



St. Brendan's, Ganmain

# 2016 Annual Report

Principal:  
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## About this Report

**St. Brendan's, Ganmain** is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority. The Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga is the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the Education Act 1990 (NSW).

The *Annual School Report to the Community* provides parents and the wider community with fair, reliable and objective information about **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** performance measure and policies, as determined by the Minister for Education. The *Report* also outlines information about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance during the year and the achievements arising from the implementation of the College's Annual Improvement Plan.

The *Report* demonstrates accountability to regulatory bodies, the **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** community and the Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga. This *Report* has been approved by the Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga in consultation with the School Consultant who monitors **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** has the appropriate processes in place to ensure compliance with all NSW Education Standards Authority, Teaching and Educational Standards, NSW requirements for Registration and Accreditation secondary schools and Registration primary schools.

This *Report* complements and is supplementary to **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** newsletters and other forms of communication. Further information about **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** may be obtained by contacting **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** or by visiting the **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** website.

## Section 1: Message from Key Groups in Our School Community

### Message from the Principal

St. Brendan's is a very special school community and I am grateful for the many times we as a staff have felt supported throughout the year.

As a school community, we have achieved a lot this year including –

- The completion of refurbishments to the server room and sick bay and the arrival of more comfortable furniture for our students.
- Involvement in the Blue Earth program with Bill Lucas and the A3 music program with tutors from Melbourne.
- Implementation of the Seasons for Growth and Quick smart Mathematics programs.
- We celebrated the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Confirmation and Reconciliation.
- We have been involved in many professional collaborations with other schools and staff from the Catholic Schools Office which is of great benefit to our staff.

The staff are proud that our students are able to experience the same activities which support student learning as those attending larger schools and, with parental support, we work hard to ensure this happens. This year our students have attended a variety of interesting activities and excursions including:

- Trips to the Coolamon library, Borambola, the magic show, the peasant prince and the a3 concert in June.
- Visits to the Botanic gardens, life education van and the celebration of footy colours day.

There have been numerous sporting opportunities for our students including –

- The soccer gala day, netball clinics, soccer and cricket skills, Paul Kelly football and Jackie Murphy netball carnivals.
- We had representatives at the deanery and diocesan athletics and swimming carnivals as well as the diocesan cross country in Holbrook.

We are proud of the commitment our students show to their community.

- This year they sang for the senior citizens and at the CWA International day, hosted the biggest morning tea and raised money for the less fortunate on both Mission day and crazy sock day.

There is much to look forward to in 2017 including several new initiatives...

- The new association with Sydney University and the STEM project which is to be co-ordinated by Kathy Sase.
- The beginning of fully subsidised tuition for many of our students who will begin learning a musical instrument.
- The invitation to all families to be involved in a program designed to strengthen links between home and school in order to develop collaborative practices which will benefit our students.

I am grateful to the following people for their support of myself, the staff and the school community this year.

Thank you, Father Darlow, for your support of us all at St. Brendan's and for giving of your time each week to teach the students. We value this commitment and appreciate the link this provides between parish and school.

Thank you to Warwick Smith and the members of the school council for their assistance and commitment throughout the year. The productive conversation of school council meetings in order to make valuable decisions for our school is valued and appreciated.

Thank you to the executive of the P and F as well as those parents who have been able to attend meetings throughout the year to share ideas and make suggestions. Thank you especially to the P and F for their financial support of the school. We are blessed to have a parent community who are so enthusiastic and keen to be involved in the life of the school.

Thank you to the wonderful staff of St Brendan's. There have been many times during the year when each of you has gone above and beyond for the students at our school. Your enthusiasm, commitment and tireless dedication is very much appreciated as is your willingness to continually reflect on the way we do things so that we can provide a contemporary learning community and a caring environment for our students.

Thank you to the students of St. Brendan's – you are very special young people who care for and support each other both in the classroom and in the playground. I join with your teachers in congratulating each of you for your hard work and enthusiasm for learning new things. Our school motto, 'Launch out into the deep' inspires us all to do our best in all aspects of personal and school life and you certainly do this.

