



**2023**

**A YEAR IN REVIEW**





2023

# A YEAR IN REVIEW



2



# WELCOME

## FROM THE PRINCIPALS

### Dear Students, Parents, Families, and Staff,



As we approach the end of another remarkable year, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible year we have all embarked upon together. It has been a year filled with challenges, growth, and countless achievements, and we are immensely proud of each and every one of our students. As Co-Principals for this semester, it has been our privilege to continue the work following on from Dr Jake Madden's time with us at St Edward's. We thank him for his leadership over the past three years, where the school has continued to excel and be recognised nationally for many achievements.

This end-of-year publication showcases just some of the many highlights from the past year. We hope you enjoy reflecting back on what a fantastic year it has been for everyone involved in the St Edward's community.

St Edward's is a great place to teach and learn! Our teachers are committed to providing a high quality learning experience focused on the individual needs of each child. We are striving to be creative and innovative in our instruction to engage students in their learning through a variety of extra curricular activities, applications of technology, and 21st Century skills.

At the end of this academic year, we are thrilled to report that our students have made remarkable progress in their PM reading levels. Their commitment to learning and the dedication of their teachers have been instrumental in this success. We applaud their efforts and are excited to witness their continued growth. Our Year 3 and Year 5 students have also shown outstanding results in the NAPLAN assessments, demonstrating their readiness for the challenges that lie ahead. We are confident that this strong foundation will serve them well in the future.

As a Catholic school we offer a rich, inclusive and holistic approach to education in the Catholic tradition. Every day we have the privilege of witnessing wonderful children achieve this transformation for themselves and emerge more confident and assured of their worth as individuals, helped by the loving and guiding presence of parents, teachers, education assistants and other members of the school community. We try to build their self-confidence so that they are unafraid to take the risk of attempting new challenges, to help them blossom and grow as individuals and to give them the academic, social and emotional skills to enable them to be the best versions of themselves.

We extend a warm welcome to the new families joining our school community, especially those with children commencing Kindergarten in 2024. We are excited to embark on this educational journey together and look forward to nurturing the growth and development of your children. We sadly farewell our Year 6 students and their families as they transition into high school. We are proud of their impressive accomplishments and wish them every success in the next phase of their academic life.

Finally, we would like to wish each and everyone of you a restful and rejuvenating summer break. May it be a time of reflection, relaxation, and quality time spent with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you all back in 2024, ready for another successful year.

Warmest regards

**Alison Hatton and Peter Flynn**  
Co-Principals

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 we develop the capacity to make a positive difference in our world.**



The St Edward's Primary School vision statement was refined in 2021 and continues to guide our meaning and purpose here at school. As an ambitious goal that focuses on the future, all staff, students and families are challenged to be better tomorrow than they are today.

## Annual Improvement Plan 2023



In 2023, the key priorities for the school have been guided by our Annual Improvement Plan. This document has focused on the three areas of Curriculum, Teacher Professional Learning and Partnerships. With nine projects and multiple outcomes, the school has continued its growth and development, and there is much to share and celebrate as we come to the end of another extremely successful academic year.

### CURRICULUM

### TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

### PARTNERSHIPS



#### Focusing on

#### Focusing on

#### Focusing on



- Project 1**  
Targeted Mathematics Teaching
- Project 2**  
English Curriculum Focus
- Project 3**  
Assessment and Reporting practices

- Project 4**  
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



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

06



Targeted Mathematics Teaching  
English and Mathematics Curriculum  
School Readiness Program  
Intervention and Inclusion  
Assessment and Reporting



## TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

11

Instructional Coaching  
Living Well, Learning Well  
Combined Tamworth Schools Professional Development

## PARTNERSHIPS

14



Sharing Expertise  
School Enrichment  
Sporting Focus  
School Awards



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

20

Sacramental Celebrations  
Curriculum  
School Masses and Liturgies  
Service



## MOVING INTO 2024

22



2024 Annual Improvement Plan



## CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

### Targeted Mathematics Teaching

#### Fluid Mathematics Groups

Contemporary pedagogical practices have been implemented in the teaching of Mathematics across the school this year. Through careful analysis of Assessment For Learning information from the students, teachers have been able to create fluid instructional groups in Mathematics. These groups allow for multiple entry points for students depending on the focus areas that are being taught, and teachers are able to target their instruction to suit all the learners in the classroom. Students have benefited from being able to demonstrate their strengths, growth and achievement across the full range of topics with Mathematics, and have embraced the challenge of furthering their understanding in this important key learning area.



#### Learning Dashes

Continuing on from the success of previous years, our Learning Dashes program has now branched out to also support students' mathematical skills as well as their reading development. Students have been able to work closely with our highly skilled Education Assistants to develop their proficiency in the foundational number concepts of Mathematics. Regular, intensive intervention is proving to be a valuable and effective model to support learning here at St Edward's.



### English and Mathematics Curriculum

#### English and Mathematics Syllabus

This year, a new Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 curriculum for English and Mathematics has been implemented across all NSW schools. This will then continue into next year where Stages 2 and 3 will also implement the new curriculum in these two areas. Focused work in Professional Learning Team meetings and Staff Meetings has allowed our staff to work collaboratively in unpacking the new syllabus in order to create teaching and learning programs to reflect the changes in the curriculum.





## English Block

As an embedded non-negotiable at St Edward's, the first two hours of each day are set aside for the teaching of English. This uninterrupted block of time allows teachers to utilise the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model (GRRM) to move students from modelled teaching to shared, guided and then independent practice where they can apply the skills that have been taught. Visible Learning Intentions and Success Criteria allow students to reflect on their learning through a range of reading, writing, spelling and oral language activities that are carefully selected to meet the needs of all individual students.



