

Annual Report 2020

St Brigid's Catholic
Primary School



School Profile

St Brigid's Catholic Primary School is a thriving school community and as a school, we want to ensure we are continually improving. We aim to build a Christ-centred community that inspires every student to think, learn, achieve and develop a spirit of service and justice. As such, we promote an annual School Improvement Plan where we strategically plan our goals and the strategies to accomplish our goals. Our plan focuses on CECWA strategic directions which also encapsulates our Catholic Identity, Education, Community and Stewardship.

We have a goal for each of these key areas and success indicators to know that we have successfully reached our goals.

Our objective for Catholic Identity is to promote our four values of Service, Courage, Peace and Acceptance we want as a school to embed our values into everyday practice. These values were created by our community in 2019 and we have been making them part of our school life.

Our objective in education is to help our students achieve performance gains in Literacy and Numeracy in years 3 -5. We want to see all students in years 3 and 5 record positive growth in the NAPLAN data. We are continuing on working with dedicated literacy time in all classes. We implemented a whole school approach to the teaching and learning of Spelling. (Sound Waves). We have adopted Bright Path which focuses on writing and improving writing in our students. Staff have undertaken training in Talk for Writing, and this has been implemented across all year level to improve writing skills of our students.

Our objective for engagement is to enhance parental engagement in their child's learning and faith formation. We are refining our school website and developing the See Saw communication tool to support parents and to keep communication open between teachers and parents.

Our objective for Stewardship is the plan for and the progress changes, to comply with external requirements for NQS (National Quality Standards). As a school we have spent time to work through each of the 58 elements of the seven standards. All staff from Kindergarten to Year Two, are invited to join the NQS group and work through each of the standards and provide evidence to show their progress. It is important to work as teams to support each other in the journey of continual improvement.

In 2021 we will begin to extend out Year One classroom and redevelop out early years outdoor playground so that it becomes a natural interactive playground. This has been part of our CDP plan for our school and work inline with our master plan for St Brigid's.



Contextual Information

St Brigid's Catholic Primary School is a co-educational, double stream school comprised of 455 students from our comprehensive Kindergarten class to Year Six. It is situated in Middle Swan, near the Parish centre in Midland. St Brigid's was established in 1902 and continues to offer a Catholic education based on Christian values. It caters for a multi-cultural school population and students embrace spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical, and social skills, encouraging them to develop into independent learners.

We are blessed as a school to be ably supported by our Parish and there is a strong relationship between the Parish, the school and the wider community. Religious Education Curriculum underpins our school and enables students to practise their faith within a range of liturgical celebrations.

St Brigid's promotes an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect where children feel secure to develop to their full potential. Senior students participate in ministries focusing on Christian, Environmental, Library, Media, Peer Mentoring and Sporting leadership. It is very important that our school leaders have the opportunity to lead our school and become active citizens.

The school has a major focus in the development of literacy across all grades, and supplements this with specialist educationalists in Physical Education, Music, Information Technology, Library Studies and Italian. A well-established student leadership program runs for the Year 6 students, enabling an authentic shared-leadership model. A school-based Learning Supports Co-ordinator provides extensive support for the large number of St Brigid's students with Special Needs. With 'charisms' grounded on the Mercy and Josephite Religious orders, Saint Brigid's provides a supportive, caring educational environment, in which the development of each child to reach their potential is the fundamental focus.

We aim to engage our students and have them relate to their learning. We need them to have learning skills for the 21st Century and the future. We not only want them to be educated in Literacy and Numeracy, but in resilience, problem solving, social interactions, effective communication and appropriate self-expression.



The school has developed a whole school approach to Literacy and Numeracy. Many assessment strategies contribute data. This is used to monitor the progress of each individual student. Curriculum differentiation and specialist group work is an integral part of all teaching at St Brigid's. Each class has access to a Teacher Assistant to facilitate this process. This ongoing commitment to cater for and

support students with a range of specialised needs, is evident in the Intervention and Enrichment programmes within the school.

As a school we appreciate creative thinking and encourage our staff and students to think outside the box. As a school we have joined Creative Edge to encourage our students to share their creative minds and join a creative thinking problem solving challenge. This is part of our Enrichment programme for Year Three – Year Six.

We also value sports within our school and above all, sportsmanship. Our students have not only developed their skills in this area and achieve well in all sports, but school spirit is paramount to our community. Our students constantly attain great results but also encourage one another on and off the field.

One of our specialist subjects is Science, our students are immersed in a wonderful science program that engages our students. We are ably supported by our school P & F who purchased our science kits this year to support staff in providing rich lessons.



Our students are also given the opportunity to be immersed in the Italian culture and learn the language; students from year one to year six participate in the Italian programme and are currently learning about the culture, food and language.

Teacher Standards and Qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements to teach in Western Australia and can be found on the public register of teachers of the Teacher registration Board of Western Australia. A number of our staff hold multiple qualifications, but we have only shown their highest qualification.

