

# St Bede's School

## Balwyn North

2020

## Annual Report to the School Community



# Table of Contents

- Contact Details .....2
- Minimum Standards Attestation .....2
- Our School Vision .....3
- School Overview .....4
- Principal’s Report .....5
- Education in Faith .....6
- Learning & Teaching .....7
- Student Wellbeing .....9
- Child Safe Standards .....12
- Leadership & Management .....13
- School Community .....16

## Contact Details

ADDRESS	2 Marwal Avenue Balwyn North VIC 3104
PRINCIPAL	Brian Grace
PARISH PRIEST	Fr John Salvano
SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR	Chris Sinnico
TELEPHONE	03 8851 4651
EMAIL	principal@sbedesbn.catholic.edu.au
WEBSITE	www.sbedesbn.catholic.edu.au
E NUMBER	E1161

## Minimum Standards Attestation

I, Brian Grace, attest that St Bede's School is compliant with:

- All of the requirements for the minimum standards and other requirements for the registration of schools as specified in *the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)* and the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic)*, except where the school has been granted an exemption from any of these requirements by the VRQA
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2020 school year under the *Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth)* and the *Australian Education Regulations 2013 (Cth)*
- The Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No.870 - Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

19/04/2021

**NOTE:** The School's financial performance information has 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)

## Our School Vision

### St Bede's Vision Statement

Bede was a committed scholar and educator in the service of God.

With Bede as our model and Christ as our everlasting light, we strive to build a Catholic school community where each is given time and support to learn to know, to do, to live together and to be.

Christus Dies Aeterna Nostra

Christ our ever lasting light. Christ our ever lasting day.

## School Overview

St Bede's School strives to create an educational experience for all students that is strongly grounded in our Parish community. The education of our students, staff and parents begins with an invitation to explore and grow in understanding of our faith and how we can live it out within school and the wider community. The pastoral care of all students is an important focus and we place significant emphasis on Student Wellbeing so that we may offer an education that is holistic. We give time to meeting and working with parents in order to build relationships that strengthen and enrich the way we work. We are keen to build a school culture where staff value working together. We encourage all staff, inclusive of our leadership team, to be responsive in the way they work and to be open and reflective when reviewing their own performance and needs. There is a very genuine commitment to working with individuals so that staff will be skilled to improve student outcomes. We unreservedly create a school culture where expectations, structures and processes are focused on our endeavour to meet the needs of students. We encourage strong commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

## Principal's Report

My name is Brian Grace and I thank you for taking the time to read this report. 2020 was my second year as principal of St Bede's and I could not be any prouder of the St Bede's community during what turned out to be a very challenging school year.

What commenced as a normal school year quickly changed to a learning context no one had experienced before. Remote learning threw challenges to our community which they embraced with a nervous sense of excitement and professionalism.

The staff ensured that they remained connected to the students through daily google meet sessions (whole, small and individual) and constant communication to the parent community. This approach allowed the students to continue their learning journey in a supported and purposeful manner.

Our Parents and extended community continue to enrich our school, and we appreciate the work, friendship and support that is provided in so many ways. Once COVID restrictions were lifted the community were very quick to offer their support

St. Bede's school is so much richer because of the wonderful connection and relationship we have with our Parish and I thank Fr John for his guidance and generosity in working with us to ensure that our whole community can grow in understanding our faith. An example of this was the online prayer services e.g. St Bede's Day that allowed the school to stay connected to the parish during lock down and the graduation mass that allowed parents once again reconnect with parish/school.

I trust you will enjoy reading the rest of this report and thank our community for overcoming the challenges of 2020 in a positive manner.

## Education in Faith

### Goals & Intended Outcomes

Our faith calls us to live a Christian life. As an aspect of this St Bede's goals were to;

- Honour the sacred dignity of each person
- Embrace difference and diversity
- To Increase the "Catholic Identity" of our students through in depth Teaching and learning and assessment.

### Achievements

#### Some of our achievements during 2020

The staff completed an assessment schedule for Religious Education. This allowed for a clear reporting format for parents and provided greater guidance for staff in assessing in Religious Education.

Commencement of revising the hermeneutical approach to teaching Religious Education through inquiry.

