



St Patrick's School Pyramid Hill

2020

Annual Report to the School Community



Registered School Number: 1550

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Contact Details

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Minimum Standards Attestation

I, Colleen Hampson, attest that St Patrick's School 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 2017 (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 2020 school year under the *Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth)* and the *Australian Education Regulations 2013 (Cth)*
- The Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No.870 - Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

07/03/2021

NOTE: The School's financial performance information has 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

Our School Identity and Vision Statements

St. Patrick's is a welcoming community where all are encouraged to 'Love, learn and respect' in the Josephite tradition.

St Patrick's strives to:

- Provide a safe, positive and caring school environment
- Build collaborative partnerships among home, school, parish and wider community
- Nurture the uniqueness and dignity of each individual in the school community
- Provide a contemporary curriculum that develops the intellect, imagination, spirituality, social skills, wellbeing and physical growth of each Learner
- Model the teachings of Jesus as the core of who we are and what we do in the context of the Catholic faith tradition
- Develop the capacity of Learners to contribute positively to society.



School Overview

Parents, Staff, Learners and the wider community work in partnership to provide a nurturing and innovative learning environment. All stakeholders are united for a common purpose. Social, emotional, academic, physical and spiritual wellbeing of all is a priority at St. Patrick's.

St Patrick's is a small remote school in Pyramid Hill. It begins 2020 with 16 enrolled Learners. The majority of the Learners (68%) are EAL (Filipino) with Tagalog and Bisaya being their native tongue. One Learner is enrolled as a Visa student.

- Foundation: 2 Learners
- Grade 1: 3 Learners
- Grade 2: 3 Learners
- Grade 3: 3 Learners
- Grade 4: 2 Learners
- Grade 5:
- Grade 6: 3 Learners

St. Patrick's has maintained a consistent approach placing Reading Comprehension at the forefront of our minds. Inferred comprehension continues to be the focus for the majority of Learners. Mathematics was a focus for learning throughout the previous years. We will continue to deepen our understanding and capacity in the area of Mathematics and English to best support our Learners in English and Mathematics curriculum areas supports both planning and the delivery of best practice.

Spelling has been the initial focus for learning as the new year commences to support the ongoing professional learning and implementation of the *'Words Their Way'* program which was begun in 2017.

St Patrick's Primary School is a well-resourced Primary school which models the four school values of:

- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Respect for resources
- Respect for the environment

Each of these values is brought to the forefront in our school motto, *'To love, learn and respect.'* Our continued commitment to personalise the curriculum for each Learner is testament to this motto and our vocation to our roles.



Principal's Report

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful support of all our families towards our school and myself. I thank the School Board for their commitment and interest in our school community to strive to be our best in all facets of life. Every year holds challenges for each of us, and 2020 was no different.

St. Patrick's implemented '*Uber learning*' to support our Learners and their families during the periods of 'Home learning' due to the pandemic. Staff provided individualised learning packs for each Learner supporting and engaging each in their own learning. No two packs were the same as no two Learners are the same. Connecting with the Learners every morning to commence the day as well as opportunities to meet online with Learners throughout the day supported all stakeholders during these new and challenging periods. Staff and parents are to be congratulated for their efforts to support Learners to the best of their ability. Our close connection with community and families allowed this initiative to be so successful. Our Chaplain continue to provide ongoing support for our Learners and families through email and phone contacts. This personalised connection was valued by all as they were supported in multi-faceted ways.

Our community is one that is supportive and generous and willing to lend a hand in whichever way possible. I would like to thank Father Novie for his patience and willingness to be a part of our school community. Nothing is ever too much as Father Novie continues to support staff, Learners and families in faith and friendship. Thank you. I acknowledge Father Novie's ongoing support in my role as Principal and the faith and trust which he has in me.

St. Patrick's School Board members were strong advocates for our school community, spreading the message of what we offer and stand by at St. Patrick's. We need to continue to promote all that we are and do to ensure we are a visible presence in the community. Our School Board members, led capably by our Board Chair, Nizelle Sawit advised and supported all at St. Patrick's.

Together we were led through our Steward of Resources Review, supported by Ashley Marsh, CEO Principal Consultant. The validation panel report post this Review was certainly one to be proud of. Our achievements are such, due to the partnership between the home, school and community. The CoSSi document describes Steward of Resources as '*Just and faithful stewards resourcing building partnerships and advocating for the community.*' May we all continue to lead in all aspects of this definition. In addition, St Patrick's underwent a Review in the area of 'Learning and Teaching' initially led by Ashley Marsh. St. Patrick's provides exemplary practice ensuring all Learners are supported and engaged.

