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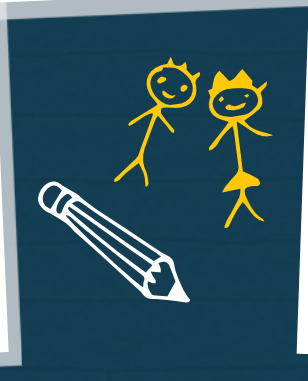
LIGHT

on

Excellence



2022

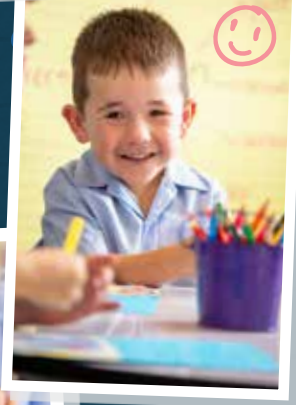
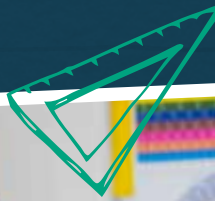


SHINING the

LIGHT



Excellence





INTRODUCTION



Dear Parents, Caregivers and our Wider Community,



This end-of-year publication showcases some of the many ways that St. Edward's students, staff, and parent community have worked to improve our school based on our shared vision. Our collective efforts are paying off, and we continue to get stronger every year. With a spirit of learning and discovery guiding us, we explore new ways of looking at the world around us every day.

During 2022 we had three primary areas of focus: curriculum, teacher professional development and parental involvement. We are taking on new challenges that will allow us to create the best learning environment possible. Our curriculum is being designed with a global perspective in mind and making better use of digital technologies while ensuring the "3 Rs" are front and centre of our instruction. Our teachers are supported in improving their pedagogy, instruction and skills in understanding data to inform their practice by our staff. Additionally we are increasing parent engagement opportunities to support parents as they partner with us in their child's education journey.

This booklet illuminates just some of the highlights from this past year. It has been an amazing year and we are looking forward to an even more successful one in 2023!

Together, we are building a future that is open, connected, and purposeful.

Peace & Best Wishes

**Jake
Principal,**

St Edward's Primary School





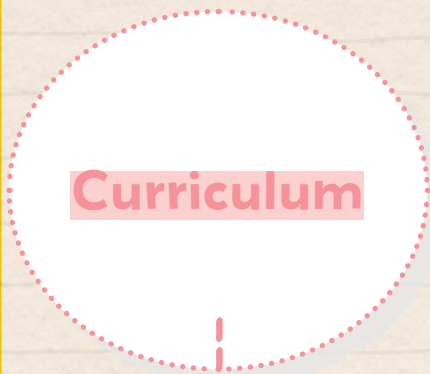
VISION



Vision Statement

With Christ as our guide, we aspire for our staff and students to be the best version of themselves as they develop the capacity to make a positive difference in our world.

The St Edward's Primary School vision statement is a written declaration clarifying our school's meaning and purpose for our community, especially our staff and students. It describes the desired long-term results of our school's efforts. .



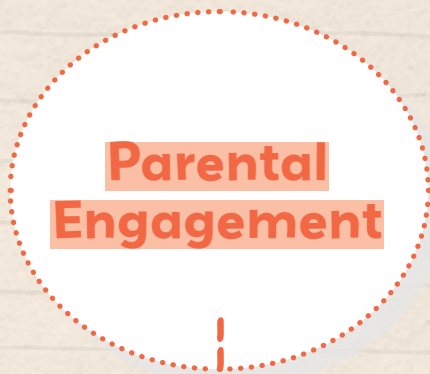
Focusing on

- Project 1**
Improved Writing Practices
- Project 2**
Improved Reading Attainment
- Project 3**
Assessment and Reporting Practices



Focusing on

- Project 4**
Reflection, Coaching, Mentoring and Feedback
- Project 5**
Teachers Teaching Teachers
- Project 6**
New Staff Induction Framework



Focusing on

- Project 7**
Sharing Student Success
- Project 8**
Parental Workshops
- Project 9**
Connecting with Parents

Annual Improvement Plan 2022

The fundamental purpose of our strategic planning is to align our school's mission with our vision. Without mission and vision, the plan exists in a vacuum, as the mission is the starting point for planning, the vision is the destination, and the strategic plan is the roadmap that helps you navigate from one to the other.