Megan Masterson - Principal

### **Message from the Parent Body**

In 2016, the School Council continued in its active role in supporting the smooth running of St. Brendan's. The School Council has continued to support the Principal in maintaining the management of the school's finances and resources. The P and F plays an important role in raising funds for the school and is an essential component of our ongoing growth. The P and F raised a significant amount of money through various fundraising events but predominantly via the popular catering committee. The P and F donated \$12,000 to the school this year which has contributed to running costs of the school and the purchase of new resources to support student learning. The efforts and the money raised was truly appreciated by the staff and students. Thank you to all the School Council members and the members of the P & F for their support, time and effort in fundraising, catering and working bees. To the staff and Fr. Justin Darlow for their dedication and care in all the work they do.

Warwick Smith - President of the School Council

## Message from the Student Body

K/1/2 class

We have had a very busy year in K/1/2 this year. Our favourite activities included the Crazy Sock Day where everyone looked funny wearing odd and colourful socks to raise money for the Missions. We learnt new skills in both cricket and soccer and had great fun participating in Blue Earth with Mr Lucas to learn new sport skills. We enjoyed Little Bits with Mrs Gardiner where we had to create something that moved from the special materials she had with her. Our excursion to Borambola was fantastic! We travelled by coach and even though it was very hot we had fun Rock Climbing, using bow and arrows in Archery and Low Ropes which was really tricky and you needed to balance carefully. We had lots of fun on our Mission Day. Year Two were able to run a stall with the seniors. Throwing water bomb balloons at people was the best! The best part is that we get to have fun, learn lots and be with our friends every day.

3/4/5/6 class

The Senior Classroom has enjoyed many activities throughout the year. We have represented our school, Deanery and Diocese at Sporting Carnivals and have participated in the a3 music program which was a huge success. We have made great gains in our learning and are very proud of contribution to school life at St Brendan's. In particular we would like to individually name the highlights of our year.

Jakob - As I finish my time at St Brendan's I am proud to have represented my school at the Shire Council Leadership Day, I participated in sporting carnivals and made new friends in our Deanery and Diocese. I love that at St Brendan's we get so many opportunities to learn about different subjects in different ways, not just in class. We have people visit our school e.g. Remembrance Day, a3, Anzac Day March, Borambola and represent school at community functions. If someone asked me what I like about St Brendan's I would say my friends, the staff and teachers and the opportunities that we get because we are a small school.

Montanna - I am proud of my progress with number recognition, I have improved in swimming and participated in the school carnival without assistance. I enjoyed the Yr 5 Just Leadership Day and met some girls who I may attend high school with. I love that at St Brendan's everyone is welcoming.

William - I have loved having the chance to go to Borambola, be a part of the a3 concert, the Just Leadership Day and being able to represent my school at sporting events. I love that there aren't many students at St Brendan's because we get more opportunities to go places. St Brendan's is a good school because everyone is nice.

Elcie - I am happy I came to St Brendan's this year. The teachers are nice, they encourage us to learn, they make me work as hard as I can. I love going to Quick smart and I being a part of a3 choral music concert. Catholic schools feel different, we learn about Jesus, God and Mary. I like listening to the stories about them. I am proud of my sporting achievements this year, I have represented St Brendan's in swimming, athletics and cross country.

Anna - I am proud of my achievements this year when representing St Brendan's at different carnivals. I am glad I am a part of Quick smart, it helps me when I do Maths in class. I have learnt a lot in class this year. I am proud of getting a major award at our Presentation for my commitment to learning. I love that at everyone at ST Brendan's knows everyone's name and we look out for each other.

Noah - I am proud to have received the academic award for Stage 2 this year. I have enjoyed learning this year. I am happy that everyone in our classroom has their own chrome book. We use google classroom a lot for our work. We don't use lots of worksheets and we can access our learning anytime. I loved being a part of a3, we got to learn new songs from enthusiastic teachers. Everyone is kind at St Brendan's, our school is not crowded, we have good learning environments with big rooms, colourful furniture that makes me feel happy and comfortable when I am learning.

Charlize - I enjoyed participating in Blue Earth this year. We played skill games that taught us about not worrying if you don't win, teamwork, having fun and being active. I have enjoyed being a part of the choir at school masses and being chosen to be a part of the choral group at the a3 concert. I am that I have my own chrome book and we can work with them anywhere in the classroom. They are light, I can store my writing and go back to it to edit and improve my texts. The teachers are nice, they challenge us to work hard and encourage us to work hard and do our best. I have written more when writing and am proud of my stories.

