

St Joseph's Primary School

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URALLA, NSW 2358

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Parish Priest: Mons Wayne Peters

Parish: St Joseph's, Uralla

Principal: Daniel Ward



EXAMPLE TEACHES

Annual School Report 2013

Mission/Vision Statement

We, the students, parents, staff, clergy and friends of St Joseph's School Uralla, endeavour to live as a community:

Where Christ is our model; Where Gospel Values of faith, respect, community and service, guide and permeate all learning and behaviour; Where a high standard of education is strengthened by the teaching and example of Catholic faith and tradition; Where all are encouraged to develop to their full potential in an inclusive and supportive climate of love, respect and acceptance.

About this Report

St Joseph's Primary School is registered by the Board of Studies (NSW) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale, the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990. The annual report provides parents and the wider school community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The report describes achievement of school development priorities in 2013 and gives information about 2014 priorities. This Report complements and is supplementary to school newsletters and other regular communications. This Report is sent to the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale for validation with the requirements of the Education Act 1990 before being forwarded to the Board of Studies. Following its submission to the NSW Board of Studies the report will be presented to the parent body and be available on the CSO website by 30 June 2014. The school consultant also validates that the school has in place appropriate processes to ensure compliance with all NSW Board of Studies requirements for Registration.

Principal's Message

The 2013 school year was a time of change for the St Joseph's school community. At the end of term one, the school community said farewell Mr Paul Slattery as Principal after six years in the position. Mrs Belinda Burton, from St Mary's School in Armidale, was appointed as Acting Principal for term two and the beginning of term three. During this time a selection process was conducted by the Catholic Schools Office for a new Principal. After this selection process was completed Daniel Ward was appointed as the new Principal of St Joseph's School. Daniel Ward moved to Uralla from Queensland after gaining experience as a Principal at a number of Catholic schools in Queensland. In 2013 the school participated in many community events such as Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Thunderbolt's Festival, School Art Show, The Uralla Rotary Art Show, NERAM Art Show (Armidale), Uralla Show, Catholic Schools' Week, Diocesan sporting events and the 'Don't Stop Believing event (a showcase of musical and dance talent from our local Catholic Schools). A highlight for the year was our end-of-year school play which was produced by one of our talented teachers. These events provide the opportunity for the school to engage with the wider community and give the school the opportunity to promote the many talents of our students. Under the Education Act, all schools are required to be

compliant and in Term Three of 2013 St Joseph's had its turn to be audited. The Educational Audit process is CSO Armidale's process for monitoring the school's compliance with the Education Act 1990, specifically the NSW Board of Studies requirements for Registration and Accreditation. The process is based on validating the school's self-review and supporting evidence. The process also reports on school compliance of school operations that relate to the Diocesan Religious Education Requirements and Commonwealth Government requirements. This audit was a positive experience for the new Principal, Daniel Ward, in that it was a great learning opportunity in getting to better know about St Joseph's School processes, procedures and policies. St Joseph's is in the very enviable position of receiving a high level of support from the parent body. The school maintains a positive relationship as well as support from both the PT&F (Parents, Teachers and Friends) committee and the School Board. The school PT&F committee worked extremely hard in 2013 to support the school financially as well as organising a number of special events. A key focus for the financial support of the school has been in the area of improving the school's ICT infrastructure. The school has interactive whiteboards in each room as well as a very high student/device ratio. The PT&F continued to organise a number of annual events throughout the year in 2013, with a highlight being the St Joseph's Art Show. These events provide an opportunity for the student's talents to be on display as well as promoting social interaction with the parent body. An annual event now for a number of generations has been the combined Parish and School Fete. The school staff, PT&F and parish work closely together in preparing this event which gives St Joseph's the opportunity to be promoted within the wider Uralla community. The St Joseph's Parish and School Fete was again successful in 2013. As the new Principal at St Joseph's School I look forward to a great year ahead in 2014 where I can continue to get to know the wider St Joseph's and Uralla community. My aim, in partnership with all the outstanding staff at St Joseph's, is to continue to provide opportunities for the students to achieve educational success in a safe and supportive school environment. I also look forward to the opportunity to promote the successes of St Joseph's in the wider Uralla community.

