



**ST FRANCIS
XAVIER'S**
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



2020

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT

2020 School Performance Report

This report is a requirement of the Australian Government as outlined in the *Australian Education Act 2013*.

Introduction

My first year as Principal at SFX was certainly a tough year for many reasons!

COVID hit, and what an impact it had! We take many learnings from COVID, and hopefully we are better prepared should anything untoward happen again. Online learning was something we worked hard on last year, and we now have the platforms in place to deal with any forced school closures. The way we handled COVID-19 as a school, sector and state is to be acknowledged, and something we should all be very proud of. COVID-19 will be with us for a long time, but we are definitely now far better positioned than we were.

In addition to the pandemic I had my own personal health battles, and I would like to sincerely thank Todd, Fr Manu, Michelle, Sonya, Mikal and all of the staff for their support. It was tough being in a new school for 10 weeks and then having to face COVID-19 together with my own health issues. The SFX community as a whole was so supportive, and it definitely reinforced to me that I had made the right decision in moving to this wonderful school. Thank you!!!

Staffing

In 2020 we farewelled a number of staff. Some moved to other areas within the education sector, and some commenced various forms of leave. I would like to thank all of our staff for their contribution to the school: Todd La Forgia; Rachael Verringer; Miranda McGlaughlin; Malia Kanongata'a (Parenting Leave); Luke Ferguson (CESA).

Achievements for 2020

Amidst all the challenges faced last year, we still achieved many successes in 2020:

- Online learning platforms
- Working smarter
- Beginning of data analysis of PAT tests
- Completion of Stage 1 building, carparks and administration building
- Air conditioner in hall
- New website
- New Nature Play (R-2)

Student Enrolment Numbers

Year Level	February Census	August Census
Reception	64	79
Year 1	65	64
Year 2	63	63
Year 3	66	65
Year 4	64	65
Year 5	61	60
Year 6	60	60
Total	443	456

Student Attendance

Year Level	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
RE	82.97%	94.08%	93.03%	92.87%
1	85.53%	94.66%	94.65%	92.69%
2	82.29%	94.93%	93.87%	93.59%
3	83.30%	93.39%	92.90%	91.86%
4	85.03%	93.93%	93.20%	94.80%
5	86.06%	94.28%	94.75%	92.72%
6	85.38%	95.47%	93.58%	92.15%
Average	84.37%	94.39%	93.71%	92.95%

Non-Attendance Management

School attendance is monitored by classroom teachers, and absences recorded on our student system, SEQTA.

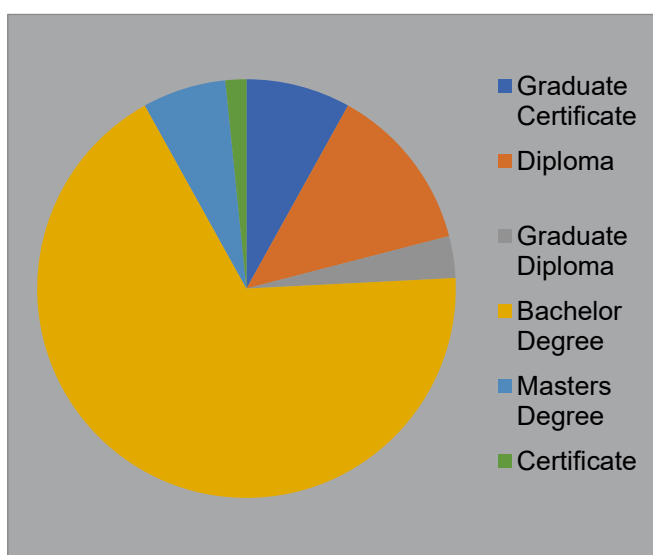
In 2020 the text messaging service for families continued to prove successful in providing suitable tracking of student non-attendance. Alongside the absence line, our tracking has been thorough and supportive of families.

In cases of continued absence, Leadership will work with the families to improve attendance and provide counselling support if needed.

Human Resources

In 2020, St Francis Xavier's Regional Catholic School employed 53 staff in both teaching and non-teaching roles. St Francis identified 1 staff member as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The following summarises the workplace employment data for 2020:

	Staff Total	FTE
Teaching	34	26.3
Non-Teaching	19	12.2
Indigenous	1	



Staff Attendance

Teaching staff attendance for the 2020 school year was 99%, and the types of leave taken include sick leave, family leave, carers leave and bereavement leave.

Staff Retention

In 2020, 97% of our teachers continued from the previous year.

Staff Qualifications

We are very fortunate to have many staff with two or more qualifications in education. The total percentage of qualifications at St Francis Xavier's Regional Catholic School is (see diagram).