Dallas - I was quite surprised I received the Earnest Endeavour Award this year, but I was proud of myself. I have improved in my writing and my Maths this year. I think Quick smart has helped me feel more confident when I do Maths in class. My teacher has challenged me when I am writing to do more. It was tough at first but I am glad she pushed me because I like enjoy writing more now. I loved participating in the a3 choral group. I was amazed but scared I got chosen to sing a solo part. I got to represent ST Brendan's in cross country and running. I love representing St Brendan's because it's my school. I love that my dad came here too.

Lacey - I like going on excursions. We have been to Borambola, to Coolamon for plays, band demos. I like that we have our own chrome books, they are not heavy and you can use them anywhere in our room. Our rooms are big, we have comfy furniture and it helps me feel comfortable when I am learning. I have moved my learning forward this year, I have been concentrating and I want to do my best. The people at St Brendan's are friendly, I have good friends and the teachers are nice. All the people at St Brendan's look out for each other.

Aidan - I am proud of my work this year, especially with my writing. My teacher expects a lot when I am writing and this makes me work hard and always try to improve my punctuation, and editing. I was so proud to be chosen for a drama role in the a3 concert. I was excited and a bit nervous but I love being on stage in front of lots of people. I love the teachers at St Brendan's because they look out for people. I achieved a very special award for my persistence and resilience. I have tried hard to help people this year and I have tried to not give up when I am working.

Lucas - I am happy with my year at St Brendan's. I really loved being a part of the a3 concert. I was felt good when I was chosen for a drama role in the concert. St Brendan's is a good school. I have lots of friends and I got lots of work done throughout the year. The teachers challenge me to learn and focus on my work. We have good facilities to work with, eg. Chrome books, good furniture and lots of books. I am proud of my progress with my writing this year.

Lana S - I enjoyed the lessons and when we went to the a3 concert this year. It was fun, the teachers were funny and they cheered us on. I learnt new things this year. I improved my writing with lots of practice. This my first year at a Catholic school, it is fun and I have more friends here. We have comfy chairs, they help me concentrate. We have big areas to play and the people are nice. I am proud of my year, I am glad we get to go on excursions.

Spencer - I am proud of the way I tried this year and of the good results I got with my learning. The work was harder and challenging, I liked this because helped me prepare for year 4. I loved a3 because we learnt lots of dances and songs. I liked that we got to participate in the soccer skills and gala day and cricket skills. We have lots of things in our room that help us learn.

Nicholas - I loved participating in the a3 concert at Junee. We have our own chrome books, we don't have to share this helps me focus on my Maths and improve how I use technology. At St Brendan's we have Quick smart, I like these sessions. We get to go on excursions, like to Borambola. We play lots of sport at St Brendan's, we have played football, touch, cricket skills, soccer skills, I really liked these activities. The students are fun to play with. The teachers push me and challenge with my work.

Bryson - I have learnt more things this year, I have improved my effort in class. My teacher doesn't let me slack off, she makes me work and do my best. I represented St Brendan's at Diocesan in swimming, athletics and cross country. I know everyone at St Brendan's, I feel safe here and welcomed here. I enjoy playing with my friends at St Brendan's. We have fun together.

Summer - This year the whole school went to Borambola. We got to do fun games and we all worked together. This year my writing has improved, it is neater and my stories are longer. My teacher makes me write more and encourages me to write more interesting stories. I am proud that I represented my school at Diocesan swimming. I have good friends here, they encourage each other. Our classroom has soft, bright furniture that is comfortable to sit on when we learn. We have chrome books and I am confident when I use it. We can put all our work on our drive. We can go back and edit our work. I have worked hard this year.

Lana M - I like how we have chrome books in our classroom. They are easy to use and move around with. We use google classroom and store our work in our drive. We have a chance to go back to our work and improve it. The work this year has been a little bit challenging, I am more of an independent learner this year. This is good because I am responsible for my own learning. I loved a3 because of the concert and I got chosen to be in the drama section. I was nervous but I felt good when I finished because I did something in front of a big audience. At St Brendan's we get to do heaps of fun things, like sport, musical activities and we go on a lot of excursions and do community things like Anzac Day and sing for Seniors. I have good friends to play with, and fun teachers to do things with.