Parental Involvement

Submitted by the PT&F President. The 2013 school year was a very active one. St Joseph's PT&F have wholeheartedly supported the school in many activities that the children enjoyed and were hugely successful. As a member of the current PT&F and a parent of three children at St Joseph's I feel that the school has enriched the lives of both

children and parents. Some of the events that have been initiated or supported by the PT&F and the students in this time included:

- The production of the Cookbook that was sold on the Street Stall
- The hugely successful visit by local author, John Heffernan.
- The fundraising done by Year 6 2013. Their hard work achieved a sign that now indicates the entry area of the school.
- The successful Art show that included the local community by utilising the local winery and writing talent.
- Updating of school canteen equipment which improved storage and allowed for health and safety practices to be updated.
- The involvement of parents allowed for the canteen to support a Milkshake day and Pancake Day. These proved hugely popular with the children.
- Successful Swimming Carnival and Sporting Carnivals produced students who participated at state level. The PT&F was able to subsidise these students so they could represent the school at a higher level.
- The children enjoyed and now look forward to St Joseph's Day, Easter Parade, Grandparents Day, Discos, Movie Nights and book week.
- Other events also included the Fete, Street Stalls and the Thunderbolt Fair. These events provided an opportunity for the school to be promoted and be active in the community which proved to be positive for the school, staff and students.
- GRIP day in Tamworth was a great day for the children and provided an opportunity for the students to develop their leadership potential.
- Gala Day allowed the students to participate and build on their skills related to soccer and netball. It also allowed everyone to network, share ideas while actively participating in sport.
- ANZAC day was another day well supported by both families and the staff. As ANZAC day falls in the school holidays numbers were high and for that we should be proud.
- Another achievement for the school was the computer upgrade. Two classrooms now have access to upgraded computers at a good student/machine ratio.
- The Mini Lit program is continuing and still showing as a successful program
- Our Music program was upgraded and the Upbeat program is now implemented across all year levels in the school.
- Mini Vinnie's is still proving successful with strong staff leadership
- The PT&F also supported transport to the combined Catholic School Event which was enjoyed by all who attended.
- The volunteer Kids Gardening initiative had every child participate in school improvements which allowed them to have "ownership" in their school.

I find that the PT&F body, parents, staff and students are actively involved in the school and its events. Our children are happy and are enjoying the learning experience at St Joseph's. The parents and staff who go above and beyond are to be congratulated. Our students have shown that they are proud of their school and the role models involved in making these events a success.

Student Leadership

Submitted by the School Captain I have loved being a student at St Joseph's because we are surrounded by dedicated and enthusiastic teachers who assist our learning. It is the kind of school where everyone is involved because of the small but vibrant students. There are great parents and friends who kindly donate their time to our canteen and other fundraisers which happen outside of school. Our school contributes in many activities in the community and the school parish such as school Masses, town parades, singing performances, art shows and Mini Vinnies activities. We enjoy the opportunities such as sports carnivals, camps and excursions as well as creative arts performances. Another reason I enjoy going to St Joseph's is it like being in one big happy family - everyone looks out for each other. In our mix of playground areas we enjoy playing with others students who have different interests. St Joseph's is the kind of school where you make lots of great primary school memories every day.

School Profile

School History

St Joseph's School Uralla was established by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in 1886. In 1896 Mother (Blessed) Mary MacKillop paid a visit to the school. Mother Mary wrote in her diary on 29 April 1896 that she 'was very pleased with the school and children'. The Sisters of Saint Joseph withdrew from the school in 1984 after 99 years of dedicated service to the Armidale Diocese. The first lay Principal was appointed in 1985. From this day on the task of providing a Catholic Education to the children of Uralla has been carried on by lay principals and dedicated lay staff. They continue to educate the children in the spirit and traditions of Mother (Blessed) Mary MacKillop.

The original school building was completed shortly after the arrival of the nuns in 1886 and is currently used as an administration area. Two separate major building projects have taken place since then. Four classrooms were built in the 1920's and a further classroom and sick bay were added in the 1980's. This gives the school its present configuration.

