

# 2024

## ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT



### **St Lawrence's Catholic Primary School**

24-28 Dalgarno Street, COONABARABRAN 2357

Principal: Mrs Natasha Milford

Web: <http://www.stlawriescoona.catholic.edu.au>

## About this report

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St Lawrence's Catholic Primary School (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst (CEDB). CEDB as the 'approved authority' for the diocesan registration system formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act (1990), is responsible for monitoring the compliance of member schools in the manner that has been approved by the Minister of Education.

The Annual School Report (the 'Report') demonstrates accountability to regulatory bodies and CEDB. Additionally, the Report complements and is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the School community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the faith formation, learning and wellbeing of its students.

The Report provides parents and the wider community with fair, reliable and objective information about educational and financial performance measures as well as School and system policies. This information includes summary contextual data, an overview of student performance in state and national assessments, a description of the achievement of priorities in the previous year and areas for improvement. Detailed information about the School's improvement journey is documented in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) which is developed, implemented and evaluated in consultation with key stakeholders.

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 be also be obtained from the [My School website](#).

## Message from key groups in our community

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### Principal's Message

Welcome to St Lawrence's Catholic Primary School, founded in 1888 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The school is widely regarded for its family atmosphere, educational outcomes and sporting achievements.

The challenge for us, as educators, is to provide our students with an education which will give them the knowledge, skills and values to compete in a world that is ever changing. Our children will need the Christian values to which we subscribe, if they are to be balanced individuals in a challenging world. Our hope is that the education they receive, with the Christian ethos they learn, will carry them into the future as self-learners who have a moral purpose and who will strive to make the world a better place.

The challenge of high levels of learning is central to all school activities. The school attempts to support all students and offers a wide number of programs that cater for the diversity of needs. We strive for equity and always seek reasons to include children in activities, rather than exclude. We focus on getting the foundations right in literacy and numeracy, as well as emphasising other Key Learning Areas including technology, the creative and performing arts, science and sport. All learning occurs in a Christ-centred learning environment.

A key feature of the school is the enthusiastic level of parental and community support and its family atmosphere. Many of our successes have been greatly enhanced by this assistance. An active Parents and Friends Association ensures that the school's developing needs are assisted through vigorous fundraising, and special assistance with school maintenance, beautification, resources and general improvement. Parents are regularly involved in assisting with sport, agriculture, attending special celebrations, assemblies and Mass.

Communication is a most important part of the school's operation. We hope that through personal involvement, weekly newsletters, the school notice board, Parish Bulletin, the Compass App, School Webpage, School Facebook Page, CEO Facebook Page and The Coonabarabran Times, you will be well informed of all school activities.

Thank you for placing your beautiful children in our care. I trust that your association with the school will be enjoyable and productive.

Natasha Milford

### Parent Body Message

Dear teachers' students and families.

I am Jenna Flood the president of St Lawrences PF committee. This year saw the installation of the new filtered water bubbler at our school, this was a work that's been in the making for a few years of fundraising and determined parents to make it happen. We hope the kids are enjoying the benefits it brings.

We had huge success and support from our Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls. A band of lovely Mums enjoyed firing up the BBQ to celebrate the Dad's and the special father figures in our lives.

Terry McGoldrick rugby day canteen was up and running by our committee and ended in great success providing refreshments and sustenance for players and spectators.

A few of our usual fundraisers were cancelled due to weather but our most recent event volunteering the bar at the NAIDOC 'under the stars evening' was well received and we thank them for the donation to our committee.

We have been proud to have purchased the 'Little Lawrie's' T shirts and the year 6 bags with our raised funds and cordially wish to express our congratulations and farewell to our outgoing year 6 students and welcome our little ones in blue in to our school family in 2025.

Thank you those who have given a little or a lot to help our small but passionate committee.

We hope you all enjoy a very Merry Christmas and 2025 brings you health and happiness.

### **Student Body Message**

During 2024 we had many great events to celebrate as a school. We had lots of fun days, lots of laughter and lots of learning. As School Leaders we have had the special position of leading and watching the other children grow and become the best they can be. We have certainly felt great pride at the achievements of others and the way they have represented their families and themselves at events.

We are proud that our school takes part in many local activities. We took an active role in our learning, with all students setting goals and discussing how to achieve these goals with our teachers. This year we were very lucky to have our own digital devices to improve our learning and we continue to use and explore different technology items.

St Lawrence's is a great place to go to school and we will remember it very fondly.

## School Features

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St Lawrence's Catholic Primary School is a Co-educational school which caters for students from Kindergarten to Year Six with a current enrolment of 151 students including a double stream Year One grade. St Lawrence's belongs to the St Lawrence's Parish Coonabarabran. The school was founded by the Sisters of St Joseph and we follow the ways of St Mary MacKillop.