5%	Graduate Certificate
8%	Diploma
2%	Graduate Diploma
42%	Bachelor Degree
4%	Masters Degree
1%	Certificate

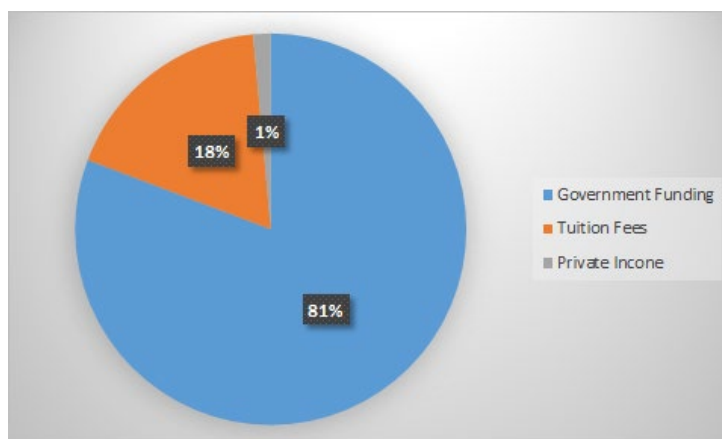
Professional Development

In 2020, approximately \$16,981.46 was spent on the professional development of staff comprising - \$10,786.00 (TRT); \$6195.46 (Training).

School Funding

As a Catholic School we rely on the prompt payment of school fees to assist with the operation of the school. The school receives its income from three main sources:

- Government funding
- Tuition fees and charges
- Private income



The graph shows the school income broken down by Government, Fees and Other, and therefore, without the payment of school fees, the school would be unable to provide many of the resources that we currently offer. The school attempts to minimise the level of fee increases, and school fees are set with due regard for the nature of the school community, appropriate resourcing and equity considerations and consistent with other recommendations as determined by Catholic Education South Australia.

Value Added Programs at St Francis Xavier's Regional Catholic School

St Francis Xavier's Catholic School offers many educational experiences and celebrations that provide special opportunities for students, staff and the wider community.

St Francis Xavier's offered the following programs for the benefit of students at our school:

- Playgroup
- Curious Xavier's: a transition program that is run over the two terms immediately prior to children starting in Reception. It involves the children attending a 3 hour session, once a week, where they engage with children that they will journey through their primary schooling with. It is aimed at children becoming familiar with the school surrounds, their peers and staff.
- Buddy classes
- Educator support: for students identified as requiring additional support
- Fine Motor Program
- Social Skills Program
- Learning Assistance Program (LAP)
- Peer Mediation Program
- School Band
- Rock Band
- Choir
- Glee
- SAPSASA, SACPSSA (Catholic Sport) representation
- Instrumental Concert
- Music Cabaret Evening

Our Catholic Identity

We celebrated the beginning of our school year with a liturgy and the commissioning of our staff and Year 6 student leaders. Our Year 6 Religious Education Leadership group attended the Caritas Just Leadership Day at the Cathedral Hall, where they met student leaders from other schools and were encouraged to think about how they could be leaders of social justice in our school community.

Throughout 2020 we were involved in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity Research which aimed to assist us in assessing our Catholic identity through the use of surveys and questionnaires. The data which emerged is used to provide us with important information regarding the current context of the school and to inform future enhancement of Catholic Identity. As a Catholic Community we experienced many challenges in 2020. For the first time in living memory, churches were closed and sanctuaries were empty during Holy Week.

With the restrictions placed on us due to COVID-19 we were unable to gather as a school community for liturgy, prayer or mass so we looked at ways to stay connected online. Staff prayer continued on a weekly basis through email and teachers continued to share prayer and liturgy with their classes, either face to face or through online platforms with children learning from home.

Our sacramental programs were postponed as we were instructed to stay at home, although fortunately we had 25 children who were able to be Confirmed and receive their First Holy Communion over the course of the year at St David's and St John XXIII Churches. Fr Manu and Fr James ensured that Mass was available online for those who wished to view it.

Our annual Staff Reflection day was held on the 20th July at school, with the theme of Reconciling God, Creation and Humanity. Staff spent quality time together through collaboration in sessions of interest. They were encouraged to see God's presence in each other and continue working towards an ecological conversion – a loving awareness of our connection to all of creation.

Teachers continued their own professional learning in Religious Education on the redesign of Crossways, the Religious Education Curriculum. This involved looking at the doctrinal content, enduring understandings and assessment strategies in readiness for implementation in 2021.