## **Section 2 : School Features/Context**

St Brendan's Primary School is situated in the small rural township of Ganmain, approximately fifty-five kilometres northwest of Wagga Wagga in the Riverina district of Southern New South Wales. The school is part of St Brendan's Parish and the wider Ganmain community.

The Catholic community of Ganmain is also rich in history. From humble beginnings in 1907 with the dedicated governance of the Presentation order of sisters through to the Dominican sisters and lay principals, the school has always upheld and nurtured the rich faith traditions and practices and offers an educational setting for those families seeking a Catholic education for their children. To this day, as a school community we remain dedicated to those ideals and endeavour to prepare our students to eventually take their place in society as confident, responsible, caring, global citizens who are well educated and grounded in faith, learning, care, service and stewardship for the good of all.

Our purpose is to educate and support each student in their academic, spiritual, social and physical development and engage them in quality educational activities that set them up for a positive future.



### Section 3: Student Profile

The following information describes the student profile for 2016:

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Indigenous	Total
16	24	1	4	40

\*Language background other than English

### Enrolment Policy

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established an [Enrolment Policy](#)† **Could the links be checked and made active to current documents** which is implemented by all systemic schools in the Diocese.

The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

†Copies of this policy and other policies in this report may be obtained from the [Catholic Schools Office website](#) or by contacting the Catholic Schools Office.

St. Brendan's School is open to all students whose parents seek Catholic education for them.

It is an expectation that the parents /guardian support the school's religious, educational and community goals.

A transition program is organised annually to assist in the enrolment process.

No Catholic child will be refused a Catholic education on financial grounds.

### Student Attendance and Retention Rates

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	92
Year 1	93
Year 2	93
Year 3	94
Year 4	90
Year 5	91
Year 6	96

The average student attendance rate for 2016 was 93%.

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. **St. Brendan's, Ganmain**, in partnership with parents, is responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, College staff/ school staff as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

**St. Brendan's, Ganmain** staff, under the Principal's leadership, support the regular attendance of students by:

- providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** community;
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance;
- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance;
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise.

The Principal is responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by ensuring that:

- parents and students are regularly informed of attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance;
- all cases of unsatisfactory attendance and part or full day absences from school are investigated promptly and that appropriate intervention strategies are implemented;
- the Director of Catholic Schools or designated Catholic Schools Office Wagga Wagga officer is provided with regular information about students for whom chronic non-attendance is an issue and for whom College/School strategies have failed to restore regular attendance.

#### **Section 4: Staffing Profile**

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

- a) have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) guidelines
- b) have qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia or one recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines but lack formal teacher education qualifications
- c) do not have qualifications as described in (a) or (b) but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context. Such teachers must have been employed:
  - to 'teach' in NSW before 1 October 2004 (either on a permanent, casual or temporary basis), and
  - as a 'teacher' during the last five (5) years in a permanent, casual or temporary capacity.

## Teacher Standards

The following table sets out the number of teachers who fall into each of the categories determined by the NSW Education Standards Authority.

Teacher Qualification		Number of Teachers
a	Those having formal qualifications from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent	4
b	Those having graduate qualifications but not a formal teaching qualification from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	0

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2016:

Total Teaching Staff *	Total Non-Teaching Staff	Combined Total
4	2	6

\*This number includes x Fulltime teachers and x part-time teachers

Percentage of staff who are indigenous	0
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## Professional Learning

The ongoing professional development of each staff member is highly valued. Professional learning can take many forms including whole school staff days, subject specific in service courses, meetings, conferences and a range of professional learning programs provided by the Catholic Schools Office Wagga Wagga.

Over the course of the year the principal, Mrs. Megan Masterson, and teaching staff Mrs. Kathy Sase, Mrs. Julie Guthrie and Mrs. Ros Guthrie have attended professional development days designed to assist them in their pedagogy, at staff meetings, diocesan meetings and also with CSO support.

Staff have had training in implementing the NSW syllabus for the Australian Curriculum and have begun preparing for the introduction of the Geography curricula in 2017.

Staff have undertaken professional development in the Anita Chin Mathematics modules and The National School Improvement Tool. They have attended several meetings to learn more about the Presentation heritage of the school.