Our Parents and Friends are an active group amongst our school, raising funds for teaching and learning resources as well as capital works as needed.

Students are provided with a wide range of activities within our school such as Agriculture, chess, public speaking, school excursions to Canberra and camps at Lake Keepit Recreational Park. We have an active Student Representative Council who organise social activities for our students and fundraising activities throughout the year.

The Parents and Friends Association meet regularly to discuss school matters, to keep informed of school business and to discuss future fund raising ventures.

The re-development of our basketball court play area on our school oval is currently in progress which will provide two basketball courts, tennis courts, netball courts, handball courts as well as pickleball facilities once completed for the 2025 school year.

Upgrades are also taking place to create a new 'Multipurpose Classroom' providing a venue for our 'Little Lawries' transition to school program from Term 2 as well as an area to be utilised for science, art, music and much more.

## Student Profile

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### Student Enrolment

The School caters for students in Years K-6. Students attending this School come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities. The following information describes the student profile for 2024:

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
78	86	5	164

\* Language Background Other than English

### Enrolment Policy

Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst has an Enrolment Policy for Systemic Catholic Schools in the diocese. The policy has been developed in the context of government and system and parish requirements. Children from families who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church may be considered eligible for enrolment. Total fees are made up of a Single School Fee (which incorporates local costs), the Capital Works Levy and Subject Specific Costs. A pastoral approach is adopted for parents experiencing genuine difficulty with the payment of fees. Information about enrolling may be accessed through the [Diocesan website](#) under the About Us drop down menu - see Policies tab or by contacting your local Catholic School.

### Student Attendance Rates

The average student attendance rate for the School in 2024 was 87.38%. Attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group						
Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
89.00	87.80	88.86	87.54	83.40	86.07	89.00

### Managing Student Non-Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. The School, in partnership with parents, is responsible for promoting the regular attendance of

students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, School staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

School staff, under the Principal's leadership, support the regular attendance of students by:

- providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the School community
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance
- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise.

The Principal is responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by ensuring that:

- parents and students are regularly informed of attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance
- all cases of unsatisfactory attendance and part or full day absences from school are investigated promptly and that appropriate intervention strategies are implemented
- documented plans are developed to address the needs of students whose attendance is identified as being of concern
- the Executive Director of Schools and designated CEDB Safeguarding Officer are provided with regular information about students for whom chronic non-attendance is an issue and for whom the School's strategies have failed to restore regular attendance.

## Staffing Profile

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### Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2024:

Total number of staff	22
Number of full time teaching staff	7
Number of part time teaching staff	5
Number of non-teaching staff	10

### Total number of teaching staff by NESA category

Teachers at this School are accredited as conditional, provisional or proficient as defined by the NSW Teacher Accreditation Act 2004. Accreditation at the levels of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher are voluntary. The number of teachers within the Diocesan Schools System at these levels is as follows:

- 39 Conditional teachers
- 28 Provisional teachers
- 920 Proficient teachers
- 1 Highly Accomplished and Lead (HALT) Teacher
- 1 Lead Teacher
- 8 HALT Candidates

Additionally, there are 14 teachers who are currently actively engaged in the submission process at the higher levels of accreditation. Teacher status at individual schools can be sourced directly from the School.



## Catholic Identity and Mission

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Catholic Schools have a unique role in the evangelising and educating mission of the Church. Catholic Schools encourage and support parents in their responsibility for the faith formation of their children. This formation is supported by prayer and opportunities to participate in the life, mission and liturgy of the broader Catholic community.

The School follows the Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student resources *To Know, Worship and Love*, and *Understanding Faith*, as authorised by the Bishop of Bathurst.

Students in Years 6 and 8 in Catholic schools in the Bathurst Diocese undertake the Diocesan Religious Education Test annually. The test consists of multiple-choice questions with the results analysed by CEDB to inform diocesan teaching and learning in Religious Education.

### SCHOOL VISION

‘AD ALTA VIRTUTE’ – To the Highest Virtue.

St Lawrence's Catholic Primary School is Christ-centred. Our school aims to create a safe and caring community providing a dynamic educational environment that promotes high levels of learning for all.

