



## St Mary's School

214 Dandenong Road, ST KILDA EAST 3183  
Principal: Catherine Ferrari  
Web: [www.smsstkildaeast.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smsstkildaeast.catholic.edu.au)  
Registration: 107, E Number: E1014



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## About this report

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St Mary's 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](#).

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## Governing Authority Report

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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

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

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## Vision and Mission

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### Our Mission

St Mary's is an inclusive community where children are respected, cared for and have a strong sense of belonging. They are enriched in their faith and learning by the relationships nurtured with the Parish of St Mary's, the Presentation Sisters and the neighbouring Catholic schools. We continue the



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## School Overview

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At St Mary's Primary School, our strategic intent is to work in collaboration with students, families and staff to continue our improvement agenda. Ensuring that learning across the curriculum is based on researched evidence and best practice in an authentically Catholic Community, continues to be our focus.

A vibrant and well-supported curriculum allows for many opportunities for students, staff and parents alike to be continuous lifelong learners. The data driven, well-planned and explicit teaching and learning environment provides for the individual needs of all students at their point of need.

The current enrolment at St Mary's is 157 students from 119 families. Our community is an inclusive one, with families from diverse, Catholic and multi faith backgrounds.

The children are grouped in eight classes together on the Main Campus. These classes are: one Foundation class (Prep), one Year 1, one Year 2 and one Year 3 and two Year 4s, one Year 5 and one Year 6. St Mary's staff are multi-skilled, innovative and supportive in their provision of evidence based researched, and differentiated planned programs.

Specialist teachers provide many extracurricular opportunities in Physical Education, Visual Arts, Italian and Performing Arts. Classroom teachers, Learning Support Officers, and those in positions of leadership, ensure strong and engaging learning in the areas of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Inquiry, Science, The Arts, Sports, ICT, and Student Wellbeing.

During 2023, the staff Leadership Team provided a Position of Leadership (POL) for each of the five spheres of school improvement. Student Leadership included Year 6 responsibility for several areas including Education in Faith - Social Justice, Community, Student Wellbeing, Literacy and Mathematics, Sport, Technology, Music and Italian. Parents share in the leadership of the school community through representation on the School Advisory Council, the Parents & Friends Association, 'Classroom Reps' and "SWEG" (School Wide Events Group). We are proud of our high level of parental and carer support for fund-raisers and school events.

In 2023 the School continued to strengthen our Inquiry units with the Faith Dimension of Catholicity. Our Faith Based Inquiry Units help us connect Catholic Identity to Learning and Teaching.

We will continue to focus on:

- strengthening the Catholic identity of the school community,





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## Principal's Report

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I feel proud and honoured to have lead our St Mary's family and in 2023 much was achieved. Importantly,

Our Parents and Friends Leader Louisa and supported by many, worked tirelessly to help build community and connection, and raised funds for our landscaping project. We look forward to bringing our plans to life through working bees in 2024!

Thank you to Debbie Darvell, my Regional Leadership Consultant Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, for her guidance and support. Finally in May, I had the privilege of being based on Larrakia land (Darwin). The trip had a profound impact upon me and I hope to share my learning with the community as *when we know better, we do better*, as our Indigenous Educators taught us, in the years to come.

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## Catholic Identity and Mission

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### Goals & Intended Outcomes

That the school's Catholic Identity will be authentic and meaningful for all members of the school community.

That our diverse school community will affirm, challenge, support and learn from each other, as our understanding and appreciation of Catholic faith and tradition is deepened through dialogue and participation.

### Achievements

The 2023 school year commenced with Mass celebrated together with the staff from St Mary's college followed by a shared morning tea.

The St Mary's school community gathered to celebrate the School Commencement Mass. This was well attended by families and staff.

The Year Six students graduated at the end of the year with a mass of celebration and gratitude and a family evening at school. Some highlights of the year were our Mother's Day/ Special Friend's Mass, Grandparents/Special Friend's Mass,

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Our school continued to be part of the School Wide Improvement Forum Professional Learning Days implemented by the Southern Region of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools.

St Mary's participated in the Shared Stories Project for the third year. Students from Prep Year 6 submitted a written piece under the theme of 'Inspire'. Selection from each year level were chosen to be part of the publication. Visual Art pieces were also selected to be part of Shared Stories. National Simultaneous Reading Day and Book Week were celebrated throughout our community through multi aged groupings for learning tasks, a whole school incursion relevant to Book Week literature and a dress up day.

Student learning was enhanced and celebrated through whole school activities such as , Italian Day, Camp, Prep - Year 6 Athletics Carnival, Inter school Sports and




assessed. Participants include students who were assessed, including non-attempt, or those exempted from the test.

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## Student Wellbeing

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### Goals & Intended Outcomes

To increase opportunities for student agency throughout the school.

Build the capacity of teachers to understand and value student agency in learning.

Build the capacity of students to manage their own learning.