In 2022, St Edward's has been guided by our Annual Improvement Plan. This key strategic document has informed our work as we have set out to become better tomorrow than we are today. The three priority areas, nine projects, and multiple outcomes have enabled the school to provide the best possible learning opportunities for all students..



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CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

Key Benchmarks

Assessing the Results



We're thrilled with our NAPLAN and PM Benchmark scores this year, not least by the number of students who met or exceeded their predicted grades. This success is proof to both the students' hard work and the outstanding support given by the teaching staff. Our learners' natural inquisitiveness, enthusiasm, and pleasure are complemented with excellent instruction throughout the school, which helps to enhance capable students' bound for high school.



Intervention Teams

Learning Dashes

Our Learning Dashes have supported students to enhance their skills as a "Balanced Reader". By reading with a skilled adult each day we have recorded our highest level of students reaching or exceeding reading benchmarks this year.



Tiered Oral Language Initiative

With an updated English syllabus focusing on oral language in the early years, St Edward's was ahead of the curve by providing a tiered Oral Language intervention to support our students in Kindergarten to Year 2. Our Oral Language Specialist Teacher developed programs to support students expressive and receptive language skills.



Partnerships: University Of Newcastle - Occupational Therapy Program

At St Edward's School we are continually striving to develop partnerships with allied health services in order to better support the students in our care.

This year, we again have the opportunity to partner with The University of Newcastle to implement an Occupational Therapy Program. This involves all students in Kindergarten completing a screening assessment and in class support with an occupational Therapist.





School Intervention Team Meetings

The School Intervention Team is a collaborative forum that uses a multi-disciplinary approach to identify and develop interventions for students.

St Edward's School Intervention Team is a school-based, problem-solving group designed to provide an efficient, effective and clearly defined procedure for providing assistance to students, teachers and parents. Its purpose is to select interventions that will be implemented in a school setting, determine the timeline for implementation and monitor the goal.



Personal Plans

Inclusive education ensures that all students can access and fully participate in learning with reasonable adjustments that are tailored to individual needs. As a Catholic school we are called to be inclusive as we believe that everyone of our students is made in the image and likeness of God. Just as Jesus celebrated all people and included all, we aim to do the same. We have a saying here at St Edward's- same is not fair. We aim for equity not equality. Inclusive education at St Edward's School means that each student receives the support and adjustments they require to access a positive and enriching learning experience.

Individualised learning is key to ensuring all students can access the curriculum and achieve their personal best. At St Edward's our students work with teachers and parents to develop personal learning goals that support next steps in achievement. All individual learning goals are informed by data and allow students the opportunity to thrive.

Partnership with McCarthy Catholic College

During 2022 we have had the opportunity to partner with our feeder high school, McCarthy Catholic College in a variety of ways. Students from McCarthy in the Year 9 PASS class have assessed the gross motor skills of Kindergarten students and then planned and delivered a 10 week program to support the development of fundamental physical activity skills.



During Term 4, students from the Child Studies class supported our 2023 Kindergarten students to have a successful transition to school.

St. Edward's partners with McCarthy Catholic College by supporting students completing the Certificate 3 in Educational Support as part of their HSC. .





CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT



Reading/Writing Focus

Cold Write

As directed by the CSO, Cold Writes are completed four times a year across various text types. Cold Writes are used to monitor growth in writing and are assessed using a set criterion scale.

This growth data is collated on an electronic whole school Data Wall. Assessment results are used by teachers to plan for differentiation during guided writing groups and establishing student writing goals.



Big Write

At St. Edward's we use the Big Write and VCOP methodology to improve our student writing outcomes.

