



St. Brendan's, Ganmain

# 2017 Annual Report

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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 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 the **St. Brendan's, Ganmain** has the appropriate processes in place to ensure compliance with all NSW Education Standards Authority 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 student toilet block and tennis courts.
- Involvement in a fully subsidised music program and the A3 music program with tutors from Melbourne.
- Implementation of the Quick Smart Mathematics and Literacy programs.
- Implementation of a Positive Behaviour for Learning program.
- Our professional association with Sydney University and the STEM project.
- Celebration of the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation.
- Involvement 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, Canberra, Music Spectacular at Wagga Beach and the a3 concert in June.
- Visits to the movies, life education van and the celebration of footy colours day.

There have been numerous sporting opportunities for our students including –

- The milo cricket day, netball clinics, swimming program, 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. Our swimming team represented our school at the Mackillop carnival in Sydney.

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

- This year students 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.
- We worked with local Aboriginal elder, Aunty Gail Clarke, to learn more about traditional Aboriginal culture.



There is much to look forward to in 2018 including the implementation of the diocesan focus on Missionary Discipleship.

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. We value your commitment as faith leader of our community and appreciate the link you provide 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. We are blessed to have a parent community who support the school in many ways. Thank you especially to the P and F for their financial support of the school which has benefitted our students in many ways during the year.

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 2017, 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 and catering. 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**

#### Reflection from K/1/2 Class

K,1,2 have had a very busy and productive year of learning. We have had the additional advantage of having a Targeted Maths Teacher (Mrs. Tamara Price) twice a week, to support students by initiating the Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) Intervention Program. This program targets students who would benefit from further development in various areas in Mathematics. The program has demonstrated an improvement in student's knowledge and confidence. Also, we were most fortunate to have Mrs. Megan Masterson take Literacy Support for students who required additional support in the area of Reading and Writing.

K,1,2 have been given several sporting opportunities to participate in activities to further develop their skills. This included an AFL/Netball Clinic and a two-week Intensive Swimming Program.

We have been part of a whole school STEM initiative program whereby students collaboratively planned, designed and created an area to enhance an outdoor space. K,1,2 assisted by planting succulents in a vertical garden and weeding and watering the vegetable garden when the senior class were away on an excursion to Canberra.

We have visited and interacted with St Michael's at Coolamon to see the author Michael Salmon and to celebrate NAIDOC Week and experience and learn about some aspects of the Aboriginal culture. K,1,2 have also been to the Ganmain Public School to see Healthy Harold and learn how to make healthier choices and on another occasion to play Milo Cricket.

We have been to St Joseph's at Junee to see student musicians from a number of schools, including St Brendan's, play instruments and sing at an A3 concert. K,1,2 went on a coach to the Wagga Beach to watch and be part of the 'Count Us In' music day.

We were also invited to visit the Coolamon Library where Mrs. Mcloughlin read us an interesting story from one of the current years Book Week winners, followed by a variety of activities for us to complete and enjoy.

Other favourite activities we have been involved with include raising money for the Missions by having fun wearing Crazy Socks and joining in activities organised by the senior class for Mission Day.

When Mrs. Gardiner visited our school she brought Sphero's with her for us to test and manipulate around the classroom and over a 'jump'. We had an amazing time with these spherical robots that roll around and are controlled by an iPad or a smartphone via Bluetooth.

K,1,2 are very fortunate to have had such a wonderful year of exciting and memorable learning opportunities and experiences. We are looking forward to making new discoveries next year in 2018.



Reflection from 3/4/5/6 class

Year 3-6 Annual Improvement Plan Reflection from Years 3-6

In 2017 the Senior Classroom enjoyed many wonderful learning experiences and participated in numerous community and Diocesan cultural and sporting activities. We would like to individually highlight the gains we have made throughout the year and the experiences that have been memorable for us.

William - I am proud that I have had the chance to be a School Captain at St Brendan's. I have loved the opportunity to have a Chrome book in Primary School. This year I was a leader in the school STEM project which taught me to be patient, persistent and collaborate with other students. I enjoyed participating in it. I like our room because it has lots of space and I can decide where I sit to make the most of my learning opportunities. There are lots of people to make friends with, which is fantastic.