Teachers have prepared 'professional learning plans' which align to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. Staff completed the AITSIL self-assessment tool to determine individual strengths and areas for development.

In her role as administrative assistant, Mrs. Sheena Kelly has also attended SINA and SAS administrator professional learning opportunities in order to operate the PHRIS administration system.

All staff have undertaken training in First Aid, CPR, bullying and harassment and child protection.

## Section 5: Catholic Life and Religious Education

**St. Brendan's, Ganmain** is a Catholic systemic school administered and supported by the Catholic Schools Office Wagga Wagga, New South Wales. The school follows the Wagga Wagga Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Sharing Our Story*.

### Catholic Heritage

**St. Brendan's, Ganmain** has deep links with the local community, particularly the Catholic Parish of St. Brendan's. The school plays a vital part in the Ganmain community providing a service to many organisations such as Senior Citizens, Red Cross, CWA and St Vincent de Paul. The school is also connected to nearby towns and hamlets. The school prayer states; "We are a faith filled community, enlivened by Christ and committed to the Church". This commitment is sustained through the work carried out in the school in the broader local setting.

In 2016, we continued to work in mutual support of our parish administrator, Father Justin Darlow. Father Darlow often joined us for whole school Morning Prayer on Mondays and taught in both classes each Thursday morning. Father Darlow also visited informally at other times to spend time with each class and members of staff.

### Liturgical Life of the School

All students who are eligible, receive the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to participation in school Masses. These Masses are usually held on the first Friday of each month, to celebrate the school feast day or holy days of obligation. Students regularly celebrate significant events in the church year by participating in prayer services and liturgies which are held at the school.

Staff work closely with the parish priest in the preparation of students for the sacraments and for liturgies.

The sacraments are celebrated in the following years:

Reconciliation – Year 2

Holy Communion – Year 3

Confirmation – Year 5 or 6 on a bi-annual basis. This is conferred by the Bishop on a date set by him.

Our Vision embodies our enduring belief that "St Brendan's School is founded on the person of Jesus Christ and embraces his Gospel and Mission."

We achieve this by being a community of:

**Faith:** Living, celebrating and teaching the Gospel Values.

**Learning:** Actively engaging and collaborating together using explicit teaching of skills and content to develop all learners.

**Care:** Building a caring, supportive environment which is inclusive and sensitive to the needs of the community.

**Service:** Encompassing leadership for the wellbeing and benefit of all within the St. Brendan's community.

**Stewardship:** Caring for, connecting with and appreciating creation, people and the natural environment.

### **Staff and Student Faith Formation**

St. Brendan's was established by the presentation sisters in 1906 and the preservation and understanding of the Presentation charism is a focus of the school. The Faith Story and Witness program is an important way of continuing this tradition.

Student formation - Students are encouraged to be active members of the parish and spend time learning ways this can be done. They regularly visit the church as part of their Religious Education lessons and are supported in their faith journey by committed staff who work closely with parents in this area. Students are involved in a variety of daily prayer experiences which include opportunities for both formal and personal prayer. They learn more about their faith by participation in the Religious Education curriculum.

Staff formation – Staff attend one staff meeting each term with a religious focus. Here they pray, reflect on and discuss elements of their faith. Sometimes these meetings are led by staff from the Catholic Schools Office. Staff are also involved in a staff development day each year which is designed to support the formation of their faith. All staff regularly attend Mass and witness to Christ in their lessons and dealings with those in the school community.

### **Social Justice**

Students are provided with many opportunities to practise and support leadership in the service of others. This includes reaching out to the marginalised in the community, raising money for those less fortunate than themselves and reflecting on their personal situation. This year students sang for the elderly,

Students raised money for Catholic Mission, Project Compassion and the Cancer council by holding a mission day, a crazy sock day and biggest morning tea.

The school has been involved in wide-ranging service to the local community throughout the year. Students visited the elderly members of the Ganmain Community at the seniors' meals to perform several items for them and to spend time talking with the members. They also entertained the Senior Citizens of Ganmain and surrounding districts on Senior Citizens Day and worked with the community on several occasions. Students performed items and prepared projects for the CWA Day. The school has also been involved in community fundraising and activities for the local Ganmain Show, Coolamon Hospital, Carols in the Park and numerous other charities.