This methodology is based on the notion that if students cannot say the language, they cannot write it. Every week across our school students engage in a Big Write. Lights are dimmed, music is played and the environment is set for writing. The following day students engage in a reflection on their learning and the learning of others through Breakdown Buddies, Highlighting and the completing the Student Criterion Scales. New writing goals are developed based on this reflection.



Whole School English Block

St Edward's School has a strong focus on students' Literacy skills. To support the development of these skills, the school has implemented a two hour English Block, four days a week across our school. As part of this uninterrupted block, the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model (GRRM) along with visible Learning Intentions and Success Criteria are utilised by teachers to ensure students are given the best opportunity to achieve personal success. During this time, you will see students engaging in a range of reading, writing and speaking and listening activities that have been carefully selected based on the individual students ability.



Moderation Practice

At St. Edward's School the moderation of assessment tasks is an integral part of developing consistent practice. In order for our staff to gain a consistent understanding of what makes a 'balanced reader' teachers need to collaboratively assess students using the PM benchmarking process and engage in reflective discussion about the skills and strategies of the reader. A similar process takes place when assessing student progress in writing. Using the criterion scales aligned to the Big Write methodology, staff compare different work samples assessed at the same level in order to give consistent grades and plan for future learning.



CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

Pre-Kinder Program

1000 Books Before School

1000 Books Before School is a project aimed at enabling our next year's Kindergarten class to access the curriculum at a Kindergarten standard. Families are invited to borrow a set of 6 books at a time to engage and interact with their child. Vocabulary, story, discussion around words and just pure enjoyment of literature are the key focus of the project. Improved interaction with and discussion about literature are proven prerequisites for reading success at school.



Kinder Readiness Expo

Our transition to school program starts in Term 1 where parents and carers are invited to our Kindergarten Readiness Expo. This event allows parents to find out more about what Kindergarten is all about as well as having access to a variety of allied health specialists. By supporting our families to access professional advice from a speech therapist, occupational therapist, nutritionist, hearing and vision specialist we are setting our students up for success.



Parent Workshops - Reading and Oral Language

Research suggests that a strong partnership with parents is a good indicator of student success. St Edward's staff work hard to ensure our parent body has a variety of opportunities to engage in learning around how they can support their child to reach their full potential. Reading and Oral Language parent workshops were offered during Term 1 of the academic year to encourage shared understanding and use of resources across both home and school.

St Edward's Playgroup

The formation of the St Edward's playgroup has been a successful way to support children to transition from preschool to "big school". The opportunity to familiarise children and families with the school and staff as well as provide education around school readiness is invaluable in enabling our wider community to understand our school vision.





CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT



Library Connections



Early Birds

Our Early Bird Reading Club is designed to inspire and encourage greater interest in, and therefore practise, with reading. The more time a student tends to reading activities, the better their success at school and, indeed, life! A love of literature will develop better reading habits and this, in turn, develops greater comprehension and word attack skills. A fun sticker collection activity turns reading habits into a genre collection, and a sense of achievement is developed at the same time.



Inspired Learners

Inspired Learners is a curriculum based research opportunity. High achieving readers from Years 3, 4, and 5 are identified and given the opportunity to explore curriculum areas in a more personalised way. At the same time, greater than grade level reading occurs, research skills are introduced and pursued, and research terms such as bibliography, sources, key words and plagiarism are explained. Students also get an opportunity to share their research findings with peers and parents.



Library Leaders

Our Library Leaders are a dynamic part of our library day. They are relied upon to reshelf books, tidy and dust, run errands and take things to the recycling. This prestigious role is limited to Year 5 and Year 2. Applicants are put on trial for a few weeks to show their dedication to the job and their love of all things reading and books. We are very grateful to the students who take on this responsible role and are committed to the general wellbeing of our library.

School Clubs

At any recess break, students at St Edward's can be found participating in our various clubs. This year we have been running Lego Club, Games Club and Chess Club, and next year we are introducing a club to give further opportunity to share a passion for reading with like minded people. The inaugural members of this new club are working on a catchy name in readiness to start full steam in 2023. There is nothing like the buzz of a group of students sharing the excitement they have for something they have just read and loved, and another student catching the enthusiasm and reading the book too!





CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

First Nations Programs



Cultural Hub

Our First Nation students have enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about their indigenous heritage through the use of events, festivals, and workshops throughout the year.



Umbrella Project



Our First Nations Umbrellas, with indigenous art printed on them, were unveiled as part of our 2022 NAIDOC celebrations. Our students learnt about many symbols including water holes, tribes and rivers. They are a wonderful addition to our school and our students love them!



First Nations Cultural Learning Plans

As part of our personalised approach to student learning our First Nations students develop their own professional learning plans. The learning plans were created in collaboration with students, parents/carers and teachers to cater to the unique needs of each learner. This way, everyone is engaged and motivated throughout their schooling journey.



First Nations Collection - Library



In 2021 it was identified that our First Nations Collection was lacking. There has been a concerted effort over the past 18 months to grow and develop the books in our library that identify Indigenous themes and stories. The current publishing climate in Australia means that there are more quality publications in this arena than ever before. It is imperative at St Edward's that all students have an opportunity to be exposed to these narratives, but it is especially important that our First Nations students have books and stories they can identify with and can visually see that Indigenous stories are valued and celebrated.





TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



St Edward's Teacher Action Research Initiative

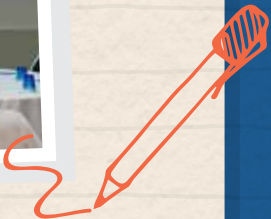


Teacher Led Workshops

St Edward's has a very strong focus on Teacher Professional Development and prioritises where possible opportunities for teachers to share their skills and expertise through Teacher Led Workshops. At the end of Term 2 2022 and Term 3 2022 our teachers led a variety of workshops based on the new K-2 English Curriculum, the CSO Data Dashboard, Stage 2 and 3 English Scope and Sequences, Action Research, Student Behaviour, Engagement and Well Being Support, Mathematic Curriculum and also quality assessment practises in Religious Education. Being NESAs accredited and aligning to the proficient teacher standards, these workshops were well received by our teachers and supported the work that they do in our classrooms.

Learning Symposium

The St Edward's Learning Symposium was held in March of 2022. This two day event provided a space for teachers to share and reflect on their professional learning journey with colleagues, students, leaders and parents. This was completed by undertaking an embedded professional development programme that included key instructional time spent in learning spaces, reflective writing tasks and meetings with other colleagues. The launch of the school book which contains "whole of school" action research projects undertaken at St Edward's Primary School, showcased teacher professional learning through a job embedded professional development initiative. The goal of supporting teachers to undertake professional learning through job embedded professional development initiatives aims to support teacher collaboration and innovation by giving them freedom to explore new ideas without feeling like they are compromising on their day-to-day classroom work. The end result is a selection of action research reports demonstrating how teaching can be improved through teacher-led inquiry into important questions about teaching.



TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

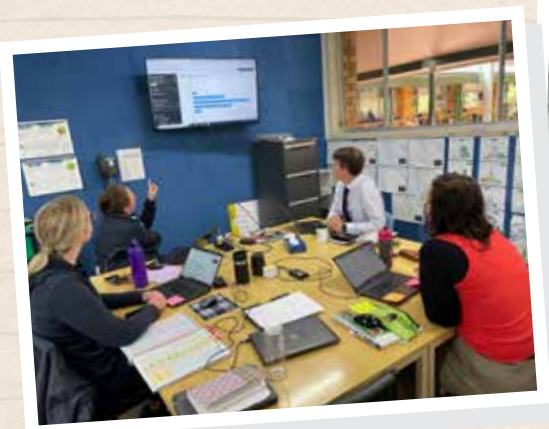
Instructional Focus

Co-Teaching

Teaching pedagogy has increasingly become de-privatised, teachers no longer teaching a single class in isolation, but are now co-planning, co-teaching, co-evaluating and co-assessing to ensure quality differentiated learning experiences for students.