Elcie - This year I have enjoyed St. Brendan's. It has been fun. I enjoyed Quick smart. Last Friday, we watched "Wonder" because we had read the book "Wonder" in class. It taught us to be 'kinder than kind'. This school is good because all the people are nice to other people and you know everyone. It is great that the school is small because then you get more opportunities to do things like go on more excursions and better learning. We learnt a lot by doing a Stem project. Some of us got to learn to play an instrument in the instrumental program.

Noah - This year I have accomplished many achievements such as making the team for the PP5 swimming relay and receiving the Academic achievement award. I have enjoyed participating in activities like the Touch Gala day and STEM planning and building. I love that at St. Brendan's we have bright, colourful furniture which is so comfortable and helps me focus on my learning.

Anna - I am proud of my achievements this year especially representing St. Brendan's in the PP5 relay in Sydney for swimming. I have loved the music program. Learning the saxophone has been rewarding. I think my Maths has improved by doing the Quick smart program. I have always loved this school because there are so many sporting opportunities and wonderful learning activities.

Lacey - This year I have been involved in the Music program, I have loved playing my Clarinet. One of my achievements for this year has been making it to State in the PP5 swimming relay. I loved participating in the STEM program and beautifying the vegetable garden, I love cooperating and having fun with my group. All of the colourful furniture is comfortable and it helps me to focus when working. I love working on my Chromebook because you can learn so many different things. Our room is big with plenty of space. We can spread out and do many things. I love the students and staff at St. Brendan's. They're all so kind. My friends at St. Brendan's help me with everything.

Aidan - Throughout this year I have been in band with lots of my friends. We went to different concerts and progressed with our playing. A3 was really fun like last year. The 2nd last week of school we watched "Wonder" and the K,1,2 watched "The Star." As we read the book "Wonder" in class, this was a great follow up to our learning. I am ready to step up to become a leader next year in Year Six.

Lana M - This year I liked getting into PP5 swimming team with my friends. It was a great opportunity to go to swim in Sydney in the Olympic pool. I was lucky to get into the team because if I was in a larger school I probably would not have the opportunity to make it into the PP5 swimming team. I love getting the opportunity to do lots of sports and activities at school it is so fun !

Summer - This year I was in Year 4. I was a little bit nervous about the harder work, but it wasn't so bad. Most of the work was fun while the others were challenging. I pushed myself to focus in class more so then I could help create a better working experience. At this year's presentation I received the academic



achievement award and I was very proud with myself. I feel really safe and lucky at St Brendan's because the teachers are really nice and I have great friends.

Lucas - Throughout this year at St Brendan's I have done a lot of things the thing I liked most was going to Canberra I had the best time. I also enjoyed reading WONDER and going to see the movie at Wagga Wagga I loved the movie. I am proud of my achievements I made it to Albury in the pp5 really and I ran with Anna, Noah and Nick we drew for third so we only just missed out on Sydney. I also made it on in swimming and cross country. I competed in the touch gala day my team went really good.

Ella - I have loved being at St Brendan's throughout the year since moving from a very large school of three hundred students. It is small and personal. I love going to Quick smart because I can practice Maths at home. I have been at this school for few months. I like that everyone at this school is kind and that everyone participates in the activities even if they are afraid to. There is a sport shed full of fun things to do. I have made lots of friends and I am glad I came to St. Brendan's.

Brooklyn - Having been at St Brendan's for about one month, I have found it to have been amazing. I have made lots of friends in my short time here. The activities here are interesting and provide lots of learning experiences for me. We have a whole sports shed full of equipment to use which is great. I love being at St Brendan's.

Lana S - I have enjoyed my year at Saint Brendan's. We have had great learning opportunities such as reading the book "Wonder" and then watching the film "Wonder" with my class. When I started Year Four, I was scared of the hard work that was ahead of me but it ended up being easier than I thought. When it was hard though, I challenged myself and persevered.

Nicholas - This year I have enjoyed participating in Quick smart Maths and Literacy. The sports skills I have learnt throughout this year have improved a lot. I received my pen license and I feel I have achieved growth in my handwriting. The people at St. Brendan's are welcoming and nice. I have participated in a3 music where we learnt lots of songs and dance moves. The whole school participated in a STEM project. We chose a spot around the school that needed beautifying. We picked the garden and we renovated it so it looks new. My learning has improved so much this year and I am proud of myself.

Spencer - This year at St Brendan's I have achieved many things like the Encouragement reward at our Presentation night and completing tasks that have been set for me. Throughout the year I have also participated in carnivals, excursions and events with the rest of the class and school. During the year and last we upgraded our furniture to make it more comfortable, interesting and bright to help support our learning. I also enjoyed reading the book "Wonder" and watching the movie at the cinema in Wagga Wagga. I am really looking forward to next year.