Formally recognising the traditional owners of our land at Assemblies, and school gatherings.

The continuous embedding of the Religious curriculum into our Inquiry units of work

#### VALUE ADDED

##### **The extracurricular activities during 2020 included:**

Sacramental Programs ( different format then previous years due to COVID)

Mini Vinnies- Work with the St Vincent De Paul association. Christmas appeal

Aboriginal prospective into our RE units (Uncle Ian)

St Bede's Feast Day

Continuation of the implementation of Religious Education into the inquiry process with a focus on Catholic Identity and demonstrate out this is done to our community.

## Learning & Teaching

### Goals & Intended Outcomes

**The main goal for Learning and Teaching during 2020 was;**

To continue to develop staff proficiency in the analysis of existing data sets with the aim of developing their capabilities in the shared analysis of trends in learning especially within the identified improvement agenda

### Achievements

**At St Bede's we were able to achieve the above goal through the following:**

Meetings in and across levels to analyse student data and achievement and high impact strategies

Data used throughout the school to identify gaps in student learning and to monitor improvement over time

Staff moderating in and across levels to have a shared understanding of the implementation and analysis of data.

Use of case management and sprint groups for target teaching gathered from the data.

#### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Due to COVID restrictions in 2020, schools including St Bede's did not undertake Naplan testing.

To assist the staff to assess the impact of Remote learning on our students formal assessment was undertaken upon the students return to the classroom. Staff were released to undertake both Mathematical and Literacy testing with the students. (e.g. PAT R BAS testing) The data was then used to address any areas of concern. This allowed staff also to provide feedback to parents both in written and verbal form.

Assessment data was also gathered online through programs such as study ladder and through the constant online remote lessons

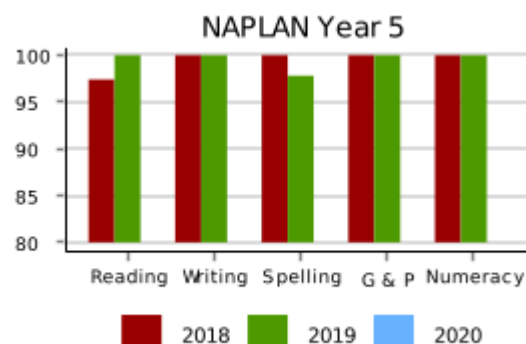
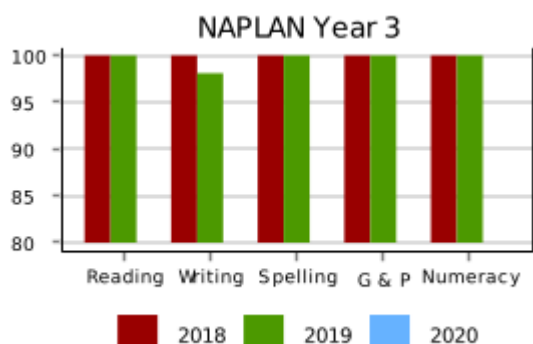


PROPORTION OF STUDENTS MEETING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS					
NAPLAN TESTS	2018	2019	2018 – 2019	2020	2019 – 2020
	%	%	Changes	%	Changes
			%	*	*
YR 03 Grammar & Punctuation	100.0	100.0	0.0		
YR 03 Numeracy	100.0	100.0	0.0		
YR 03 Reading	100.0	100.0	0.0		
YR 03 Spelling	100.0	100.0	0.0		
YR 03 Writing	100.0	98.1	-1.9		
YR 05 Grammar & Punctuation	100.0	100.0	0.0		
YR 05 Numeracy	100.0	100.0	0.0		
YR 05 Reading	97.4	100.0	2.6		
YR 05 Spelling	100.0	97.8	-2.2		
YR 05 Writing	100.0	100.0	0.0		

\* There are no NAPLAN results to report in 2020 as the Australian Government decided that due to the COVID-19 pandemic NAPLAN Assessments would not take place.

\*\* Data cannot be reported for this year as the number of students that sat the test was below 5 and the data has been suppressed for privacy reasons in accordance with the ACARA NAPLAN data reporting provisions.