Our year commenced with 16 Learners as we welcomed two new Foundation Learners.

In 2020, we welcomed two new staff members including a Collaborative Classroom teacher, Joanne Ireland and a Language Assistant, Nizelle Sawit as we transitioned into the Language of Tagalog. Moving to the delivery of a new language from the previous, Indonesian, was exciting, particularly for our high Filipino population. Samantha Doyle is to be commended for her ability to mentor and support new teaching staff at St Patrick's. Continuing routines and structures supports all stakeholders and this was evident in 2020. Thank you Samantha.

Improvements to the school grounds included the continued engagement with 'Programmed Services' ensuring that our internal and external buildings are painted and maintained on a cyclical basis.

Professional learning opportunities continued as we engaged Catherine Bonham, CES Senior Education Officer: Leader of Pedagogy. Supporting staff with data analysis in regard to Spelling

and Oral language. Frances Browne, CES Pastoral Wellbeing, led staff through professional learning in the area of family violence.

Principal Summative Appraisal was also conducted in 2020 with affirming and positive feedback from all stakeholders.

Our women from the community were led in Wellbeing sessions throughout the course of the year providing opportunities for collegiality and support. Due to Covid-19, this support was transferred to an online platform to support connection and engagement, particularly during such isolating times. A very positive response was received with good numbers in attendance. Additionally, all staff updated their First Aid levels. All Learners were engaged in the 'First Aid in Schools' program supporting their learning and skills in this vital program.

St. Patrick's continues to open its doors to the community sharing resources and showcasing all that we offer in education. The 'Kids in the Kitchen' program continued providing learning opportunities for those aged between 0 - 5 years with always a positive response from those involved. 'P.L.A.N. for Monday' (Paddy's Literacy And Numeracy) program commenced each Monday providing further opportunities for Numeracy and Literacy skills to be developed in our early years within the community. We continue to celebrate at any opportunity: Harmony Day, Pancake Tuesday, Philippine Independence Day, National Sorry Day and so much more. Reading Recovery was offered to one of our Grade 1 Learners, continuing to support teachers in the classroom and individual Learners.

I look toward the future with positivity and a sense of pride knowing all that we offer at St Patrick's is of the highest quality ensuring that our size and remoteness is not a disadvantage but a positive influence on all in our community.

Parish Priest's Report

Looking back on the School year 2020, a year different from any other years, we have experienced a time of the pandemic, which we are still facing at the moment.

Our Church, together with all other churches and establishments have been closed for the protection of the people to avoid the spread of the virus. But our faith will not stop when our churches are closed. We are all still called to serve those who are in need and to take initiative on how to continue to worship.

We faced last year the long lock downs where all classes became remote. Just like any other school, St Patrick's Primary School, headed by Colleen, the Principal, has adapted to the need of the times. From having Uber drivers (the staff) to deliver the school materials to all the families was a great initiative as we fight these lock downs and this pandemic. I just would like to thank all the school staff for doing the best that they could for the children in these difficult times.

This is also the last year that I as the Parish Priest will be the Canonical Administrator for St Patrick's Primary School. However, this will not be the end of the great relationship between the Parish and the School. Everything will be normal, the Sacramental programs will be the same, the School Masses and liturgies are still on to nurture the Catholic charisms and Catholic ethos of the school.

We hope and pray that this pandemic will stop and protect us all as we face all these challenges and difficulties that we are facing caused by this virus.

Fr Novelito Lim

Canonical Administrator

School Education Board Report

St Patrick's Primary School has always been a faith filled community that lives that values of St Patrick and St Mary of MacKillop. Truly that lives in our motto — **'To Love, Learn and Respect.'**

On behalf of the School Board, it gives me great pleasure to provide the 2020 Chairperson's Report. As we all know, the year 2020 has been a challenging one for everyone. It has not been easy with the changes and adjustments we have been through.

The Board survived their meetings through a different platform this year and was able to tackle every topic as listed accordingly in our Action Plan. We were given the opportunity to have an insight into more than just the planning and financial aspect of St Patrick's Primary School.