At St. Edward's, while not all of our learning spaces are able to incorporate all aspects of the co-teaching cycle, teachers are released together once a fortnight to collaboratively plan, moderate assessment and reflect on practice.

In Stage 3, where our learning spaces are set up to support co-teaching, teachers have begun co-teaching in writing, guided reading and mathematics lessons to fluidly group students based on their individual needs.



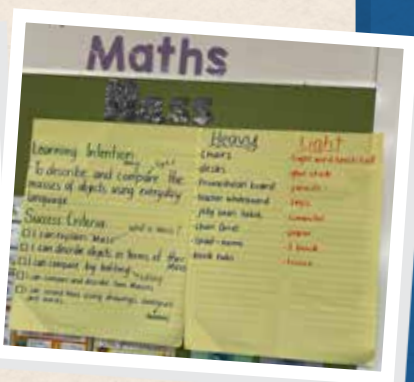
Learning Intentions & Success Criteria

All lessons or units of work start with a Learning Intention and Success Criteria. This makes learning visible for our students and demonstrates to them the knowledge and skills they will be learning in the lesson and what they need to do in order to be successful.

Teachers 'unpack' the Learning Intentions and Success Criteria and these become an essential reference point for providing specific and timely feedback to students on their learning.



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TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Knowing Beginning Points

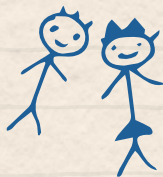
Pre-Kinder Assessments

Our Pre-Kindergarten program allows us to know the starting point of each of our learners in order to develop challenging and supportive programs for each individual. We devote our time to engaging with preschools to gain knowledge and understanding of the whole child as well as administering our own assessments to investigate children's language skills, motor skills, vision and hearing. All of this information combined means that we can support families to access allied health services prior to starting kindergarten if required in order to give each child the opportunity to thrive in kindergarten.



Multilit Program

St Edward's School provides multi-tiered levels of intervention. All of our students in Kindergarten to Year 2 access the Multilit whole class program called Initalit. This is a synthetic phonics program that sets students up for success in reading by systematically teaching letters, sounds and sight words. For some students additional reading intervention is required and we offer small group support through the use of the MiniLit program. This is an explicit early literacy program for teaching reading skills to the bottom 25% of students. Another of the programs from the MultiLit suite that is used to support students is the Reading Tutor Program. This program is delivered to students 1:1 by a trained paraprofessional with a focus on basic functional reading skills.





TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



Focus on Progress



Termly PM Assessments

At St. Edwards our goal is to have 80% of our students achieve benchmark levels in their reading from Kindergarten to Year 6 each year. Our teachers are provided time to PM Benchmark students each Term, this growth data is collected and loaded in the CSO Data EcoSystem. This data tracks students' instructional reading level, so it is valuable for teachers when planning future guided reading lessons to support the individual needs of the reader.

Student Progress Meetings



At St. Edward's School the Student Learning Progress Conferences include parents/carers, teachers and the students. This approach is used consistently throughout the whole school and provides a forum for teachers, students and parents to acknowledge student progress and achievement. The Student Learning Progress Conferences allows for shared responsibility of student learning, assessment and reporting while strengthening communication channels with parents about student's learning and progress. It critically involves students in self-assessment and allows them to take responsibility for their own learning as they work toward and achieve curriculum outcomes.



Living Well, Learning Well

Rules for Living

The Catholic Schools Office in Armidale has developed a wellbeing framework called "Living Well, Learning Well" which all 24 schools in the diocese use to support academic and wellbeing needs of all students. One element of this framework that is well used at St Edward's School are the "Rules for Living". These three simple rules: I am safe, I am valued, respected and cared for and I am a learner underpin all engagement, wellbeing and academic support provided at our school. All staff and students are well versed in these rules for living, and understand what their role is in ensuring that St Edward's is a safe, respectful, learning-centred school.





PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT & CELEBRATIONS

Fostering Understanding

Parent Workshops

Parents are key in ensuring that children are given the best opportunity to grow and flourish at school.