Ecological conversion, sustainability and stewardship for the earth were continued to be embraced by our school community. This was demonstrated through a variety of initiatives including recycling 10c containers, composting, reducing waste, the formation of an "Eco Warriors" student group and the Year 6 Sustainability Leadership group. We participated in Clean up Australia Day, Outdoor Learning Day, learning in the Kurna Garden and other outdoor spaces and prayer and liturgy based on Laudato Si'.

Social Justice initiatives involved the students raising funds and awareness for Catholic Charities and Project Compassion. The St Vincent de Paul Winter and Christmas Appeals were supported through the Modbury Conference.

Student Leadership

In 2020, all Year 6 students were assigned a specific leadership committee that they managed with the aim of implementing change and improvements within the school.

The leadership committees comprised: Sustainability, Newsletter, Personal Responsibilities, Religious Education, Peer Mentoring, Early Childhood Support, Library, ICT, Music, Drama, Sport, Public Relations.

The students embraced their roles and demonstrated initiative, team work and organisation.

The Arts Program

In 2020, the Arts program at SFX was impacted by the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 and unforeseen weather events. This saw many of our usual performances move to an online format or to be cancelled.

We continued, under the leadership of Sarah Wildy and Luke Ferguson, to offer a rock band, a junior choir, a liturgical ensemble and choir, a Festival Choir and a concert band.

The Senior Vocal Ensemble was involved with the Catholic Schools Music Festival, which was filmed at the end of Term 3 at Sacred Heart College and presented as a digital concert in Term 4 to the families of the children involved in the festival.

In Term 3, the Year 6's presented a musical production, 'Rock Bottom Rocks'. We were able to have a small audience of parents watch the performances over two evenings. Students receiving instrumental tuition performed to their peers on a week day for the Young Performers Concerts, with their performances being filmed and sent home to their parents via Seesaw.

In Term 4 the entire school participated in Music Count us in. The Cabaret Night was moved outside to accommodate COVID-19 spacing restrictions, however the performance had to be cancelled due to a weather event. The performances of the bands and choirs involved in this concert were filmed and shared with families at the end of Term 4.

Sports Program

The sports portfolio at St Francis Xavier's Catholic School continues to offer a wide range of sporting options for students at all levels, both during school and also as part of our after school program.

Like many things in 2020 the Sports Programs were impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. However we were able to participate in limited SACPSSA (Catholic) and SAPSASA sporting events. For the carnivals that proceeded, there were students who were selected to represent Tea Tree Gully in the respective SAPSASA State Carnivals. Through all the COVID restrictions our after school sports programs still managed to offer options throughout the year, including basketball, netball and soccer.

We achieved some great results in 2020, including 1st for the boys in the Softball Carnival, 3rd in the Swimming Carnival, 2nd in the SAPSASA District Athletics Carnival, and Open Boys Pentathlon winner for the 2nd year in a row in the SACPSSA Athletics Carnival (first time in the history of SACPSSA Athletics).

Unfortunately, we were unable to participate in the SACPSSA Netball Carnival which would normally see us take in excess of 15 teams to this event. Glee (a dance program) was also run for Years 1-6.

We continue to investigate other sporting opportunities that we can offer to all students at St Francis Xavier's and look forward to 2021 getting back to the full sports program.

Community Satisfaction

The surveys administered were:

- Uniform Survey
- Strategic Plan Survey – Thinking back to when you first enrolled your children at St Francis Xavier's Catholic School, what were the main reasons for choosing SFX? Your children's learning and wellbeing are of paramount importance to us. Our aim is to help your child become a thriving, capable learner. What do you feel we are doing well to continue their growth and success? In creating our new Strategic Plan, what initiatives do you feel could be improved upon or introduced within the school to improve educational outcomes and social/emotional wellbeing for all children in our care?
- Home Learning – Phone calls from Leadership/Teacher
- Minimal events due to COVID

School Improvement

Key finding from Strategic Planning

School Uniform – A Committee was put together to look at the new uniform. Being a school that has nature play and a large environmental space, an active uniform was agreed upon.

Restorative Practices – The aim was to commence Restorative Practices, but due to professional development restrictions (speakers coming to school), we have postponed until 2021.

Online Learning – The consistent use of platforms for online learning was forced upon us due to COVID lockdowns: RE – Year 3 – Seesaw; Year 4 – Year 5 – Screencast-O-Matic; Year 6 – MS Teams.

Building Program

- New Administration building
- New Early Years Classrooms - Reception; Playgroup; Curious Xavier's
- New Nature Play area completed
- New car parks on Carignane Street and Park Lake Drive – identified (new building plan)
- Plans in place for Stage 3 (Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms)
- New Playground (2022)