Nikolas - This year I have learnt a lot of new things in Maths, in our STEM project, a3 and how to play an instrument. I have made many new friends. I am proud that I have represented my school through wearing the school uniform in public. I feel comfortable at St Brendan's and I am happy that my mum sent me here. St Brendan's is the place for me because it has moved my learning by 100%! I feel comfortable and independent when I am learning at St Brendan's Primary School in Ganmain.

Joshua - This year we have accomplished many things like Stem projects and A3 music. I love that we have a Chromebook each and I like the teachers because they are very nice to my friends. I like doing Stem projects because you get to learn other things like measuring and how to use a drill. I like Band as well because you get to travel and play at other places you have never been before. Recently, I made it to the Deanery Carnival for shot put. It was really fun cheering on my friends in the other events. I love St. Brendan's because everyone is nice to me and there is a really good education at this school. I really like it.



Sam - Throughout 2017 I have achieved a lot in the 3,4,5,6 classroom. I have learnt so many new things. I have also participated in the Deanery athletics carnival. I represented my school in cross country, the swimming carnival and plenty of other activities. My favourite subject at school is art. Everyone is welcoming and very kind. I have enjoyed my learning throughout 2017.

Owen - This year was amazing because we all have had an opportunity to visit places on excursions away from Ganmain to extend our learning experiences. I was a member of the band and it was really fun. We also participated in an a3 concert. It was great. I've made major learning progress since I came to Year 3 because of the opportunities I have been given. The teachers are all nice and helpful to all the students.

Jake - This year my achievements were participating in the STEM project, A3 and using technology. Technology helped me in Maths because it gave me a chance to practice my Maths. Singing and dancing in the a3 concert was fun because we had to dance in front of heaps of people! STEM was fun because we worked with people. I learnt new things in STEM. The other thing I like was sport. I didn't make it in anything but it was still fun to play sports at school.

Charlie - Throughout 2017 I have enjoyed being in 3,4,5,6 for the first time. My achievements are making it to Deanery level in Athletics and swimming. Also that I have learnt more in each subject in class. My favourite thing about St Brendan's that is we take part in so many different activities like the Touch gala day and A3. I enjoy being at St Brendan's because there are so many nice people around who you can play with at lunch and recess.





## 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 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 2017:

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Indigenous	Total
19	24	1	4	43

\*Language background other than English

### Enrolment Policy

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established an [Enrolment Policy](#)† 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 phone: 0269370000.



## ST BRENDAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT POLICY

St. Brendan's School was established in 1905 to provide Catholic Education to the children of the district. Our priority has been Catholic Education for Catholic children.

St Brendan's Primary School adopts the Catholic Schools Office Wagga [Enrolment Policy](#) and [Enrolment Procedures](#).

To this end, the following policy statements are made:

### Policy Statement

At St Brendan's Primary School we expect all parents to give a firm commitment that they accept and support the life, nature and identity of the Catholic School, including participation of their children in Religious Education Programs.



No enrolment is denied simply because of an inability, as against an unwillingness of the parents/carers to support the school financially through the payment of fees or supporting the fund raising efforts of the P & F.

NSW Legislation allows for the enrolment of children into Kindergarten who turn five before the 1st August. St Brendan's School has the interests of their students at heart and therefore we suggest that you seriously consider whether to enroll children who turn five after the end of March. If their fifth birthday falls between the 1st June and 31st July, the enrolment will need to be discussed at length with the Principal.

Dates for Parent Information Evenings and Enrolments Dates for the following year will be advertised through the Parish Bulletin and School Newsletter.

### Enrolment Priorities

St Brendan's will accept enrolments from all Catholic families.

St Brendan's will accept enrolments from non - catholic families with Catholic children. Other enrolments need to express a commitment to support the philosophy of Catholic Education both in the home and at school and be open to the evangelising influence of their Catholic surroundings.

All enrolments must be approved by the Principal.

### Enrolment Process

All parents applying to enroll their child/children at St Brendan's Primary School should complete the official Application for Enrolment form available from the school office and return it by the due date which will be announced at the Parent Information Evening. Parents need to be prepared to abide by the provisions of that form, especially with regard to the support they give the school in the Catholic Education of their children.