### **Professional Learning in Catholic Life and Mission**

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga Catholic Schools Office has established a policy on the [Professional Requirements for the Accreditation of Teachers of Religious Education](#), which is implemented by all systemic schools in the Diocese.

Category A – Two support staff

Support staff gain 15 hours over 5 years by attending staff meetings and staff development days which have a religious focus.

Category B – Three teaching staff

Teaching staff gain 30 hours over 5 years and are provided with opportunities throughout the year to attend Religious Education professional development or to attend retreats such as 'Connections'.

Category E – Principal

Mrs Megan Masterson has gained 75 hours over 5 years and is currently studying for her Masters of Theology with the University of Newcastle.

## **Section 6: Curriculum**

The School follows the NSW Education Standards Authority, NSW syllabus for each subject/course offered as required for Registration and Accreditation under the Education Act 1990 (NSW) and implements the associated requirements of the Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga.

General information about the type of courses offered at **St. Brendan's, Ganmain**

Types of support for students eg homework centre, earlybird reading, external competitions,

Students are able to access Mathletics, Spell-o-drome and Reading Eggs online computer programs from home to support the learning at school.

Those students without access to the internet at home are provided with time at school to do this.

## Section 7: Student Performance in State- Wide Tests and Examinations

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. An analysis of these results assists school planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

The tables below show the percentage of students who achieved particular skill bands in numeracy and the aspects of literacy. The School/ College results shown are compared to students nationally. Literacy is reported in four content strands: Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. Numeracy is reported in the following strands: Number, Measurement and Data, Space, Patterns and Algebra.

Year 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy	Data Measurement Space & Geometry	Number Patterns & Algebra
Band 6	14.3%	14.3%	-	28.6%	14.3%	28.6%	14.3%
Band 5	42.9%	71.4%	57.1%	28.6%	42.9%	28.6%	-
Band 4	14.3%	-	14.3%	28.6%	14.3%	28.6%	57.1%
Band 3	14.3%	14.3%	28.6%	14.3%	28.6%	14.3%	28.6%
Band 2	14.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Band 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Year 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy	Data Measurement Space & Geometry	Number Patterns & Algebra
Band 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Band 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Band 6	33.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Band 5	-	-	-	50%	-	50%	50%
Band 4	66.7%	100%	100%	50%	100%	50%	-
Band 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	50%

## **Section 8: Pastoral Care and Well Being**

Information here about your school's policy on caring for students under **Pastoral Care/ Academic Care/ Well Being**

Student well being is of paramount importance to the community of St Brendan's. Through the Pastoral Care and Behaviour Policies we aspire to effectively live out our Vision and Mission statement "to be a faith filled community enlivened by Christ and committed to the Church" and to provide a safe environment which will allow for the wholesome development of every child.

The Pastoral Care and Behaviour Policy is an expression of the aims of the school community for the development of positive and productive relationships among its members. It outlines how the school encourages a culture so that most problems are prevented and those that do occur are dealt with constructively.

### **Discipline Policy**

The School Discipline Policy at St Brendan's Primary School aims to provide a safe, caring and supportive learning and teaching environment. It is based on accepted values and our school vision and mission.

The policy helps students to demonstrate responsible behaviour and a sense of self worth, respect and consideration for the feelings, rights and property of others.

It also aims to maximise opportunities for learning and teaching.

Procedural fairness is used in dealing with all issues. Corporal punishment will not be used at St. Brendan's Primary School.

### **Anti Bullying Policy**

Students and staff have the right to expect that they will spend the school day free from the fear of bullying, harassment and intimidation.

Anti-bullying is a priority. Bullying is not acceptable in any form. Teachers, students, parents, caregivers and the members of the wider school community have a responsibility to work together to address bullying.

The school has adopted a strong Anti-Bullying policy and supports this with positive programs to enhance social and emotional development.

### **Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility**

St. Brendan's School is committed to preparing young people for their future by providing an education which is harmonious with the values of the Gospels and the teachings of the Catholic Church. The school's Vision and Mission statement is based on respect for others and the children taking personal responsibility for their actions.

In putting these values into action, the school participated in community based events such as Senior Citizens Week, ANZAC Day, the Ganmain Show and Remembrance Day as well as activities based on being more aware of those in need such as crazy sock day and Mission day.



