectations for our students' achievement and allow our students to set personal learning goals. We endeavour to support students in 1:1 and small group sessions throughout their literacy journey.

Numeracy

We support our students in the development of algebraic thinking, number sense and understanding of mathematical procedures. Our lessons provide workshops with student specific purposes and through the use of concrete materials as support, students are challenged to extend their understandings.

Student Learning Outcomes

Our NAPLAN data continues to be some of the strongest in the Geelong area over the past 5 year period.

In 2023 St Aloysius was ranked 9th out of 72 schools in the Greater Geelong region for their NAPLAN results.

In the 2024 results we just received 90% of our Grade 5 students received Strong or Exceeding for Reading and Numeracy.

NAPLAN - Proportion of students meeting the proficient standards			
Domain	Year level	Mean Scale score	Proficient
Grammar & Punctuation	Year 3	349	33%
	Year 5	*	*
Numeracy	Year 3	385	58%
	Year 5	*	*
Reading	Year 3	397	75%
	Year 5	*	*
Spelling	Year 3	362	25%
	Year 5	*	*
Writing	Year 3	408	83%
	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

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Building staff capacity in SEL within the context of an integrated school-wide wellbeing framework

Social and emotional learning embedded in weekly Wellbeing lessons and incidental activities eg circle time

Zones of Regulation displays, resources utilised by all staff,

Whole school daily mindfulness sessions after recess and lunch (5 minute)

Pulse wellbeing survey

Mental Health in Primary School Leader

Achievements

Strength based approach used for all classroom teaching.

Restorative Practices used for all student welfare and discipline.

Mindfulness used on a daily basis.

Pulse Wellbeing Survey conducted every 2 weeks

Value Added

Lunch time groups offered throughout the year

- Craft club
- Games club
- Dance/drama
- Library
- Environmental group
- Italian

The lunch time clubs have been extremely well received by the students who attend in great numbers on a regular basis. These clubs offer students quiet, calm and passive play experiences and an alternative to outside play in a well-adjusted manner.

Other programmes such as the Buddy Programme have seen connections made between Prep and Grade 4, Grades 1, 3 and 5 and Grade 2 and 6. The program is recognized by staff and the community to enhance Student Wellbeing Program in general, particularly in regards to connectedness to school and connectedness to peers.

Student Satisfaction

Students feel welcome, safe, valued and data reflects this in Awesome Schools Survey and MACSISS.

Our MACSISS Data, along with our Pulse Wellbeing data is regularly collected and analysed showing very good levels of student engagement, attendance and attitudes towards school.

Student Attendance

Attendance rolls

We use N Forma for Attendance

It is essential that rolls are completed twice daily at 8.50am and 1.50pm. Use code of absences. School camps - children are present.

Nforma roll marker is the school program. If children are absent and we have not received notification from parents, the School Office who will contact parents.

Average Student Attendance Rate by Year Level	
Y01	90.9%
Y02	92.5%
Y03	85.8%
Y04	89.3%
Y05	88.9%
Y06	90.3%
Overall average attendance	89.6%

Leadership

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Developing role of Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader within the leadership Structures.

Creating an effective Leadership Communications and Meeting schedule

Data Team and Coaching and Mentoring

Delivery of new LOTE Auslan

Achievements

Appoint and support new MHiPS teacher 2024.

Rotating Leadership Teams meetings to strategically plan for Student Improvement.

Develop the role of MHWB Leader through regular mentoring, community of practice

Support of new LOTE Auslan leader of language learning

Expenditure And Teacher Participation in Professional Learning	
List Professional Learning undertaken in 2023	
Staff Professional Learning Teaching for Impact in Maths Science of Learning Science of Reading Little Learners Love Literacy Intervention Framework Child Safety Volunteer Induction AUSLAN teacher training Deaf Awareness Building Gardening into the School Curriculum Behaviour Curriculum - Flourishing Learners MacqLIT Faith Formation - "I Am"	
Number of teachers who participated in PL in 2023	17
Average expenditure per teacher for PL	\$500.00

Teacher Satisfaction

Our staff MACSSIS data is consistently high in the areas of staff engagement and satisfaction with the professional learning they have undertaken in order to continually improve their practice.

Teacher Qualifications	
Doctorate	0.0%
Masters	16.7%
Graduate	27.8%
Graduate Certificate	0.0%
Bachelor Degree	27.8%
Advanced Diploma	11.1%
No Qualifications Listed	16.7%

Staff Composition	
Principal Class (Headcount)	1
Teaching Staff (Headcount)	15
Teaching Staff (FTE)	9.9
Non-Teaching Staff (Headcount)	6
Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	5.1
Indigenous Teaching Staff (Headcount)	0

Community Engagement

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Parents, as the first educators of their children, are encouraged to become actively involved in the learning and teaching programme at St Aloysius. We believe it is important for parents and our school to work together in partnership, leading to enhanced wellbeing, positive behaviours and improved student learning.

We welcome parents and carers into our school in many ways. Whether it's helping out in the classroom, assisting with excursions or incursions, getting involved in our cooking/gardening/environmental programs, or sharing their knowledge and skills with our students, it all helps the children to acquire the best education possible.

Achievements

To become involved as a volunteer at St Aloysius School, parents must complete a process implemented by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria – this involves meeting with the Principal, giving the Principal permission to contact two referees, read and sign the St Aloysius Child Safe Policy and sign the St Aloysius Code of Conduct agreement.

St Aloysius School has a School Advisory Board which has elected parent representatives.

Our Parents and Friends Association organises many activities during the year with the aim of fostering a sense of community in our school and for fundraising initiatives.

Clear communication between home and school is vital to ensuring ongoing, effective partnerships for each child's learning. We adopt a number of methods:

Newsletter – distributed via email and Operoo every Thursday

Parent/teacher interviews – whilst you are invited to a formal meeting with your child’s teacher twice a year, you are welcome to make an appointment with your child’s teacher any time throughout the year to discuss your child’s learning.

Operoo App – this all-in-one App allows instant messaging,
announcements, digital permission forms and newsletters.

Seesaw App – a digital portfolio that gives you real-time glimpses into your child’s school day. Seesaw helps you stay in the loop and gives you an opportunity to support your child’s learning at home.

FaceBook – there are two Facebook pages:

1. St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, Queenscliff
2. St A’s Parents Group

Instagram – @staloyusqueenscliff

Parent Satisfaction

Our parent have consistently indicated that they have good satisfaction rates with the Learning and Teaching at our school via the 2023 MACSSIS data.

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.saqueenscliff.catholic.edu.au