### SCHOOL MISSION

In our efforts to provide authentic and effective Catholic Education and in the spirit of our founder St Mary MacKillop, we will endeavour to:

- Develop a Christ-centred school community within the local Parish community: Present the teachings of the Catholic faith as a "way of life"; "Who am I to stand in God's way?"
- Develop a Christian community where every person in the school is respected and treated with justice and mercy in all situations: "Let us really love one another".
- Assist parents in developing in students the ability to evaluate, discriminate and choose according to Christian values: "Begin with prayer and end with it"
- Provide an integrated curriculum, which caters for the total academic development of each child; "Cling to God's love and grace"
- Provide students with the opportunity for physical, social, cultural and creative expression.  
"See the beauty of the Lord"

- Provide a stimulating and rewarding educational environment for children; “Bear with the faulty as you hope God will bear with you”
- Provide children with fundamental knowledge and skills considered necessary for participation in modern society; “We must always expect from time to time to receive crosses and know that we also give them”
- Assist each student to maximise his or her potential; “Work with the means placed at your disposal”
- Develop within students Christian values which will form an umbrella for social awareness, mature judgements, responsible self-direction, moral awareness and self discipline; “Never see an evil without seeing how you may remedy it”
- Promote parental and community involvement and participation in the school; “See the beauty of the Lord”
- Promote a community of learners; “All depends on prayer...begin with it and end with it”

## Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

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The School provides an educational program based on, and taught in accordance with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) syllabuses for primary education. The Key Learning Areas (KLAs) are English, Mathematics, Science and Technology (S&T), Human Society and its Environment (HSIE), Creative Arts (CA) and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). In addition to this, the School implements the Diocesan Religious Education syllabus. Staff members are committed to continuous improvement of teaching and learning in all facets of the curriculum.

St Lawrence's provides a comprehensive curriculum to our students covering all of the Key Learning Areas. Students are also involved in Religious Education and have opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities such as Agriculture and chess.

St Lawrence's has highly trained staff who are able to implement learning support programs such as Minilit, Multilit, Maclit and Quicksmart for those students who require intervention.

Literacy has been a big focus over the past few years with the implementation of a Phonics program which has lifted our DIBELS reading results.

Students have access to technological devices either iPads or Chromebooks depending on their grade level in a 1:1 capacity. This allows for the implementation of Technology into any KLA when it suits the situation. Students are exposed early on to the Google suite and what it can offer them in the way of creating and storing documents.

## Student Performance in Tests and Examinations

### NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia participated in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The purpose of NAPLAN is to provide information to parents and teachers about the achievements of students in literacy and numeracy. The test provides a measure of the student's performance against established standards and against other students in Australia. Each year the results are analysed by the school to inform teaching with a view to improving student performance.

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards with 4 levels of achievement to give teachers, parents and carers clearer information on how students are performing:

- **Exceeding:** The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- **Strong:** The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- **Developing:** The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- **Needs additional support:** The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

The percentage of student achieving at Exceeding and Strong proficiency standards in NAPLAN at St Lawrence's Catholic Primary School for 2024 is reported in the table below.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2024		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 3	Grammar and Punctuation	50%	54%
	Reading	67%	66%
	Writing	77%	77%
	Spelling	58%	61%
	Numeracy	79%	64%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2024		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	50%	65%
	Reading	50%	71%
	Writing	58%	67%
	Spelling	33%	68%
	Numeracy	50%	68%

## Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

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### Pastoral Care Policy

The School's Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing policies, guidelines and procedures are underpinned by the guiding principles from The Australian Student Wellbeing Framework (ASWF) that represent fundamental beliefs about safe, supportive and respectful school communities. These guiding principles emphasise the importance of student safety and wellbeing as a pre-requisite for effective learning in all Catholic school settings.

Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework provides a vision and guiding principles that assist school communities to develop positive school cultures that promote student wellbeing and develop respectful relationships. It assists schools to identify priority areas and measure progress in the development of safe school communities. The diocesan Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework assists schools in:

- planning, implementing and maintaining a safe, supportive and protective learning community that promotes student safety, pastoral care and wellbeing
- creating teaching and learning communities where all members of the School community are safe from harassment, aggression, violence and bullying
- responding to new and emerging pastoral care and student wellbeing challenges.

The Diocese of Bathurst Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework was revised in 2024 and is now titled Student Wellbeing Framework. The Framework can be accessed at [Student Wellbeing Framework](#).

The full text of the School's Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Policy and procedures may be accessed on the School's website. Changes made to the policy are notified to the community via the School's newsletter.

### Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy

The School's Behaviour Management and Student Discipline policies and procedures are aligned to the diocesan Student Wellbeing Framework. The School's policy operates within a context that all members of the school community share responsibility to foster, encourage and promote positive behaviour and respectful relationships. The policy aims to promote a safe and supportive learning environment to maximise teaching and learning for all students. It supports the development of positive social behaviour based on respectful relationships and clear behavioural expectations. The dignity and responsibility of each person is

promoted at all times along with positive student behaviours while ensuring respect for the rights of all students and staff.

The full text of the School's Behaviour Management and Discipline policies and procedures may be accessed on the School's website. Changes made to the policy are notified to the community via the School's newsletter.

### **Anti-Bullying Policy**

The School's Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures are based on and informed by Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst policies for Diocesan Schools and are aligned to the Student Wellbeing Framework. All students, their families and employees within Catholic education have a right to a learning and work environment free from intimidation, humiliation and hurt. Anti-Bullying policies support school communities to prevent, reduce and respond to bullying.