The Life Education program is highly valued and supported at St. Brendan's, promoting nutrition, active lifestyle, communication, problem solving, personal health choices and growth development. In keeping our students safe, the school also participated once again in our annual intensive swimming program in which all students benefitted from the life-saving skills being taught.

The school works hard to support new enrollees, especially Kindergarten students. There is an Orientation Day to support the children who are enrolling at our school. The school's transition program was continued this year, where the new Kindergarten children for 2017 spent three full days in the K/1/2 classroom during the second half of Term 4.

In the 'Self and Relationships' units of the PDHPE program, the students have been involved in ongoing experiences about interpersonal relationships, growth and development.

The Year 6 students travelled to Wagga Wagga for a leadership conference this year.

The students at the school were also able to benefit from programs which encourage them to be responsible in the community. This included a visit from the Responsible Pet Education program.

The school celebrated Book Week and participated in the A3 music workshops and concert.

On the sporting field, students represented our school at Deanery and Diocesan levels and students also participated in football and netball carnivals.

### **Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy**

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established a [Complaints and Suggestions Policy](#) which is implemented by all school in the Diocese.

The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

The school has adopted a proactive approach to resolving complaints and grievances that is based on procedural fairness.

It recognises that parents/caregivers/ and students must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and constructive manner.

Parents/students with any matter of concern are encouraged in the first instance to contact their classroom teacher. If the need then arises, contact with the Principal should be made.

The Catholic School Office is contactable if parents feel any school matter is not dealt with to their satisfaction.

### **Workplace Health and Safety**

Each school is required to implement and comply with the Diocesan School System Workplace Health and Safety Management System (WHSMS). This system reflects the current statutory requirements for WHS and complies with the Australian Standard for WHS Management Systems. The WHSMS adopted by the CSO for Wagga Wagga Systemic Schools has been designed to address general health, safety and welfare matters and also to take account of specific issues that apply to school communities. The management system supports the provision of a 'safe and supportive' environment for all students as well as taking into account the health, safety and welfare of staff, visitors and contractors to the school site.

Principals, in consultation with the relevant CSO personnel, are responsible for monitoring the school's compliance with WHS legislation and to implement the management system in keeping with the Catholic Schools Office's Annual WHS Plan. External WHS system audits are conducted across a sample of schools each year to validate the implementation of the management system.

## Section 9: School Review and Improvement

Each year the **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** develops an Annual Improvement Plan indicating the intended key improvements for student learning outcomes. The Plan is drawn from the Catholic Schools Office Annual Improvement Plan. The school engages in an annual evidence based evaluation of its effectiveness against The National School Improvement Tool, The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and the Australian Professional Standards for Principals in collaboration with the School Consultant.

### 2016 Annual Improvement Plan – St. Brendan's, Ganmain

Strategic Priority Area	Improvement Targets What do you want to improve?	Key Improvement Strategies How are you going to improve? What actions are required to progress the improvement target?	Evidence of Improvement How can you demonstrate that an action is complete? What is the evidence or indicators of improvement?
<b>Catholic Life &amp; Mission</b>	To increase understanding of the term 'Missionary discipleship'.  Increase opportunities for staff to engage in faith formation / prayer / liturgical celebrations.	Use the Core Domain Catholic Life and Mission to rate the school in 4 specific areas.  Staff reflection day Use Ritualising the Everyday resource.	Identify areas of weakness and determine actions to be taken in order to progress school to next level. Review to check progress.  Staff each responsible for planning staff prayer, Mass or liturgical celebration throughout the year.
<b>Pastoral Care &amp; Wellbeing</b>	To reduce the number of instances of student conflict requiring teacher intervention.	Work with Centacare to build student resilience, social skills and empathy.  Staff professional development - restorative practices.	Less instances of teacher intervention as students articulate and demonstrate new skills to resolve situations and prevent them from escalating.
<b>Student Learning &amp; Pedagogy</b>	Use the Inquiry Spiral to improve writing skills and results across the school.	Staff to develop a writing rubric in order to track student progress – incorporating Best Start and Literacy continuum.  Restructure staff meeting schedule to allow for a dedicated 3 week focus on writing each term.	Students across the school to improve at least one level on writing rubric as developed by staff.  Students in year 3 to achieve a level in writing comparable to the state.  Students in year 5 to achieve expected growth in writing - NAPLAN.
<b>Strategic Leadership &amp; Partnerships</b>	For staff to demonstrate changes to pedagogical practices in a new 21 <sup>st</sup> century learning environment.	Professional development provided for new technology. Use CPLC time for staff to plan together and collaborate with staff from other schools. Staff to set smart goals as part of their PLP's designed to bring about change.	Each staff member achieves one smart goal each term and sets a new one.