In recent years government and school funds have been used on major improvements to the school. Projects included re-roofing the administration building, painting, creation of an all-weather sports area, paving, building a new library, a new hall and installing a solar energy plant.

Location/Drawing Area

St Joseph's School is located in the town of Uralla NSW on the corner of Bridge and Wood Street. The town of Uralla is located approximately 22km south of the city of Armidale. All students attending St Joseph's live in the town of Uralla, or the surrounding areas.

Enrolment Policy

St Joseph's Primary School follows the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools policy Enrolment of Students in Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale 2002. This document can be obtained from the school office or is available on the Catholic Schools Office web site: <http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au>.

Student Enrolment

Year	Boys	Girls	Indigenous	LBOTE
K	0	6	2	1
1	6	5	3	0
2	4	5	2	0
3	5	1	2	0
4	2	5	0	0
5	0	4	1	0
6	2	6	4	0
2011	32	35	12	0
2012	34	33	15	0
2013	19	32	14	0

Student Mobility

Throughout the year two students relocated to other local schools. Five students enrolled at St Joseph's from Queensland and another two students, also from Queensland, enrolled on a short term basis. At the end of the year eight student moved to other local schools and a family with four students relocated to Sydney.

Student Attendance

Average daily attendance for 2013

Kindergarten	92%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	91%
Year 4	92%
Year 5	91%
Year 6	91%
All students	92%

Management of Non-Attendance

School attendance is managed in accordance with the Catholic Schools Office Guidelines for the Management of Student Attendance.

Staff Profile

The staff attendance figure is not reported as the number of teachers in the school is smaller than the threshold for which this information is provided.

The average daily staff attendance rate for 2013 was %.

Teacher Standards

Teacher qualifications fall into 1 of 3 categories for all teaching staff responsible for delivering the curriculum.

Teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by AEI - NOOSR*	100%
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Have qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia within AEI-NOOSR* guidelines but lack formal teacher qualifications	0%
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Do not have qualifications as above but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context	0%
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* Australian Education Institution - National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition

Percentage of teachers accredited to teach Religious Education	78
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Percentage of teachers undertaking accreditation to teach Religious Education	11
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Staff Professional Learning

Throughout the 2013 year all staff members were involved in a wide variety of Professional Development opportunities offered by the Catholic Schools Office, UNE, Department of Education and the Board of Studies. These include a staff retreats, Principal in-service days, Child Protection Modules, Additional Needs Teacher Workshops, REC Cluster Meetings, Principal Conferences, Pastor & Principal Conference, Autism Workshop, School Administration

Software Training, Secretary Conference, Literacy & Numeracy Training Day and Naplan Evaluation Day. Staff also facilitated and managed a variety of sporting and cultural activities and teams during 2013.

Catholic Identity

Religious Education Program

St Joseph's Primary School follows the Armidale Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student text To Know, Worship and Love as authorised by the Bishop of Armidale, Michael Kennedy.

Liturgical Life

Our Opening School Mass was again a great way to start the new school year. During Mass the School Captains and House Captains for 2013 were inducted and received their badges. School Masses are held each week and each class takes it in turn to prepare the readings and participate in the procession of the gifts. Students in Year 3 to Year 6 are invited to Altar serve at the school Mass as well as weekend Masses each week. Parents and Friends are invited to attend the weekly School Mass. Special liturgies and/or masses are celebrated at other significant times throughout the year. In 2013 these events included Ash Wednesday, The Feast of Mary MacKillop, St Joseph's Day, St Patrick's Day, The Feast of the Assumption, All Saints Day and our end of year Graduation Mass. The children also participate in an Easter Liturgy and Reflection Day. Our Year 2 students received the Sacrament of Penance in November and our Year 3 students received the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time in May.