The Board serves as an avenue to ensure that the direction and vision of the school is being upheld. Also, to be engaged in consultation between the Principal regarding opinions on particular initiatives or matters of interest in relation to the School community. Throughout this year the Board has assisted the School Executive with the following:

- Participated in St Patrick's Annual Action Plan
- Consultation with the increase setting of the School Fees
- Approved upgrades/renovation of the Schools premises
- Assisted raising funds in school-related purposes
- Attended Tri-School Advisory Council Meeting

I have been grateful for being included in the interview panel regarding the Learning and Teaching Validation. It was one of the rewarding aspects of my role as Board Chair.

Great appreciation to the passionate and caring teaching staff, such extraordinary people who are generously giving new ideas, having innovative ways of teaching and patience to ensure that our children receive a quality education.

To our School Principal, Colleen Hampson, the Board would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your dedication and commitment throughout the challenging year. Leading the school ship during that year has not been an easy task but the way you manage it was significant in the community.

To Penny Caspani, for her efforts keeping everyone updated on the school financial position and informed with our meeting matters. We appreciate your work and support.

Also, I would like to acknowledge Father Novelito Lim, as part of the Committee and leading the Parish Community for his contribution and support to our School Board. We are assured that he will continue to guide our children to flourish and grow with their faith.

I would like to thank the remaining members of the board for their presence and contribution during the term. I am looking forward to your ongoing support in 2021.

Finally, I would like to thank the School Community for this opportunity that I have been involved in the School Board. It has been a great change to be engaged for our community interest together with these wonderful people who value learning through a quality catholic education.

May you all continue the care and support for our school community. God bless us all.

Nizelle Sawit

School Board Chair 2020

Catholic Mission and Identity and Education in Faith

Goals & Intended Outcomes

To be a faith filled community that lives the values of St Patrick and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Achievements

- Catholic Education Week celebrations
- Celebrations of important days with community (e.g. St Patrick's Feast Day, Shrove Tuesday)
- Community events promoting relationships and wellbeing (Women's Wellbeing Wednesdays)
- Classroom Masses
- Successful Steward of Resources CoSSI Review

VALUE ADDED

- **Staff**

Our Insight SRC Staff data increased across all dimensions of 'Catholic Culture' while continuing to be positioned within the top 25% of Victorian Catholic schools.

- **Learners**

Our Insight SRC Student data across the upper grades reflects an increase in both 'opportunity,' and 'behaviour of staff and Learners.' St Patrick's Primary School has a strong continued focus on community, relationship and outreach to those in need. The Student data does not strongly reflect this as the results are within the middle 50% of Victoria Catholic schools.

- **Parents**

Across all indicators scores are within the top 25% of Victorian Catholic schools. Each dimension has seen an increase from the previous 12 months. These scores reflect the importance and attention given to all areas of Catholic Culture at St Patrick's Primary School. Of note is the differing perception in the behaviour of Learners in the eyes of parents compared to that of our younger Learners.

Learning & Teaching

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To engage our School community, allowing all to achieve their maximum potential, acknowledging and valuing our diverse culture
- To foster a love of learning and teaching with the Learner at the centre.

Achievements

- First prize in the 2020 Sandhurst Languages Film Festival
- First Aid in Schools program across Foundation to Grade 6
- Staff Professional learning with Catherine Bonham (CES Senior Education Officer: Leader of Pedagogy) in Spelling
- Gymnastic program for all Learners across 4 sessions
- Three Grade 6 Learners learning collaboratively with St Mary's Cohuna Grade 6 class
- Termly Learning expo to showcase learning to parents and the wider community
- Staff Professional learning with Frances Browne (CES Assistant to the Executive Director: Pastoral Wellbeing) in Child safe practices
- Multi-Disciplinary meetings to support Learning
- Principal Summative Appraisal
- CoSSI Learning and Teaching School Review
- ICON training for Administrative Officer
- Sandhurst Languages Film Festival
- Reading Recovery (Ongoing Professional Learning)
- Bike education program
- EAL Curriculum professional learning online

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Our Learners are at the centre of all we do at St Patrick's Primary School. Our commitment to data collection on an ongoing basis is testament to this as well as our visual display on the Data Wall. Professional learning meetings are held with this data in full view of all staff, ensuring our teaching and learning meet the needs of each Learner.
- Term meetings are held to update the Data Wall in both Mathematics and Literacy, analysing and reflecting on the next steps to support teaching and learning.