That's why our Parent Workshops are key in supporting our parents to know, understand and articulate the most effective ways they can support their child's learning from home.



Parent Learning Walks

Learning walks at St Edward's are designed to support professional learning for teachers and encourage collegial conversations. It is hoped that through the engagement of parents in learning walks we will increase the potential to facilitate powerful and reflective conversations around teaching and learning with our parents and therefore support improved student learning outcomes.

Research indicates that through the engagement of parents and carers, student learning outcomes are significantly enhanced. 'Parental and Community Engagement' establishes the importance of developing relationships with parents and providing opportunities for them to engage with the teaching and learning processes that are being implemented at a school level.



Parents and Friends Association & School Advisory Council



At St. Edward's, we are lucky enough to have a passionate parent body who have formed an enthusiastic Parents & Friends Association where all members of our school community are welcomed to help organise events that raise funds to various school projects. Over the last 12 months our P&F have organised whole school activities such as a trivia night, colour run, pie and mango drive, a golf day and other activities where we can gather as a school community.

In consultation with the school principal, nominated parents have also volunteered to become members of our School Advisory Council.





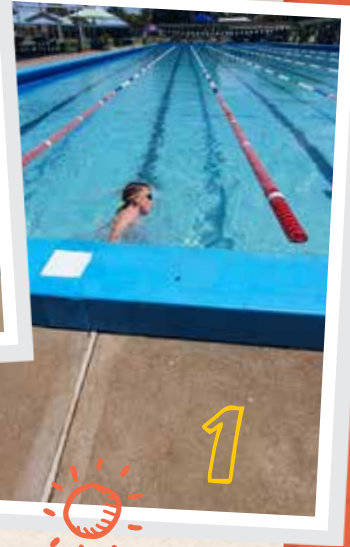
PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT & CELEBRATIONS

Sporting Focus

Whole School Carnivals

Fostering school spirit was enhanced with our annual sports carnivals. Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country carnivals were eagerly anticipated events on the school calendar. The house cups were eagerly contested with much house pride evident.

These carnivals were a great opportunity for the school to come together as one, celebrate sporting achievement and enjoy school spirit.





PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT & CELEBRATIONS

Representative Team & Individual Sports

With the lifting of pandemic regulations our students were able to participate in our representative selection carnivals. 2022 saw students selected to participate at Diocesan, Polding and State carnivals in Athletics, swimming, Rugby League, Basketball, touch football, Cross Country and Netball.



Visiting Coaches Program

St. Edward's utilises the abundance of professional sports coaches that we have in our regional area. These individual coaches or professional sporting organisations deliver 5 week fundamental skills courses from Kindergarten to Year 6, that align directly to our Physical Education curriculum.

In 2022 these sports included Gymnastics, Basketball, Tennis and Cricket.



Alumni

Expanding Profiles

Increasingly our alumni are reaching out and reconnecting with their Alma Mater! We are working to support our alumni association to help our former students connect with our school - check out the Alumni Stories on our webpage.



Our intent for 2023 is to engage with our alumni through some planned events and programs. If you are an alumni, please join us.





School Awards



Australian Council for Educational Leaders Fellowship Award

The Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) Fellowship is a special category of membership awarded annually to members who have made an outstanding contribution over a period of time to the improvement of student and organisational outcomes. St Edward's School is very proud of our principal Dr Jake Madden who was awarded this prestigious award in 2022. Congratulations Jake!



Australian Education Awards

On the back of being a finalist in the Australian Education Awards for Best Primary School (2021), St Edward's was a finalist for Best Professional Learning program (2022) and Mrs Cecily Hankin, a finalist for Non Government Teacher of the Year (2022). An incredible feat for a rural, regional non selective primary school!!



Tamworth Quality Business Awards

The school has been recognised for its innovative approach to teaching and learning, as well as its excellent customer service. This is a great achievement for the school and highlights the commitment of the staff to provide an outstanding education for our students. This year we were a finalist in the Tamworth Quality Business Awards (2022) for both Excellence in Innovation and Excellence in Customer service: Education and Training.



