

SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMPLIANCE DATA 2017



INTRODUCTION

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School is situated approximately 300km south of Perth. The school opened in 1993 with an initial enrolment of students from pre-primary to year four. The school has developed into a full single stream primary school in line with community needs.

The school strives for excellence in all areas and involves the parents and community in the education of the children. The community hopes to lead the children to an integration of faith, life and learning and in so doing prepare them for their place in society. This endeavour is carried out in a caring environment where individual needs are catered for in a spirit of compassion, understanding and encouragement. A team approach to education is a feature of St Thomas More. Staff work collaboratively in an easy going, friendly and respectful environment.

The school offers an expanded curriculum encompassing the specialist areas of LOTE, The Arts, Sport, Music and Information Technology.

The school has a large oval, numerous play areas and a basketball/netball court. Within the school complex are two large undercover areas and a separate play area for kindergarten and pre-primary students. The school participates in sustainability programs through outside agencies such as the Cape to Cape Catchments Group, yet is actively involved in this area with rainwater water storage tanks used for watering the grounds and flushing through the toilets. There is a bank of solar panels on the new library roof, the oval is now watered by recycled water provided by the shire and a sizeable vegetable garden exists.

The School enjoys excellent support from the School Board and a very active Parents and Friends Association. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in the school through the Parents and Friends Association and other activities. One of the strong points of the school is the very supportive Parents and friends Association, who raise and spend upwards of \$20 000 in the school each year. This gives students extra resources, access to cultural visits and bus travel that the school, or the parents would normally have to pay for.

The parents of the children are welcome in the school and are regularly in classes to help teachers, especially in the Junior Primary, and for discussions with teachers regarding the progress of their children.

As a school we try and have as close a relationship as possible with the parish. The Parish Priest has a presence in the school and is welcomed into classrooms and to all staff functions. The Assistant Principal and the Principal are both members of the St Thomas More Parish Pastoral Council. The school has a successful Liturgical Program with regular weekday masses, reconciliation services and Sunday School Masses according the feast days that are important to our local school and parish. The Principal and the Assistant Principal (Religious Education Co-ordinator) work closely with the Parish Priest to develop this Program. Sacramental Preparation is completed by the school, in the class Religious Education Program, the parents and the parish are involved as much as possible in these.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT INFORMATION

Our **Learning Goal** this year focussed upon the improving student outcomes in all areas of writing. By December 2017 all students have been assessed in writing and shown progress against the BRIGHTPATHS Criteria. As part of this;

All staff to participate in BRIGHTPATHS professional learning.

1. Pre test and moderating of work samples to inform teaching and learning programs.
Writing focus to inform PLCM, Professional Learning and data wall.
2. K-2 staff to collaborate on most appropriate ways of teaching writing skills.
3. Investigate use of multi modal texts.
4. Post test conducted to establish success and challenges.

NAPLAN testing showed strong results across year 3 and year 5 in writing. We believe that the goals set to do with Learning have been achieved, but have decided, as a staff, that we will continue our Learning focus on writing in 2018 to fully embed teaching, learning and practise.

The **Engagement** focus has been to continue to support the newly implemented 0-6 year old PLAYGROUP, operating in the current Kindergarten on a Monday and to look at creative ways of using the school capital resources (buildings) to facilitate the introduction of a 3 year old education program. We have put resources and staffing into the 3 year old playgroup and have seen a positive response, numbers wise. However, we have not yet seen this translate into increased enrolments into the Kindergarten program. As a school board it was decided that the financial implications, with regard to cost and moving the already successful music program was not viable at this stage for our school. We will continue supporting the 0-6 year old program for the foreseeable future.

The **Accountability** Focus has been to work in our PLCM to establish Learning Walks as part of the culture here at STMCPs. The specific learning goals include;

Over the course of the year, teachers will undertake Professional Learning with regard to Learning Walks.

Learning walks will regularly take place in the school in the second half of the year.

In 2017, Learning Walks specifically to do with the teaching of WRITING.

The school has had limited success in implementing Learning Walks into our school. There has been Professional Learning undertaken through our PLC's and staff believe in the value of Learning Walks, yet there seems to be many (perceived) obstacles to regular learning walks taking place. We will continue to work on making Learning Walk common and valuable practice at St Thomas More into the future.

Our goal with regard to **Discipleship** has been to continue to develop the positive relationship between the school and our parish. The School has been working on ways that we can try to have more of our families engage with the parish. A lot harder and more complex than it sounds. The specific goals include;

By the end of 2017 all classes will have planned and presented at least 2 liturgical events either at the school or in the church.