Priority Key Improvements for 2017

2017 Annual Improvement Plan – St. Brendan's, Ganmain

Strategic Priority Area	Strategic Student Improvement Priorities	Student Improvement Targets for 2017	Implementation Strategies	Timelines and Milestones	Lead roles	Targeted Resources	Key Performance Indicators/Evidence of Improvement
<b>Catholic Life &amp; Mission</b>	To increase understanding of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Missionary discipleship</li> <li>- Presentation history</li> </ul>	Staff and students to explain their understanding of missionary discipleship and the Presentation history of the school.	Core Domain Catholic Life and Mission.  REC – year long PLC experience.  Connect with other Presentation schools.  Rewrite school prayer	RE staff mtg focus each term  Term 1 - prayer  Celebrate Presentation day – 21/11	CSO staff  Sr. Anne  Susan Miller	REC meetings  NEAA membership	RE staff meetings  Presentation history visible at school.
<b>Pastoral Care &amp; Wellbeing</b>	Support students experiencing family separation.		Weekly wellbeing discussion  Seasons for Growth program	Every staff meeting  Term 3	All staff  Megan	Seasons resources	Students and parents complete post program survey.
<b>Student Learning &amp; Pedagogy</b>	Improve student outcomes in Mathematics K-6.  Development of students as learners through engagement in STEM project.  Whole school data analysis and discussion which informs planning for learning in STEM and Maths.	2017, 2018  NAPLAN – 80% students above state  Observation checklist – soft skills	Collection and analysis of relevant data each term.  Weekly learning conversations focused on STEM and Maths.  Targeted Maths initiative  Students participation in STEM project  Professional learning – data literacy	PAT tests - Nov  NAPLAN – term 2  STEM - timeline	All staff  CSO staff – Karen Gardiner  University	Expert data analysis – CSO  CPLC days together for collaboration.	NAPLAN results  Pre and post observation checklists  Presentation of STEM project
<b>Strategic Leadership &amp; Partnerships</b>	Establish a positive learning culture with parents as partners.	Improved attitude to learning and respect for others, particularly school staff	1. Staff development – affirmation and understanding of Kids matter program.  Survey of parental attitudes towards school prior to Kids Matter implementation  3 x parent workshops  Staff meeting – feedback, post survey unpack, Where to next?  2. Three way interviews – goal setting 3. Opportunities for parental involvement 4. Social media 5. CSPA – newsletter inserts	Term 1, Week 1  Term 1, Week 2  Term 1, Week 4, 6, 8  Term 1, Week 10	Megan  Sharee  Staff parents	Sharee  Kids matter program  survey	Improved post test comments  More parents involved in their child's education.  Observable positive relationships between parents and staff.

## Section 10: Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

### Parent Participation

Parents are the primary educators of their children and are always welcome at **St. Brendan's, Ganmain**. The opinions and ideas of parents, students and teachers are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving improved outcomes for students. This year **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** from parents, students and teachers.

St. Brendan's School Council comprises parent representatives, Parish Priest and the Principal. They meet monthly to provide advice to the Principal on matters of policy relating to the wellbeing and direction of the school and to support the organisation of the school through promotion, fundraising and budgeting.

The school has a high degree of parental involvement and provide support via working bees, fundraising activities, catering, attendance at school functions and assistance in a variety of other areas. Communication between home and school is essential and encouraged.

Staff meet formally once per week and informally on many occasions during the week. This time allows for collaboration, planning and working together as a team.

Self-assessment, student surveys and learning conversations are carried out in various forms over the year to determine student interactions, perceptions, understandings and needs.

### Parent Satisfaction

Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
60%	40%	-

### Student Satisfaction

Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
40%	60%	-

### Teacher Satisfaction

Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
80%	20%	

## Financial Report