- Working in a collaborative space, three teachers discuss, challenge and plan for the following fortnight of learning, facilitating experiences which are relevant and contemporary.
- Opportunities to meet with parents to discuss learning goals, successes and challenges support all stakeholders in open and honest communications.
- There are no NAPLAN results to report in 2020 as the Australian Government decided that due to the COVID-19 pandemic NAPLAN Assessments would not take place.
- Data cannot be reported for this year as the number of students that sat the test was below 5 and the data has been suppressed for privacy reasons in accordance with the ACARA NAPLAN data reporting provisions.
- No students sat the NAPLAN tests in this year level and in one or both of the relevant years.



PROPORTION OF STUDENTS MEETING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS					
NAPLAN TESTS	2018	2019	2018 – 2019	2020	2019 – 2020
	%	%	Changes	%	Changes
			%	*	*
YR 03 Grammar & Punctuation	***	**	***		
YR 03 Numeracy	***	**	***		
YR 03 Reading	***	**	***		
YR 03 Spelling	***	**	***		
YR 03 Writing	***	**	***		
YR 05 Grammar & Punctuation	100.0	**	**		
YR 05 Numeracy	100.0	**	**		
YR 05 Reading	100.0	**	**		
YR 05 Spelling	80.0	**	**		
YR 05 Writing	80.0	**	**		

* There are no NAPLAN results to report in 2020 as the Australian Government decided that due to the COVID-19 pandemic NAPLAN Assessments would not take place.

** Data cannot be reported for this year as the number of students that sat the test was below 5 and the data has been suppressed for privacy reasons in accordance with the ACARA NAPLAN data reporting provisions.

*** No students sat the NAPLAN tests in this year level and in one or both of the relevant years.

[Image.NaplanYear3]



Pastoral Wellbeing

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To provide a safe and welcoming learning environment that allows Learners to acknowledge, embrace and accept challenges
- To build strong partnerships with families and the wider community.

Achievements

- Volunteering at the local Opportunity Shop
- Participation in Clean Up Australia Day program
- 'Respect the Badge' nominations and presentations
- Participation in 'Sandhurst Switches Off' initiative
- Celebration of cultural days including Philippines Independence Day
- Termly evacuation/invacuation drills
- Seasons for Growth program
- Mother's Day and Father's Day online shopping experience
- '*Smiling Minds*' professional learning
- Supporting Vulnerable Students Webinars
- Transition sessions - Preschool to School; Primary to Secondary
- Book Week celebrations
- Volunteering in Meals on Wheels program by all Learners
- Bendigo Cup Day Fashions on the field
- School nurse onsite visit for Foundation Learners
- Friendship Saver program
- Chaplaincy support for Learners, staff and families around identified wellbeing needs
- Whole school overnight camping experience on the school grounds

VALUE ADDED

- '*Community of Readers*' program — every Learner is connected with a community member to support reading one day per week
- Catholic Education Week celebrations
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program

STUDENT SATISFACTION

- The 2020 Insight SRC survey results show that Learner's emotional wellbeing including morale and their connectedness to school all fall within the top 25% of Victorian schools. This has risen considerably within the Grades 5 & 6 cohort.
- Learner’s engagement in learning has increased considerably across the years 5 & 6 cohorts with half of these indicators within the top 25% of Victorian schools. The data also reflects a strong sense of safety across all Learners.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

- If a Learner is absent from School we require parents to complete and return an absence slip that we use for our records and then archive. If a Learner is absent for three consecutive days, the family is contacted to ascertain how to best support the Learner and the family.
- Non-attendance is managed by the School by notifying the Administration Officer to contact the family regarding the Learner's absence. This is carried out prior to 9:00am. This is then recorded and documented into the software program SIMON.
- The average Learner attendance rate reflects the Insight SRC results of high morale, connectedness and emotional wellbeing. St Patrick's continues to be a place of support and safety, nurturing each to be their best.

AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE BY YEAR LEVEL

Y01	97.5%
Y02	95.6%
Y03	97.7%
Y04	98.1%
Y05	null%
Y06	93.2%
Overall average attendance	96.4%

Child Safe Standards

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To continue to embed Child safe practices

Achievements

- Professional learning with Frances Browne (CES Assistant to the Executive Director: Pastoral Wellbeing) — The Four Critical Actions
- Termly Governance Meetings with Canonical Administrator
- All staff completed e-learning module
- Staff revisit Child safe policy and actions at each Staff briefing
- Child safety is an ongoing agenda item at School Board meetings
- Termly meetings are held with the Canonical Administrator in regard to Governance and Child safety
- All volunteers complete a Volunteer's application form and WWCC which have all been electronically filed
- St Patrick's commitment to Child safety is evident through visual signage at the Administration Office, newsletters and our website.