\*\*\* No students sat the NAPLAN tests in this year level and in one or both of the relevant years.



## Student Wellbeing

### Goals & Intended Outcomes

#### St Bede's goals and intended outcomes for 2020 included

- Honour equitable access and opportunity for all
- Explicit teaching of wellbeing concepts

### Achievements

The importance of a well-structured wellbeing program is always an important aspect of a school's curriculum program but 2020 emphasised just how important it is.

With COVID affecting families and students in a variety of ways it was important as a school that we stayed connected with the students and families. This was achieved through online and offline activities. St Bede's' aim during lock down was "staying connected."

It was important as a staff to not underestimate the positive impact we can have on a family during challenging times. Every child had access to appropriate technology

Once the students returned, the aim was to help the students transition back to school life and reconnecting with friends they had not physically seen for 6 months

### VALUE ADDED

#### The value added activities included:

The introduction of whole school mediation sessions via online and at school

The strategic implementation of wellbeing activities into the online platform

*e.g 12:15pm - 1:00pm*

*Wellbeing*

*Book; Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt*

*Read and listen to chapter 5 and complete your Emotions Diary*

The explicit teaching of wellbeing lessons

Guess speakers - Mrs Roos

The use of online assemblies to keep connection

Online excursions

### STUDENT SATISFACTION

Keeping connection through a challenging year was important for us as a school. The following feedback from a parent best describes the supportive nature towards the wellbeing of all at St Bede's

Thanking you and everyone for your exceptionally hard work this past term and throughout the year. You **are all so supportive of the kids and parents**, and we feel very lucky to be a part of the school.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Below is how St Bede's manages attendance and non attendance

1. Student daily attendance is recorded using the NForma software program
2. Staff are required to record attendance twice daily
3. Parents are informed regularly via the school newsletter to inform the school in a timely manner about student absences
4. Working with NForma the school has an automated parent notification process for students who are absent without the school being notified. This is overseen by personnel in the school office
5. Twice yearly reports contain records of student attendance.

If students are absent for 3 days without being informed by the parents the office staff will contact the family

During COVID the students would attend a daily google meet where the virtual roll would be taken. The students would then be marked as working remotely. The students work requirements were continually checked by the staff to ensure the students were on task. If a teacher felt a student was not completing the work etc then contact was made with the parent via email or phone (there might be family reasons due to the stress of COVID). Each students' personal circumstances were taken into consideration

AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE BY YEAR LEVEL	
Y01	96.1%
Y02	96.6%
Y03	95.3%
Y04	96.1%
Y05	95.3%
Y06	95.2%
Overall average attendance	95.8%

## Child Safe Standards

### Goals & Intended Outcomes

The challenge of remote learning ensured that our child safe policies around the use of technology was a major focus for St Bede's as it would have been for many schools. The online environment is one that needs to be closely monitored to ensure the safety of our students. At the commencement of Remote learning all "Use of technology" forms were checked and the students revisited the appropriate use of technology.

### Achievements

Some achievements during 2020 included;

The staff undertook professional learning on how to conduct online google meets.

e.g in blank areas of their house not in bedrooms, professional dress

Staff meetings around "children of concern" during remote learning. Impact remote learning might be having on families. These children/families were then followed up by phone calls from the school.

Professional reading material for parents on keeping students staff online.

Staff undertaking the Mandatory reporting online Modules including "PROTECT"

Child Safety a point of discussion at Leadership Team meetings

# Leadership & Management

## Goals & Intended Outcomes

### Leadership goals and intended outcomes included

Continue to develop staff proficiency in the analysis of existing data sets with the aim of developing their capabilities in the shared analysis of trends in learning especially within the identified improvement agenda

An unexpected goal was the introduction of Remote learning

## Achievements

The identified area for 2020 was heavily focussed on the area of remote learning

Using the Professional learning from the learning collaborative (Lyn Sharrats work) staff had the opportunity to meet regularly as professional learning teams to look at the data the students were delivering, identify trends and plan accordingly. The consistency of this approach allowed staff to regularly communicate to parents any extra support that might be needed from home.

Leadership was also very conscious of the wellbeing of staff throughout 2020. Staff meetings were used for debriefing opportunities and the health of each staff member was taken into consideration during the uncertainty around health requirements.