Staff and Student Faith Formation

Throughout the 2013 school year staff were able to attend a number of professional development sessions which were intended to allow staff to develop in their faith, as well as build hours towards accreditation to teach in a Catholic school. A number of staff retreats were available and the staff at St Joseph's accepted these opportunities. Staff formation was also a regular focus at staff meetings. As a Catholic school regular opportunities arise outside of the normal religious education program for both staff and students to enhance their faith. These included the school being involved in celebrations such as St Joseph's Day and Lenten reflections. The

majority of staff are active in the parish and while a limited number of students are active in the parish, regular invitations and opportunities are provided for school families to be involved.

Year 6 Religious Education Test

Average score	Diocesan (%)	This School (%)
2011	69	93
2012	68.4	69.6
2013	70.8	63.4

Social Justice

St Joseph's has been involved in a number of social justice initiatives in 2013. This included a particular focus on Caritas during the church season of Lent. A delegation from Caritas informed the children about how the money they raised for Caritas is used around the world to support those less fortunate. The PT&F began the Caritas appeal with their traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day. The generosity of our School and Parish community was again outstanding in 2013.

Parish Links

The staff at St Joseph's School has continued to encourage the children and parents to participate fully in the life of the Parish. School Masses are held each week and each class takes it in turn to prepare the readings and participate in the procession of the gifts. Students from year four to six are invited to Altar Serve at the school Mass and weekend Masses. A number of students accepted the opportunity to be trained to perform this role. Parents and Friends are regularly invited to attend the weekly School Mass. Special celebrations took place at times such as Ash Wednesday, The Feast of Mary MacKillop, St Joseph's Day, The Feast of the Assumption, All Saints Day and Graduation Mass. The children are also encouraged to participate in weekend Masses and church celebrations. Our year two students who chose to receive the Sacrament of Penance do so with the support of their family in November each year. Students in year three have the opportunity to receive Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of the Eucharist in May. Confirmation for the students in years five and six also occurs each year. The school year concluded with the annual Parish/School Fete. Parish and school continued working together for the good and promotion of the Parish of St Joseph throughout 2013.

Respect and Responsibility

St Joseph's School takes pride in the knowledge that through mutual respect and a close bond between school, parish, home and community we are able to work together to achieve our goals of promoting the value of respect and teaching the students the value of being a responsible member of the community. At St Joseph's we promote acceptance of others and promote the values of love, compassion, striving to do your best, a strong work ethic, enthusiasm, happiness, pride in self and respect. The students at St Joseph's are often congratulated on their manners and the pride in which they wear their uniform. Teachers, parents and visitors are shown respect and in turn, show respect to students. We encourage all students to take responsibility for their actions and words. Our school leaders run our weekly assembly and are consulted when decisions are made and are only too happy to contribute to the decision making process of the school. Our school Captains represented the school at major community events such as ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day and the Thunderbolt Festival.

School Curriculum

St Joseph's Primary School follows the Board of Studies syllabus for each subject offered (as required for registration under the Education Act 1990) and implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Schools Office.

Features of the School Curriculum

St Joseph's School is committed to providing a quality education that meets the needs of all students. At St Joseph's we strive to cater for individual differences by making adjustments for those students who have specific needs. Integrated into our curriculum we include indigenous perspectives and also have a particular focus on enhancing the curriculum through the use of information technology. Students across all year levels study the six key learning areas in accordance with the syllabus of the NSW Board of Studies. These being: English, Mathematics, Human Society and its Environment, Science and Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Creative Arts. With St Joseph's being a Catholic school our students also study Religious Education as a subject area. Although St Joseph's is a small school sporting opportunities are provided to the students throughout the year. In 2013 the school was represented at the diocesan swimming carnival, diocesan cross country, diocesan winter trials and the diocesan athletics carnival. Throughout the year

Professional Development opportunities have been provided to all staff to support them in the delivery of the curriculum.

Student Performance

St Joseph's Primary School uses a variety of assessment strategies at key points in the learning framework. These include teacher observation, portfolios, projects and presentations. The school also participates in the nation-wide literacy and numeracy testing program for the purposes of diagnosing individual learning needs and reviewing whole class teaching programs. Information on student progress is communicated on a regular basis and opportunities exist for external assessment results to be discussed with parents on an individual basis annually.