A plan - timeline will be developed for 2018.

With the explicit teaching of some RE concepts in year 3 and 5, an improvement in the mean result of the BRLA will be seen.

The School has been working on ways that we can try to have more of our families engage with the parish. A lot harder and more complex than it sounds. We are, and will continue to work closely with Fr Mars to find ways that we can continue to enhance our relationship with the parish and have more of our students engage develop their faith.

A plan has been put in place that see's Fr Mars visit classes in the school, and classes attend and/or plan a mass at least once per semester.

Whereas little significant improvement was seen in the BRLA in 2017, we will continue to teach some explicit concepts and encourage families to participate in the Religious Dimension of the school and parish into 2018 and beyond.

STAFFING

In 2017, there were 27 staff members.

Of these ,8 were full time, and 19 were part time. There were 5 male staff members and 22 female staff members. There were 17 teaching staff and 10 non teaching staff.

There were no Indigenous staff employed in 2017.

Staff qualifications were as follows;

1	Masters of Education (Religious Education)
9	Bachelor of Education
3	Bachelor of Arts – Education
1	Bachelor of Arts - Communications
1	Bachelor of Arts and Design
4	Graduate Diploma of Education
1	Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education
1	Diploma of Teaching
1	Bachelor of Psychology
2	Professional Certificate of Instructional Leadership

NUMBER OF DAYS SCHOOL WAS IN OPERATION/STUDENT ATTENDANCE

For the **185** days that the school was in operation in 2017, the **172** students from Pre Primary – Year 6 had a total of 2491 **days absent** with an average of **14.48** absent days per child.

Class	Number of students	Possible number of days of attendance	Number of days absent	Percentage of attendance
Pre Primary	16	2960	270	90.8%
Year 1	30	5550	375	93.2%
Year 2	23	4255	441	89.6%
Year 3	28	5180	335	93.5%
Year 4	23	4255	295	93.1%
Year 5	31	5735	506	91.2%
Year 6	21	3885	269	93.1%
TOTAL	172	31820	2491	92.2%

An electronic school register of absences is taken each day by classroom teachers. Parents are to inform the school if planned absences occur, however, if an unplanned absence eventuates, the parent must ring the school. If no notification is received from parents, the school rings each parent to inform them of the child's non presentation for school.

96.43% of absences were classed as "Resolved Absences" according to the SEQTA School Management System.

Classroom teachers contact parents by phone or in writing if and when a student's absences become a concern. Absences are totalled by semester and recorded on the students formal Academic Report.

Should attendance become a concern to teachers, this is discussed with the Principal and then, parents.

POST SCHOOL DESTINATIONS

The 18 year 6 students that left St Thomas More Catholic Primary School in 2016 are now attending Secondary Schools:

YEAR 6	
MARGARET RIVER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	17
SAINT MARY MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE	4

PARENT, STAFF AND STUDENT SATISFACTION.

Results from the INSIGHT SRC school wide surveys, conducted in May 2016 show a very positive staff culture exists and that the students were generally happy with the school.

The parents in the school are also generally well satisfied with the school.

The results from this survey will be reflected in the future school Annual Improvement Plan(s).

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY.

2017 NAPLAN DATA (myschool website)

YEAR 3 2017

NAPLAN TEST AREA	STMCPs MEAN	NATIONAL MEAN
READING	427.2	413.3
WRITING	444	413.6
SPELLING	408	416.1
PUNCTUATION & GRAMMAR	450.4	439.2
NUMERACY	428.3	409.4

YEAR 5 2017

NAPLAN TEST AREA	STMCPs MEAN	NATIONAL MEAN
READING	470.9	505.7
WRITING	491.4	472.5
SPELLING	482.2	500.8
PUNCTUATION & GRAMMAR	466.5	499.3
NUMERACY	472.2	593.8

Year 3

100 % of students were at or above the minimum standard in Reading

100 % of students were at or above the minimum standard in Writing

100 % of students were at or above the minimum standard in Spelling

96 % of students were at or above the minimum standard in Grammar and Punctuation

100 % of students were at or above the minimum standard in Numeracy

Year 5

97 % of students were at or above the minimum standard in Reading

100 % of students were at or above the minimum standard in Writing

100 % of students were at or above the minimum standard in Spelling

100 % of students were at or above the minimum standard in Grammar and Punctuation

100 % of students were at or above the minimum standard in Numeracy

SCHOOL FINANCES (as per the mySchool website)

School finance information can be found at;

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/Finance/Index/101234/StThomasMoreCatholicPrimarySchool/49001/2015>