Years Qualified	Number of Teachers	% Teachers	Qualifications Include
5 Years	3	33%	Master of Education
4 Years	30	100%	Bachelor of Education Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Arts (Early Childhood)
3 Years	10	33%	Diploma of Teaching Diploma of Arts Associate Diploma of Science Graduate Diploma of Reading Education Graduate Certificate in Education (Early Childhood) Higher Diploma in Education

Work Composition

We have a dynamic staff who are committed to our students and community.

	Number of Staff		Percentage of Staff	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Teaching staff	26	4	86%	14%
Educational Assistants	16	0	100%	0%
Administration Officers	4	0	100%	0%
Support staff	3	2	60%	40%
Indigenous Staff	2	0	100%	0%

Student Attendance at School

Year Level	%Attendance	Number of students
Pre-Primary	87%	53
Year One	89%	52
Year Two	89%	54
Year Three	89%	52
Year Four	91%	63
Year Five	91%	61
Year Six	89%	62
Total School		397

Our attendance at school during 2020 was affected by Covid and therefore can not be counted as a normal school year.

Children who are absent from school for a full day or consecutive full days are required to notify the school in the following manner:

- Telephone the school before 9:00am in the morning, followed by a written note to the school with the child's name, date of absence, reason for absence and signed by the parent/legal guardian, OR
- Email the school before 9:00am in the morning outlining the child's name, date of absence, reason for absence, with the parent/legal guardian's name at the bottom.

Absentee Notes may also be presented in advance for known absenteeism.

Performa absentee slips are available in your child's school diary, or the school office. It is not acceptable to write an Absent Note in the pages of the School Diary. A separate note must be written, so it can be filed at the office. The school has a legal requirement to document and store written explanations for ALL absenteeism of students.

Absentee SMS messages

If a child is absent or late from school without notification from the parent/legal guardian, before 10:00am, an automated SMS Message will be sent, advising that the child is absent and requesting an explanation. This practice both notifies parents/legal guardians that the child is not at school and ensures the safe whereabouts of all students.

BISHOP'S LITERACY

In 2020 the Bishops Literacy test did not take place due to Covid therefore there is no data to interpret.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid so there is no data to interpret.

School Focus for 2020

Our focus for 2020 was to continue with Brightpath as a school, this program was introduced in 2019 and we continue to consolidate our practice in this subject. Staff join in PLCM to work on moderating and understanding how Bright Path can assist us in our writing improvement whole school approach. Brightpath provides reports that enable teachers and students to quickly ascertain:

- where students are in their learning,
- where they need to go, and
- how much progress has been made

Brightpath Formative Writing Assessments assist teachers with providing engaging writing tasks that reflect good classroom practice. The assessments include comprehensive support for scoring students' writing so that teachers and school leaders can be confident that their scores are accurate and comparable not only across teachers within the school but also across schools.

In 2019 we began Talk for writing for our junior years then in 2020 we introduced this program to our senior classes so that now we use this program across the whole school.

The Talk for Writing approach enables children to read and write independently for a variety of audiences and purposes within different subjects. A key feature is that children internalise the language structures needed to write through 'talking the text', as well as close reading. The approach moves from dependence towards independence, with the teacher using shared and guided teaching to develop the ability in children to write creatively and powerfully.

The following strategies were used:

- A whole school approach to Writing – more exposure to different genres and Punctuation and Grammar
- Continue to extend team-based approaches and incorporate explicit instructions during LDT in Literacy and Numeracy; and continue to use MAI data to improve outcomes in Numeracy.
- Continue to enhance the acquisition of Literacy and Numeracy Skills in the Early Years

REFLECTION AND EVALUATION OF OUR CURRICULUM FOCUS

To consolidate a consistent team-based approach across years K-6 to the teaching of Literacy, including elements of explicit instruction. This was done through:

- Explicit teaching of literacy skills
- Sound Waves
- Bright Paths
- Use of data to inform teaching and differentiate learning to cater for students' needs
- Data Wall to monitor reading and comprehension level
- Case Management
- Professional Learning
- Cluster Meetings
- NQS meetings weekly

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction

Due to Covid interruptions throughout the school year a survey was not taken. Staff and students were busy with learning packs and attempting to return to some form of normalcy during the year.

Staff at St Brigid's are highly motivated professionals that work collaboratively in teams. We have a high level of energy in our school and staff is dedicated and passionate about what they do. They work in teams to provide the best outcomes for our students. We have a high rate of attendance and staff is seen here early, late and on weekends. They are good communicators and enjoy a sound discussion on our school and the practices we employ.

Our students are engaged in their learning and every classroom is a happy and safe environment. This year when we viewed our attendance rates, they were well below what is normally seen at our school. This could be attributed to Covid during 2020 this impacted our results.