Parents of children enrolling at St Brendan's are also asked to supply the following documentation:

- Immunization Certificate
- Birth Certificate
- Baptism Certificate (if applicable)

### Enrolment Timeline

Upon receipt of the completed Application for Enrolment form an interview time will be arranged between the prospective student, parent/carer and the principal to ascertain the readiness and suitability of the student for the school.



After the interview and enrolment process has been finalised, the parents of the applicant will be contacted by the school secretary.

There is no enrolment fee to be paid by parents but upon proceeding with the enrolment process the parents also agree to support the school by:

- Supporting the teachers / Principal with classroom learning where possible.
- Paying School fees by the due date.
- Supporting the P&F to raise money to help with the ongoing costs of the school.
- Supporting the school through attending working bees etc.

## Transition of Students to School

New pupils enrolling to attend St Brendan's Primary School will be offered an orientation to the school program. For new Kindergarten enrolments the children will be offered an Orientation Program whereby the students attend school for one day per week from Week 6 - Week 9 of Term Four on prearranged days.

## Summary Information for Continuing Enrolment

In order for an enrolment to continue at St. Brendan's, the following must be adhered to.

1. Acceptance and adherence to the school Positive Behaviour Management Program.
2. Regular attendance at school.
3. Maintenance of a respectful and co-operative relationship by the family with the school.
4. Payment of required fees.

The enrolment of a student may be cancelled if any of the above are not complied with.

If you have any enquiries, please contact the school office by

Telephone: 69276198

Facsimile: 69276377

Email: [sb-info@sbww.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sb-info@sbww.catholic.edu.au)

or peruse the website at [www.sbww.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sbww.catholic.edu.au)

Policy Updated December, 2017



## Student Attendance and Retention Rates

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	93
Year 1	96
Year 2	95
Year 3	96
Year 4	96
Year 5	91
Year 6	91

The average student attendance rate for 2017 was 95%.

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 non-attendance, 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.

The management of non-attendance is in accordance with the Diocese of Wagga Wagga Catholic Schools Office policies.



## 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 2017:

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

\*This number includes 4 Fulltime teachers and 2 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, Mrs. Tamara Price 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 a Positive Behaviours for Learning Program. They have undertaken professional development in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Music with Richard Gill, Performance Development, Digital Pedagogy, EMU Maths and Quick smart Literacy. Staff have also 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. They have met individually with the Principal to reflect on these and make plans for future professional 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. She has also attended professional development in preparation for the ONCE administrative system.

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



## Section 5: Catholic Life and Religious Education

**St. Brendan's, Ganmain** 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 2017, 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/ College

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.

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 has recently completed studying for her Masters of Theology with the University of Newcastle.



## Section 6: Curriculum

The school follows the NSW Education Standards Authority 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.

The subjects offered are English, Mathematics, Human Society and Its Environment (History and Geography), Science and Technology, Physical Development, Health and Education, Creative Arts, as well as daily Religious Education instruction. Each subject is taught by the classroom teacher. Students participate in regular library lessons with their classroom teacher. Information Technology is integrated across all subjects.

Students also participate in a wide variety of external sporting competitions and have access to community skill development programs, such as swimming lessons and sports clinics. St. Brendan's provides opportunities for a range of excursions and guest presenters.

Students with additional needs are supported through intervention programs such as Literacy Support in Stage 1, Quicksmart Literacy and Numeracy in Stage 3, Social skills and Pastoral Care programs K-6.

Students are able to access Mathletics, Spell-o-drome and Reading Eggs which are 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 College 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	25%	12.5%	25%	37.5%	50%	37.5%	50%
Band 5	37.5%	62.5%	37.5%	12.5%	12.5	12.5%	12.5%
Band 4	12.5%	25%	25%	12.5%	25%	37.5%	12.5%
Band 3	25%	-	12.5%	37.5%	12.5%	12.5%	25%
Band 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Band 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Year 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy	Data Measurement Space & Geometry	Number Patterns & Algebra
Band 8	16.7%	-	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%
Band 7	50%	-	-	16.7%	-	16.7%	-
Band 6	33.3%	50%	66.7%	33.3%	66.7%	33.3%	50%
Band 5	-	50%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	33.3%
Band 4	-	-	-	16.7%	-	16.7%	-
Band 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



## **Section 8: Pastoral Care and 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 2018 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. **All schools are to have a link to the Complaints and Suggestions Policy on the school/college website.**

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 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. St. Brendan's, Ganmain 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.