World's Best School Prize

St Edward's has been chosen as one of the top 10 shortlisted schools for the T4 World's Best School Prize in the category of Overcoming Adversity, out of thousands of submissions from across the world! We are absolutely delighted and honoured to have been recognised in this way, and it is a huge achievement for our school community.



National Excellence in Teaching Awards

NEiTA has been recognising and rewarding exceptional and inspirational teachers for nearly three decades, acknowledging outstanding teachers who've gone above & beyond for their students. With over 2000 nominations, only 12 teachers nationwide are selected as award winners. This year, Mrs Amanda Sheridan was one of them, and we could not be more proud.





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sacramental Programs

1st Eucharist / Reconciliation / Confirmation

In partnership with our parish, we celebrated the Sacraments with our students. Students from Year 2 received the Sacrament of Penance, Year 3 received Eucharist for the first time in Term 2 and our Year 6 students completed their initiation into the Catholic Church, receiving the Holy Spirit in Confirmation in September.



Curriculum

Yr 6 RE Test

Our students' religious literacy knowledge continues to grow as evidenced in the outstanding results in this year's Yr 6 RE test. With an average score of 19.3 in 2021 we jumped up to 22.7 in 2022, catapulting our school into the top 5 across the diocese.





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



School Masses & Liturgies

Feast Day Masses

It has been wonderful to gather as a faith community for many masses and liturgies for Feast days and other celebrations. This year we have celebrated Ash Wednesday, Mary Help of Christians Day, The Feast of the Assumption, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and St. Edward's Feast Day. At St. Edward's School we are committed to passing on our faith and the traditions of our Church.



Service

Mini Vinnies

With a commitment to service and supporting student voice, the Mini Vinnies team had raised the bar again this year. From raising funds for the missions to collecting food for the less fortunate in our local community, the Mini Vinnies continue to grow from strength to strength. The students demonstrated their generosity in supporting the Lismore Flood Appeal, raising money for the Bishop's collection, collecting and sorting books for the Book Drive and providing the students of the Northern Rivers with new school supplies. Crazy Sock Day, Free Hat Fridays and PJ Day also stand out as key highlights for the team.





2023 AIP



Moving into 2023

The growth and achievement of all students across 2022 is certainly something to celebrate.

Through consistent practice, data-informed decision making and sharing of expertise, our teachers have provided the best possible learning opportunities for the students of St Edward's, and we thank all the staff for their efforts this year.

Next year, the school will continue with its strategic mission and vision where all staff, students and stakeholders are able to be better tomorrow than we are today. We will build on the solid foundations of 2022 with:

Three Priorities

1. Curriculum
2. Teacher Professional Learning
3. Partnerships



Nine Projects

- Project 1:** Targeted Mathematics Teaching
- Project 2:** English Curriculum Focus
- Project 3:** Assessment and Reporting practices
- Project 5:** Collaborative Teaching Pedagogy
- Project 5:** Reflection, Coaching, Mentoring and Feedback
- Project 6:** Teachers Teaching Teachers
- Project 7:** Supporting Student Success
- Project 8:** School Enrichment
- Project 9:** Connecting with the Parish



Multiple Outcomes

Developing connections between school and parish

Improving Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all students

Teachers working as reflective, innovative practitioners

Utilising feedback opportunities to provide voice, choice and ownership for students and staff

Improving our collaborative pedagogy

Using data to inform classroom instruction

Sharing the continued success of the school, staff and students

Providing holistic opportunities for all students

Open communication with parents and carers

Sharing our expertise with parents and the community







St. Edward's School Prayer



Make real, O Jesus, Your presence among us,
gathered here at St. Edward's School.



Bless all who work here with the true love of knowledge.

May we grow in Your way of truth, justice and love
and live this way each day.

Please give us Your Spirit to guide us in listening to God our Father.

Mary Help of Christians, strengthen your children in their living.

Saint Mary MacKillop, help us to help others.

Saint Edward, pray for us.

Amen

