



2013

Annual Report

St Columba's Primary School, Berrigan

CONTACT DETAILS:

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The School

Berrigan is one of four towns within the Berrigan Shire. We have 2 primary schools which feed into Finley High School for the student's secondary education. The main employers within the town are the Berrigan Shire Council, Local Hospital and Aged Care Facility.

The farming community which surrounds the town conduct cropping and rearing of livestock. The town has a very active community which despite several drought years is able to support several sporting clubs and numerous other recreational activities.

Catholic Identity

St Columba's, as a Catholic School, strives to mould people who, being self- directed and optimistic, will take a role in renewing both the church and society.

In moving towards this renewal mission this school will strive:-

- To be a place where a shared commitment to a faith based on Christ as a model, guides all our efforts towards the total development of each student.
- To recognise the dignity of each person.
- Within its community, working to create a climate characterised by trust, openness, encouragement, mutual support, tolerance, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- To show special concern to those who are disadvantaged.
- To challenge students in order to enhance their personal achievement and spiritual growth.
- To be a Christian educational community, where human knowledge, enlightened and enlivened by faith, is shared by teachers, students and parents, in a spirit of freedom and love.

A Message from key School Bodies

St. Columba's School Council meets once a month to discuss what has been happening in the School with the Principal, Parish Priest and School Executive.

Parents are invited to these meetings which gives them an opportunity to hear first hand about their child/children's education and fundraising ideas.

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

The school monitors Trend Data from this testing each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year.

The school is focused on improving the growth of children from year 3 to year 5 over the next few years.

Professional Learning

Teachers have undertaken Professional Learning to be meet the needs of today's students by attending a conference with a them of 'Understanding the Digital Generation.'

Staff also attending professional learning opportunities based on the Australian Curriculum for NSW in English. Staff have all participated in the unpacking of NAPLAN data using Smart2 tools.

Training was also provided for Best Start which is for Kinder students. All staff also completed anaphylaxis training.

Teaching Staff

The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:

- A) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia
- B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia but no formal teacher education qualifications
- C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
3	0	0	0

Workforce Composition

The workforce our School is made up of two full time teachers, one .7 teacher, clerical assistant 20 hours per week and 4 hours cleaner.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	90.26%
Year 1	89.74%
Year 2	94.48%
Year 3	87.95%
Year 4	88.46%
Year 5	87.69%
Year 6	88.38%

Student Non-Attendance

If our School feels that the absence has not been appropriate i.e. truancy, the school at this time will make an appointment for the parent/carer to meet with the Principal to put procedures in place for the student to be able to meet legislative requirements in their attendance at school.

Enrolment Policy

Applications for enrolment are encouraged at any time and forms are available from the school office to commence the enrolment process for your child. We use the Diocesan Enrolment Policy. The school follows the CSO policy which is available at www.csoww.catholic.edu.au for full details please contact the school.

Characteristics of the Student Body

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
5	13	1	0	

**Language background Other Than English*

School Policies

Discipline

In a Catholic school we aim at promoting self discipline in all children. We have developed a discipline policy which covers all aspects of behaviour at school. Parents are kept well informed of any disciplinary problems with their child. As per Diocesan policy, corporal punishment is not permitted. The school follows the CSO policy which is available at www.csoww.catholic.edu.au

Student Welfare

When a child is enrolled at St Columba's Primary School, Berrigan, we undertake the total care of the student:

- The spiritual
- The emotional
- The social
- The physical, and
- The academic

The term Pastoral Care is used to describe an attitude and a process, and it is based upon the belief in the dignity of the person. In a school, it is expressed through:

- The development of quality relationships
- The provision of satisfying learning experiences
- The establishment of an effective network
- The provision of a stable environment where learning can occur
- The development of self discipline and growing into responsible members of the community.

The staff aim to support, assist and consult with parents and advise them of their child's progress and attainment in the above areas. It is part of the staff's duty to endeavour to address any areas that appear during the child's schooling.

The school follows the CSO policy which is available at www.csoww.catholic.edu.au

Complaints and Grievances

Classroom or Playground Concern -

Please discuss with

1. Class teacher or teacher on duty
2. The Principal

School Policy - Please discuss with

1. The Principal
2. School Council or Parish Priest If a dissatisfaction remains –

Contact the Catholic Schools Office, where your concerns will be heard, then the Principal's account will be obtained and an attempt made at resolving the matter to the satisfaction of all parties. The school follows the CSO policy which is available at www.csoww.catholic.edu.au
If the issue is important enough for you to follow it up, please make an appointment with teacher/Principal so they can ensure you have their full attention.

Issues taken to the School Council need to be in writing so that all members have the benefit of the same information. Issues taken to the School Council are considered confidential, but, as all families are members, it may be necessary to hold a special confidential meeting of the Executive of the School Council. Speak to a member of the School Council Executive, and they will make the arrangements.

If you would like to be more involved in the decisions made, participation in the School Council would be a way to achieve this.

Changes to School Policies

During the 2013 school year St. Columba’s participated in two curriculum reviews; Mathematics and Human Society and It’s Development. As part of a continual process, some non-curricula policies were reviewed with some being re-worded. All work is saved on server and available for parents when asked.

Improvement Targets

The main priorities of the School Improvement Plan focused on embedding a contemporary approach to pedagogy and improving literacy and numeracy outcomes. We engaged in professional development to incorporate a contemporary pedagogy and continued our participation as a Partnership school to raise literacy and numeracy levels.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

As part of the strand, Self and Relationships in PD/H/PE students continue to learn respect for themselves and others as well as their responsibility to become good citizens. Also our Leadership program for all Year 6 students has added greatly to the student’s self-esteem.

Community Satisfaction

The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school, St. Columba’s Primary School Berrigan.

Parents

My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St. Columba’s Primary School.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
80%	20%	0%	0%

Students

I am usually happy at St. Columba’s Primary School.

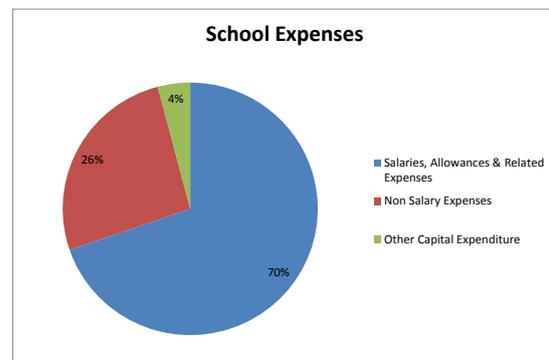
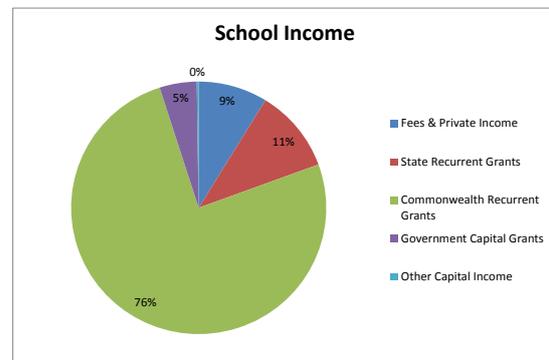
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
45%	55%	%	%

Staff

I am usually happy at St. Columba’s Primary School.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
75%	25%	%	%

Financial Statement Summary



About This Report

This report was put together by the Principal together with the Staff of St. Columba’s.