## 2017 Annual Improvement Plan Summary of Evidence for: St. Brendan's, Ganmain

Strategic Priority Area	Improvement Targets 2017	Evidence of Improvement	What worked Well and why?	Where to Next?
<b>Catholic Life and Mission</b>	Improved understanding of Missionary Discipleship  Presentation history	Mission Conference and follow up.  Staff meeting - Sr. Anne Hagan  Young. June 22nd	Outside presenters provide specialised expertise  Work with other presentation schools - new ways of keeping presentation heritage alive.	Transfer knowledge to children and parents  Rewrite school prayer  Celebrate presentation day - 21/11/17
<b>Pastoral Care and Wellbeing</b>	Support students experiencing family separation.	Staff meeting well being discussion  Zuzana - Centacare. Implementing programs (lego and komichi) in both classes based on resilience and team work	Regular and issues are identified and discussed	Continue.  Involve Zuzana in one-to-one counselling if need arises.
<b>Student Learning and Pedagogy</b>	Improved outcomes in Maths K-6  Engagement in STEM project  Whole school data analysis	Data collection - ongoing  NAPLAN, Emu (learning and implementing), PAT (early term 4)	Ongoing PD for TMT is very beneficial to the school.	Analysis  Develop a whole school assessment plan.  SDD planned for term 4 CPLC time - collaborative follow up / guide for PLP's 2018
<b>Strategic Leadership &amp; Partnerships</b>	Establish a positive learning culture with parents as partners.	Involvement in Positive Behaviour Management program - Sharee and Prue  Facebook		Implement term 3  Surveys and student proformas  Three way interviews - goal setting





## Priority Key Improvements for 2018

**Strategic Planning****Annual Plan 2018 St. Brendan's, Ganmain**

Improvements Targets that the school is seeking /Strategic Priorities (What does the data indicate needs improvement? Refer to your strategic plan.	Performance Measures/ Targets with Timelines/ Milestones (What is the evidence or indicators of improvement. How improvements targets will be measured)	Implementation Strategies/Activities/Tasks (What actions are required to progress the improvement target. the school's intended improvement strategy, planned changes to practice from research, NSIT, other schools)	Professional Learning Team members Lead Roles Delegations and Accountabilities (Who will be involved, who is accountable)	Key/Targeted Resources (Finances, personnel, facilities, professional development, resources, CSO or community partnerships)	Review Process and Measures (plans for reviewing the success of the school's improvement strategy .We will measure our performance by monitoring progress in: student/staff/parent data, milestones)
Positive Behaviour program - full implementation in both classes by all staff.	Evaluate. continue. embed.  By the end of 2018 there will be a 50% reduction in the number of students completing proformas.	Sharee McCormack - staff meeting to follow up and clarify program.  Link to assembly via award 4 week cycle - behaviour focus at start of each term. Reset.	Principal Staff	Sharee McCormack	Survey feedback from staff, parents and students.
STEM	Complete project by end of Term 2	Each staff member to work with one of the 5 groups. Students set mini goals and staff support to ensure project reaches completion.	All Staff	Karen Gardiner	'Grand Opening'- school celebration with parents and community members. End- point of project.
Mathematics  Data analysis to target Numeracy and Literacy needs.	Whole school target of improvement of 2 questions minimum on the EMU Screening Test.  By the end of term 3, all staff to have achieved competency in Digital Literacy	Data analysis to inform teaching and specific student intervention. Students to be transitioned from Numeracy continuum to progressions. Staff will be using this information to inform differentiated teaching.	Tamara All staff  Kathy Sase - DPL	resources - organisation, replenish targeted resources. Access to Learning Progressions - Louise Blanchard  Karen Gardiner	Staff meetings, twice per term, to share data, plot on Learning Progressions and plan for movement.



	Fundamentals training.				
Mary as First Missionary Disciple.	By the end of 2018, s staff will complete the Mary as First Missionary Disciple Module	Staff will participate in Staff Professional Development Day facilitated by CSO RE personnel, using formation of Missionary Discipleship Program from CSO Wagga.	All staff	Sr. Anne	Planning for full implementation of the Angelus will be completed.



## 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 the school from parents, students and teachers.

St. Brendan's School Council comprises parent representatives, Parish Priest and the Principal. They meet once per term 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 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
50%	50%	

### Student Satisfaction

Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
40%	60%	

### Teacher Satisfaction

Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
80%	20%	



### Financial Report