Post school destinations

School	Catholic	Non-Catholic
La Salle Catholic College 55	41	14
Kalamunda 1		1
Governor Stirling 2		2
Swan Christian 1		1
Churchlands 1		1
Mount Lawley Senior High School 1		1
Swan View 1		1
Total	41	21

The majority of our students go on to La Salle Catholic College which is situated in Middle Swan. We always have a small number of students that go to other schools in the area due to sporting scholarships or family ties.

GOALS AND FOCUS FOR 2020 LEARNING

St Brigid's Primary School carry out standardized testing each term. Teachers are all involved in the process of data collection for the students in their class. The following data is collected: Mathematics Assessment Interview, iMaths diagnostic test, Soundwaves diagnostic tests, Online Assessment, Observation Survey, running records. Teachers review the achievement data with their partner teacher. At times, data is reviewed with all teaching staff at our PLC meetings.

1. Our focus for 2020 was to consolidate a consistent team-based approach across years K-6 to the teaching of Literacy, including elements of explicit instruction, as well as develop a consistent school wide approach to the teaching of Numeracy in order to lift school performance.

The following strategies were used:

- Whole school approach
- Use of data to inform teaching, track students' progress and differentiate teaching to cater for individual needs
- Soundwaves shows that we are making steady progress in Spelling.
- Data wall to monitor students' progress in reading comprehension and a case management approach established to analyse student data
- MiniLit and MacqLit Program to support early intervention in Literacy strategies
- Implementation of PreLit in Kindergarten and InitialLit in PrePrimary
- The 'Talk for Writing' approach in the Early Years has now been implemented across whole school.
- Continuation of Brightpath

GOALS AND FOCUS FOR 2020 ENGAGEMENT

Enhance parental engagement in their child's learning and faith formation.
Develop our people to be leaders in Catholic Education's mission.

- Playgroup –Multicultural.
- Parent – Workshops, parent evenings, Strengthen of the P&F.
- After drop of on day 1/ commencement of the school year – Morning tea, meeting with information, P&F, WWC, parent involvement.
- Parents Assist Learning (in classrooms)

All cancelled due to COVID

GOALS AND FOCUS FOR 2020 ACCOUNTABILITY

Increase understanding of our individual and collective responsibility for Catholic Education's mission.

Ensure inclusivity, good governance and the resource allocation required to meet our mission.

- Aboriginal Education – Whole school focus on identity, culture and language.
- IT.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 2020

Continued with our cyber cafés for staff but due to Covid there was a move to use technology more with our parents' staff and students.

GOALS AND FOCUR FOR 2020 DISCIPLESHIP

Enhance opportunities for personal faith development.

Increase enrolment of the vulnerable, poor and marginalised as a visible sign of our faith in action.

- Ongoing SMART goals from Discipleship.
- Cultural and education support – Specific time outside of class for Aboriginal students.
- Faith development – For staff and parents.
- Staff – Community service 'outreach'
- Catholic Identity – Excursion

SCHOOL FEES:

Total Student Fees Billed \$646,613.36 (inclusive of 3yr old kindy)

Total Student Fees Collected \$493,295.51

Remaining Balance Unpaid \$153,317.85

The focus in 2020 was not on collecting school fees due to COVID-19.

Chasing School fees was NOT a top priority in 2020 due to COVID-19 .

Next year there will be 0% increase in school fees as recommended by CEWA.

The 2021 School Fee Schedule will be structured according to the School Fees Setting and Collection Guidelines set out by CEWA : *"All schools shall comply with a standard schedule of fees to ensure consistency and comparability across all schools in the system" [Policy 5.2].*

INCOME & EXPENDITURE for 2018:

Total Income \$5,593,807

Total Expenditure \$5,642,871

Total Deficit in 2020 - \$49,064

PROVISIONS for 2021:

Cash Reserves as at 31 December 2020 \$849,517

Minus January 2021 Salaries \$358,562

Cash Reserves after January 2021 Salaries \$490,955

2020:

The financial audit for 2020 was completed in March 2021 and was well received and a singular recommendation has been actioned to date.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Evangelisation

In 2019 we began by adopting four values for our school each value was aligned with our charisms of each of our houses. Mackillop, Joseph, Mercy and Francis. We spent 2020 embedding the four values within our school. They were introduced at assemblies and our gold honour tickets related to each of the values. During 2020 the building of our Sacred Space began, this is a special place for our community to pray and to be.

Curriculum Plan

Our focus is writing and in particular the introduction of the Talk for Writing for the senior years. IN 2019 we began Talk for Writing for the junior years and during 2020 we implemented the program for the senior grades so that we would have a whole school approach to writing.

Curriculum Plan for Reading Comprehension

We continue to focus on our data wall, and this is a basis for many discussions, we use a group talk to help identify students who are not moving levels as expected. We share ideas and work as a team to assist our students. There was also the introduction of Stars and Cars to help our seniors with comprehension skills of our students in Years Three to Six.