The full text of the School's Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures may be accessed on the School's website. Changes made to the policy are notified to the community via the School's newsletter.

### **Complaints Handling Policy**

Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst has a Complaints Management Policy which is implemented across the diocese. The policy recognises that at times misunderstandings, differences of opinion, and complaints and grievances will occur, and that these need to be resolved. Addressing such matters within a framework of dignity, respect and truth can provide powerful opportunities to model the love of Christ in the reality of our contemporary world.

The Policy and procedures reflect the legislative responsibilities and demonstrate our diocesan commitment to protect the safety and wellbeing of students while supporting our employees and volunteers working with children and young people in our educational context.

The full text of the Complaints Management Policy may be accessed on the school website or by contacting Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst.

The full text of the Complaints Management Policy may be accessed on the school website also.

In addition to this policy, there are also policies and procedures related to Child Protection, Code of Conduct and Whistle Blowers. All of these are available through the CEDB website and the school website.

## Community Satisfaction

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The opinions and ideas of parents, students and teachers are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving improved outcomes for students. This year 2024, the School has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, students and teachers.

Additionally CEDB undertakes extensive surveying of all stakeholder groups through annual School Improvement Surveys. This data is used to further inform school improvement.

Both Data and Comments from these School Improvement Surveys are summarised here.

### Parent satisfaction

Samples of Parent Satisfaction:

- *The teachers are very nurturing and caring and most actually seem happy to be there. The school has a lovely family atmosphere and parents are invited to attend a large variety of activities. The Ag program the students have access to is amazing and enriching for the students. The school choir is also an amazing opportunity for the students as is the Chess club and other extra-curricula activities. The teachers volunteer a lot of extra time to have this available for the children and it is very much appreciated.*
- *The teachers are awesome and take care and pride in knowing each child as an individual knowing there needs and areas of interest. They are always friendly and actually look happy to be at work. I believe this is due to a happy working environment which I believe starts at the top, the Principal. Natasha is always happy to see parents and has made that extra effort to always greet all parents by name. Communication from the school is out standing.*
- *There are great teachers at this school who are all linked to a classroom. They are passionate about what they do and have the students best interests at heart. It has always been a fantastic school for many years.*

### Student satisfaction

Samples of Student satisfaction:

- *That we go on good excursions*
- *Listening to our thoughts.*



- *Kind and caring and friendly students.*
- *Providing new stuff for students like Ag.*
- *The teachers are good at organising days and retreats for us students and the teachers and staff are well organise whom I admire.*
- *They have good teachers.*
- *Organise sport events.*

## **Teacher satisfaction**

Samples of Teacher Satisfaction:

- *Excellent staff who strive to do the very best for the students in all aspects of education and wellbeing. Totally committed and caring of all - students, peers and parents.*
- *A well run school with good communication between the executive and staff.*
- *Area of Learning Support is given high priority, well organised and endeavours to meet the needs of our students and staff. Dedicated and compassionate staff committed to high levels of care and learning for all. Professional development opportunities for staff - clear alignment with CEDB AIP, School AIP and goal setting as well as PD that is organised throughout the year.*

## Financial Statement

School Financial Information is based on the detailed information provided to the Commonwealth Government in the Commonwealth Financial Questionnaire.

School Financial Information for the 2024 year is detailed here:

Recurrent and Capital Income 2024	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants <sup>1</sup>	\$2,436,596
Government Capital Grants <sup>2</sup>	\$0
State Recurrent Grants <sup>3</sup>	\$630,293
Fees and Private Income <sup>4</sup>	\$403,429
Interest Subsidy Grants	\$0
Other Capital Income <sup>5</sup>	\$65,879
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,536,197</b>

Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2024	
Capital Expenditure <sup>6</sup>	\$26,182
Salaries and Related Expenses <sup>7</sup>	\$2,192,269
Non-Salary Expenses <sup>8</sup>	\$1,340,503
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$3,558,954</b>

### Notes

1. Commonwealth Recurrent Grants includes recurrent per capita grants and special purpose grants.
2. Government Capital Grants includes all capital grants received from the Commonwealth and State Governments.
3. State Recurrent Grants includes recurrent grants per capita, special purpose grants and interest subsidy grants.
4. Fees and Private Income include Archdiocesan and school based fees, excursions and other private income.
5. Other Capital Income includes building levy fees and capital donations used to fund Capital Expenditure.
6. Capital Expenditure includes expenditure on School Buildings, and Furniture and Equipment.
7. Salaries and Related Expenditure includes all salaries, allowances and related expenses such as superannuation and workers compensation insurance.
8. Non-Salary Expenses include all other Non-Salary Recurrent Expenditure covering resources, administration, operational expenses, utilities, repairs and maintenance.

END OF 2024 REPORT