Leadership & Management

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To encourage continual School improvement with a strong lens on individual needs
- To value learning and those that pursue leadership opportunities

Achievements

- Sarah Vevers achieved her Religious Education Accreditation
- St Patrick's collected 100% of school fees in 2020.
- Data analysis at the end of each term to support purposeful and targeted teaching and Learners needs

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Description of Professional Learning undertaken in 2020

Professional Learning undertaken in 2020 included:

- First Aid & Anaphylaxis training
- Reading Recovery: Ongoing Professional Learning
- Austswim updates
- *'Words Their Way'* spelling professional learning
- ICON professional learning
- Respectful Relationships professional learning
- C.L.I.L. (Content and Language Integrated Learning)
- Complispace

TEACHER SATISFACTION

- The results of the School Improvement Surveys conducted through Insight SRC reflect the four cultural pillars of the key behaviours of Empathy, Clarity, Engagement and Learning to all fall above 73%.
- The data shows the pillar of Learning (Appraisal & recognition and professional growth)

TEACHING STAFF ATTENDANCE RATE

Teaching Staff Attendance Rate	70.8%
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ALL STAFF RETENTION RATE

Staff Retention Rate	100.0%
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TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Doctorate	0.0%
Masters	0.0%
Graduate	33.3%
Graduate Certificate	0.0%
Bachelor Degree	66.7%
Advanced Diploma	33.3%
No Qualifications Listed	0.0%

STAFF COMPOSITION

Principal Class (Headcount)	1.0
Teaching Staff (Headcount)	5.0
Teaching Staff (FTE)	3.7
Non-Teaching Staff (Headcount)	4.0
Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	2.0
Indigenous Teaching Staff (Headcount)	0.0

School Community

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To educate and support our parents on their vital role in their children's education
- To provide the parent community with information and workshops that may be of interest.

Achievements

- Term meetings with parents to discuss Personalised Learning Plans
- Inclusion of language activities for parents in each newsletter to support parent involvement in education, particularly in regard to oral language
- Termly Curriculum Newsletter to inform parents regarding the approaching classroom curriculum learning path
- 'Women's Wellbeing Wednesday' program to support local women in connection, wellbeing and relationship
- The National School Chaplaincy program supports our local community through a number of initiatives including home visits and personal text messages
- Continued involvement by local community members in the 'Community of Readers' program promoting reading, connection and reading role models.

PARENT SATISFACTION

The Insight SRC survey indicates that parent's opinion falls within the top 25% of Victorian schools. Across every dimension there has been a positive increase. All dimensions are above 90% with the exception of 'extra-curricular.' Our small enrolment and staff does not enable after school activities to be conducted.



Future Directions

In 2021, St Patrick's Primary School will embark on a three-year journey in partnership with Corwin Australia. This professional development. 'Visible learning' will provide opportunities to assess the impact on Learner achievement. Staff will reflect on their current practice, investigating and evaluating what really does make a difference in learning, each of which will support the journey ahead for both Learner and teacher.

Personalising the learning and meeting each Learner's educational needs will be enhanced through our 'Visible learning' professional learning, reflective practice and purposeful feedback through this professional learning opportunity. It is our goal that will lead to evidence of ongoing improvement in Learner's learning outcomes across all curriculum areas.

St Patrick's staff will lead Learners to develop their own clearly identified learning goals, successful strategies and reflective practice that will demonstrate improved learning outcomes for all.

Connecting with the community to continue to strengthen relationships and support wellbeing will continue. These connections are even more important during times of isolation and change. St Patrick's will continue to reach out to the wider community through our ongoing initiatives and programs including 'Community of Readers' program, 'Women's Wellbeing Wednesdays' and outreach to those in need both locally and in the wider community.

St Patrick's will continue to plan collaboratively with our neighbouring Catholic school community ensuring ongoing opportunities to share wisdom, expertise and experience in a reciprocal manner. These opportunities will continue for staff and Learners, supporting all stakeholders to learn with and from one another.