### Achievements

Under the guidance and expertise of our Deputy, Mr Anthony Speranza a whole school approach to wellbeing and behaviour management was continued and supported throughout the year. Positive behaviours for Learning (PBL) and School Wide Positive Behaviours Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) were further developed to build positive, safe and

During 'Startup Week' teachers created protocols to foster safe, respectful and responsible learning environments that were calm and supported all learners to engage and feel

- 5. School Belonging - 72%
- 6. Learning Disposition - 75%
- 7. Student Safety - 61%
- 8. Enabling Safety - 56%
- 9. Student Voice - 59%
- 10. Catholic Identity - 67%

Overall Student Positive Endorsement of the school - 65%

There was a positive increase in all school domains from 2022 to 2023

8 of the 10 domains reported in the school are higher than the MACS averages.

**Student Attendance**

A daily roll was taken recording students attendance. These were updated daily by the Administration Officer. Students who did not attend were recorded as absent.


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## Leadership

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### Goals & Intended Outcomes

To build a school culture that is characterised by a shared vision, professional collegiality, and continuous improvement.

That leadership capacity is developed to lead deep professional learning for improved student outcomes.

That the Leadership team utilise the School Improvement Plan 2021-2024 and Annual Action Plan of 2023 to lead the school community to drive change.

To work in partnership with the Southern Region Team from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) in the enactment of the School Improvement Framework (SIF).

To support all stakeholders within the community in the new learning spaces from the major refurbishment.

### Achievements

- Revisited and further developed the Leadership Charter with the team and new members at the start of 2023.
- Staff wellbeing continued to be a focus at our Professional Learning Communities and staff meetings to build deeper connections.
- Continued to build a culture of shared learning spaces.
- Connected regularly as executive members of leadership with teaching teams to support staff with facilitated planning and professional collegiality across year levels when planning and utilising resources.
- Supported the celebration of Sacraments and school events.
- Continued Weekly Staff Memos to all staff members to develop shared communication, school organisation and expectations.
- Continued to provide a fortnightly newsletter to the community, with accurate information for all stakeholders and celebration of our wonderful achievements with the community.
- Celebrated our successes and community events via the newsletter and Instagram.

Expenditure And Teacher Participation in Professional Learning
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List Professional Learning undertaken in 2023
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The following Professional Learning was undertaken by staff in 2023:

- Intensive Partners in Literacy - MACS - Southern Region
- Italian Language Professional Learning
- Administration Network
- Principal Network
- Deputy Principal Network
- Southern Region Learning and Teaching Forums
- School Wide Improvement Forums
- Religious Education Leader Network Meetings
- LNSLN Online Briefing MACS SR
- Early Number and Algebra Professional Development
- Student Wellbeing Leaders Network
- First Aid and Anaphylaxis Training
- Emergency Management Training
- Finance Education meetings - Shared Services - Business Manager
- Mandatory Reporting
- Number Intervention P-4
- F-8 Learning Literacies
- Mathematics Collective F-2
- Whole school Mathematics professional learning
- Phonics in Context
- Words in context



13. Collective efficacy - 63%

14. Catholic identity - 74%

Overall Staff Positive Endorsement of the school - 65%

6 of the 14 domains reported in the school are higher than the MACS averages.

Teacher Qualifications	
Doctorate	0.0%
Masters	




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## Community Engagement

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### Goals & Intended Outcomes

To strengthen collaboration with parents and the wider community to support student learning and wellbeing.

That parents will have a greater understanding and be more actively engaged in their child's learning.

### Achievements

Throughout the year the St Mary's community worked together to provide a welcoming and safe place for all our students, staff and parents. This was particularly evident in our community in 2023 as we continued to engage, connect, celebrate and support all members of the school. The Parents & Friends Association has continued to engage families with the school and develop a strong school community.

Events hosted by the Parents and Friends Association to foster deeper connections for the community include:

- Working Bees
- Prep Welcome Drinks
- Whole School Welcome Drinks
- Termly Second Hand Uniform Shop
- Mother's Day/ Special Friend's Day Breakfast and Mass
- Grandparents/ Special Friends Mass, Classroom visit and morning tea
- Student Disco
- Movie Night
- Major Fundraiser - School Fete
- Election Sausage Sizzle - and stalls for both State and Federal Elections to fund-raise for the school
- Father's Day/ Special Friend's Day Breakfast and Mass
- Graduation gift contributing to the Year 6 Rugby Tops

- Easter Raffle and Hot Cross Bun drive

Parent Class Representatives worked in partnership to make strong connections between the classroom teacher and the class community. Parent Class Representative organised and hosted class level activities such as whole class play dates and parent dinners. The school leaders and teachers strived to maintain connections with families in 2023.

Parent Exchange meetings were held early in the school year and mid-year Parent-Teacher meetings. To ensure communication was maintained between school and home the fortnightly school newsletter continued.

Seesaw continued the promotion of shared understandings about learning at school and for families to see their child(ren)'s learning in real time.

In 2023 School Leaders and Year 6 Leaders continued the student-lead Friday Assembly initiative. The Year 6 Leaders rotated throughout the year

• KABOOM

• Book

• Italian Day

• Art Expo

### Parent Satisfaction

Our 2023 Family Satisfaction Data in each Domain is as follows:

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## Financial Performance

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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](http://www.acnc.gov.au).

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at [www.smstkildaeast.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smstkildaeast.catholic.edu.au)