Leadership in consultation with staff also successfully implemented remote learning. This was a massive undertaking but one that was appreciated by the community.

The decision as a community to go straight classes from P to 2

<b>EXPENDITURE AND TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING</b>
<b>Description of Professional Learning undertaken in 2020</b>
Teacher Professional learning in 2020 for the majority of the year looked different. Online staff meetings around the "Learning collaborative" ( work with Lyn Sharratt through Catholic education) continued as did leadership team meetings personally with Lyn Professional learning around the affect use of the Google Classroom, google meets and the online platform was continuously reviewed and developed to provide the best experience for the student. Regular online staff meetings on the use of case management strategies First aid ( first term)

Number of teachers who participated in PL in 2020	17
Average expenditure per teacher for PL	\$100

**TEACHER SATISFACTION**

With 2020 being a year consumed by remote learning the staff were able to identify areas they saw themselves grow and develop in. Some of their feedback included;

Collaborating with peers (staff) has been even further enhanced - professional conversations more accessible

- I am able to clearly see gaps in engagement in certain curriculum areas as a whole class and individually
- Parents have a better understanding of the learning needs and goals we've discussed in term 1
- I provide more personalised feedback
- I am more connected to parents (never talked to them so much!!)
- I am fulfilling the role of tech support
- I am communicating lots with parents and students over Google meets and Seesaw, email, phone
- Technology has many amazing benefits for keeping kids connected to their school
- There are many opportunities to give specific feedback and to include parents in the learning process.
- We are still able to deliver quality education
- Is using technology in practical ways that the students appreciate and find meaningful.
- How quickly the children learn and adapt!! Sponges!!!
- There will be many benefits from our students and us having this experience. This will show vast improvements in Ss being able to be great self managers, independent learners, more confident with technology, able to follow instructions better, more connected to what's happening with the world around them
- The little things often make the biggest difference - we need to explore nature and it's wonders more in our curriculum (stop and smell the roses!)
- Connection to others (family, friends etc) will be stronger after this is over

**TEACHING STAFF ATTENDANCE RATE**

Teaching Staff Attendance Rate	78.6%
--------------------------------	-------

### ALL STAFF RETENTION RATE

Staff Retention Rate	91.9%
----------------------	-------

### TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Doctorate	0.0%
Masters	27.8%
Graduate	27.8%
Graduate Certificate	5.6%
Bachelor Degree	83.3%
Advanced Diploma	22.2%
No Qualifications Listed	5.6%

### STAFF COMPOSITION

Principal Class (Headcount)	3.0
Teaching Staff (Headcount)	27.0
Teaching Staff (FTE)	21.6
Non-Teaching Staff (Headcount)	18.0
Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	17.2
Indigenous Teaching Staff (Headcount)	0.0



## School Community

### Goals & Intended Outcomes

#### The intended goal for 2020

To build a culture that includes collaborative (community planning) that enriches the experiences of everyone involved

### Achievements

As previously mentioned during this report COVID had a severe impact on the normal social/community events scheduled to occur in 2020.

As a community we were able to achieve the following

- Parish Picnic
- Graduation mass and student celebration
- Online liturgies with the whole family
- Online whole community assemblies
- Year level family mass (Yr 1/2)
- Newsletter became quickly to keep our community informed of happenings
- Family activities as part of remote learning e.g Physical Education
- A whole school online carols evening

### PARENT SATISFACTION

The parent community was impressed with the implementation of the remote learning program offered. Some of the feedback included the following

I can see all the hard work that has gone into the preparation to get remote learning up and running and I think you and the 3/4 team are amazing!

Parents were also thankful to be included in events such as graduation mass once restrictions were lifted

\*\*\* and I would like to start by thanking you for the extended help that was offered to A \*\*\*\* during the time of remote learning, it was greatly appreciated. Mr W has been exceptional during this time, always ensuring \*\*\*\* wellbeing and providing extra support to the areas of difficulty.

Thanking you and everyone for your exceptionally hard work this past term and throughout the year. You are all so supportive of the kids and parents, and we feel very lucky to be a part of the school.