Literacy and Numeracy

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was introduced for students in Years 3 and 5 in May 2008. NAPLAN replaces the previous State-based Basic Skills Test and the results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. Analysis of the results is used at school level to support the enhancement of Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all students. Year 3 results are reported in Bands 1 to 6 with Band 6 representing the highest achievement and Year 5 results are reported in Bands 3 to 8 with Band 8 representing the highest achievement. **Please note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number where necessary.**

Year 3 % in Bands		1&2	3&4	5&6
Reading	School	33	50	17
	National	11	41	46
Writing	School	33	50	17
	National	8	43	47
Spelling	School	33	67	0
	National	13	42	43
Grammar & Punctuation	School	34	33	33
	National	10	37	51
Numeracy	School	50	50	0
	National	12	54	32

Year 5 % in Bands		3&4	5&6	7&8
Reading	School	50	0	50
	National	12	54	33
Writing	School	50	0	50
	National	18	60	20
Spelling	School	50	0	50
	National	16	51	30
Grammar & Punctuation	School	50	50	0
	National	14	51	33
Numeracy	School	0	100	0
	National	20	53	25

National Minimum Standards

The lowest Band for each year (Band 1 in Year 3 and Band 3 in Year 5) represents students who are achieving BELOW the National Minimum Standard (NMS) in each aspect of NAPLAN. Students in the second Band for each year (Band 2 in Year 3 and Band 4 in Year 5) represent students who are achieving at the NMS. Students in all other Bands are achieving ABOVE the NMS.

The percentages of students in this school achieving the national minimum standard are reported below.

		Year 3	Year 5
Reading	School	100	100
	National	95.3	96.1
Writing	School	100	50
	National	95	91.7
Spelling	School	67	100
	National	93.8	93.1
Grammar & Punctuation	School	83	100
	National	95.3	94.8
Numeracy	School	67	100
	National	95.7	93.4

School Policy Summary

Student Welfare

St Joseph's Primary School seeks to provide a safe and supportive environment which:

- minimises risk of harm and ensures students feel secure
- supports the physical, social, academic, spiritual and emotional development of students
- provided student welfare policies and programs that develop a sense of self-worth and foster personal development

The school's Pastoral Care Policy is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available .

Discipline Policy

St Joseph's Primary School bases its Discipline Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policies Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese, Policy On Suspension, Expulsion Or Exclusion Of Students In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale and Management Of Drug Related Issues In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale. These policies are based on procedural fairness and are discussed with students on a regular basis. In compliance with the NSW Education Reform Act 1990, corporal punishment is banned in ALL Armidale Diocesan schools.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available .

Anti-Bullying Policy

St Joseph's Primary School bases its Anti-Bullying policy and procedures on the Catholic Schools Office operational policy "Student Anti-Bullying Policy". The full text of this policy is available on www.arm.catholic.edu.au.

Enrolment Policy

St Joseph's Primary School bases its Enrolment Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policy Enrolment of Students In Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available .

Complaints and Grievance Resolution Policy

St Joseph's Primary School procedures for resolving concerns and complaints is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Complaints & Suggestions Policy for the Diocese of Armidale. This policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that members of the school community must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive, conciliatory environment. The full text of school and diocesan policies are available .

Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

School Review and Development

Annual School Priorities 2013

School priorities in 2013 were aimed at improving the aesthetics and functionality of the school, the professional development of staff in the area of new curriculum developments and providing opportunities for students to excel in the area of the arts. Within the area of the arts, the school also planned to implement a new music program to support the implementation of the music curriculum.

Projected School Priorities 2014

School Priorities for 2014 include, but are not limited to:

- Provide opportunities for all staff to develop in their faith.
- Provide opportunities for staff and parent formation in prayer and liturgy.
- Student attendance at Diocesan Masses and celebrations.
- Implement Diocesan Learning Enhancement Strategies for K-2 (Literacy Intervention – Mini-Lit program).
- Improve ICT integration across all KLA's.
- Provide opportunities for the staff to be serviced on the Australian Curriculum, with a focus on the new English Curriculum.
- Implement programs which build fitness and enhance spiritual, moral and emotional wellbeing.
- Improve on the use of data to inform teaching and learning.
- Familiarise all teachers with the AITSL standards Framework.
- Use of AITSL standards to set goals.
- Promote parent participation in the PT&F and School activities.
- Interact with other schools in the Diocese.
- Engage with CSO implementation of the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum - English Syllabus.
- Participation in local events in Uralla.
- Equitable sharing of ICT resources in school
- Have teaching staff take responsibility for a KLA.
- Establish a system to provide staff feedback.

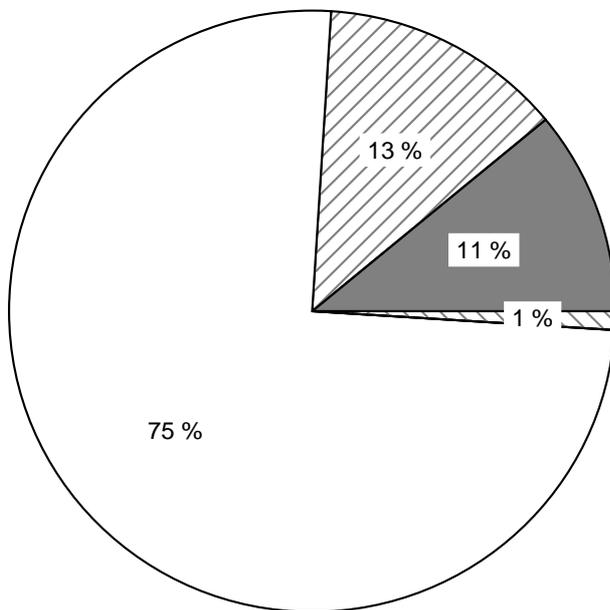
Major Achievements from the 2013 Annual Plan

The Annual School Priorities for St Joseph's in 2013 included a number of projects which were aimed at improving aesthetics and functionality of the school. A number of new garden areas were completed and a new grounds person position was established at the school. This allowed for ongoing improvements of the school grounds. Another focus area in 2013 was the professional development of staff in

new curriculum developments. Staff did receive professional development in the area of curriculum, with a particular focus of the new English Syllabus. The arts have always been a focus and the school's achievements within the local area have always been a strength of St Joseph's and 2013 was no exception. The school was involved in a number of local projects with success. This included success in the Waste to Art project, the Don't Stop Believing event and our own school musical. A new music program has been implemented, which has enhanced the quality of the school music curriculum.

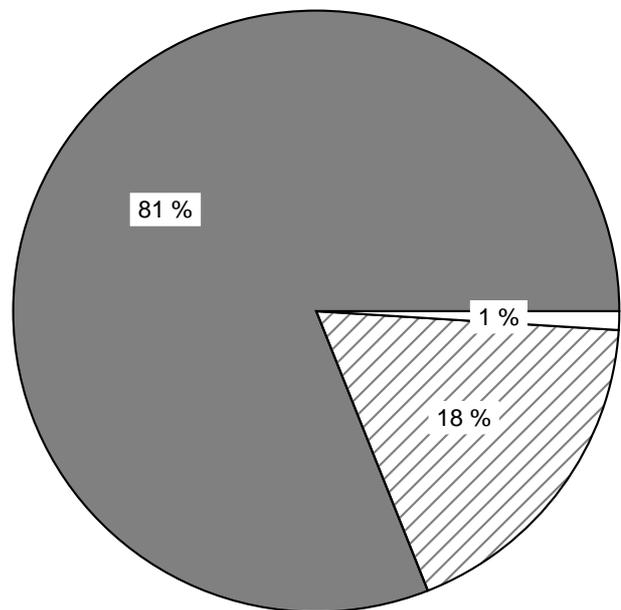
Financial Statement

Income



- fees and private income
- ▨ state recurrent grants
- commonwealth recurrent grants
- government capital grants
- ▨ other capital income

Expenditure



- salaries, allowances and related expenses
- ▨ non-salary expenses
- capital expenditure

The information in this report has been verified and the priorities endorsed by the Director of Catholic Schools and the school consultant.