## Big Write and Cold Write

The Big Write and Cold Write are a part of a writing methodology that is based around an idea that if students cannot say it, then they cannot write it. This focus on oral literacy ties in seamlessly with our work around oral language here at St Edward's. After a fortnight of careful planning and preparation during writing lessons, students complete a Big Write where a calm, productive classroom environment is created through dimmed lights and relaxing music. The Big Write is seen as an opportunity to celebrate writing progress for all students, and teachers have been amazed by the work samples that have been produced during the year. The Cold Write is then completed once each term, where the writing sample that students produce is assessed against a marking rubric that allows teachers to track student growth and achievement over the course of the year.



## Mathematics Block

After recess, our classrooms change their focus from English towards Mathematics where another uninterrupted block of teaching time is set aside, this time for quality first teaching in Mathematics. With students working in their fluid instructional groups, they once again move through explicit modelled and shared instruction of content through to quality differentiated guided and independent activities that are aimed at consolidating concepts and applying these skills to new situations. Students utilise concrete materials to support early concept development, before moving towards pictorial representations of mathematical problems. The final step is to be able to apply abstract mathematical thinking to solve problems where students can readily apply a range of algorithms to demonstrate their understanding.





# CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

## School Readiness Program

### Kindergarten 2024

We believe that one of the most effective ways to support students entering St Edward's School is through our School Readiness Program. Our readiness program begins in Term 1 of the year prior to students starting Kindergarten. This allows 12 months of readiness opportunities listed below:

*School orientation days that have been timetabled to allow teachers to work with new students.*

*Parents are invited to attend information sessions during orientation and transition sessions on topics such as reading, maths, oral language, fine motor, regulation strategies, assessments and administration.*

*Staff complete assessments on students to collect data on oral language, hearing and fine and gross motor skills.*

*Parents are invited to attend our Kinder Readiness Expo where allied health professionals share key information about preparing children for school.*

*Students are provided access to school library books through the 1000 before school program.*

*Qualitative data from Kindergarten interviews is gathered to support school readiness.*

During these 12 months we are able to support students, parents and families to be ready to access the curriculum to enable them to be successful learners.







## Intervention and Inclusion

### Social Skills Program

Ensuring that our learners are able to be safe and respectful in their peer interactions is very important to us at St Edward's School. To support students' social development we run small targeted groups during break times when we use the 'We Thinkers' programs. This program focuses on expected and unexpected behaviours, size of the problem and size of the reaction as well as being a social detective.



### Oral Language Development

Providing extensive opportunities for early oral language development is of key importance at St Edward's. Our Oral Language Specialist Teacher, Mrs Alexandra Brownsmith, has successfully led this project this year, and her work in the classrooms supporting students and staff has allowed for purposeful oral language activities to be carefully planned and delivered. The 'Word of the Week' initiative in 2023 has challenged all students, staff and families to increase their vocabulary skills which has been inspired by Mrs Brownsmith's colourful costumes and intriguing props. In addition to this, the successful three-year oral language project has now been compiled and published into a book entitled: Enhancing Oral Language Development in Early Childhood.



### School Intervention Team Meetings

Our 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. The School Intervention Team meets weekly to discuss individual student needs and determine the next best steps for academic, engagement and wellbeing support.



### Personal Plans

When students require adjustments to support them to access the curriculum due to a diagnosed or imputed disability, we develop a personal plan. This plan supports students, teachers and families to work together to develop learning goals. These goals determine the supports that are in place to enable individual students to achieve their personal best.



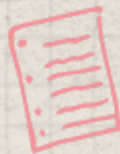


# CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

## Assessment and Reporting

### Student Learning Progress Meetings

This year has seen the continuation of our work around Student Learning Progress Meetings. During Terms 1 and 3, parents and families were invited into school to meet with their child's teacher. These meetings are intentionally learning-focused and data-informed, which allows the conversation to centre on the next learning goals for our students. By identifying what the 'next small step' in learning might be, parents and teachers are able to work collaboratively in supporting students to continue their progress and growth in learning.



### NAPLAN Results

NAPLAN assessments saw a major change this year with a move away from the previous band reports to now using proficiency standards instead. For each of the five domains, student results in Year 3 and 5 are categorised into four new proficiency levels: Exceeding, Strong, Developing or Needs Additional Support, which are supported by easy-to-follow explanations for each level. All students should be proud of their efforts in NAPLAN this year, and the school had many successes to celebrate:

*85% of Year 3 students achieved Exceeding or Strong in Writing*

*70% of Year 3 students achieved Exceeding or Strong in Numeracy*

*81% of Year 5 students achieved Exceeding or Strong in Reading*

### PM Benchmarks

Students have continued to develop their reading skills over the past year, and teachers have observed excellent growth and achievement for all students. Through regular one to one assessments, students have been able to demonstrate how they can blend the skills of decoding, comprehension and fluency in becoming a 'Balanced Reader'. With a goal of 80% of students reading at their chronological benchmark levels by the end of each year, students are continuing their progression from learning to read, towards reading to learn.



### Progressive Achievement Tests

As another external measure of student learning, Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) assess students in the areas of Reading and Mathematics. These assessments are completed during Term 4 each year which enables teachers to track the progressive nature of student growth, and plan for how to support and extend all learners in the classroom. As an adaptive, computer-based assessment, questions are individually tailored to each student depending on their understanding which allows all students to be successful at the level they are currently working at.

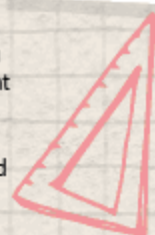
# TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



## Instructional Coaching

### Professional Learning Teams

Research shows that being part of a strong team significantly improves collaboration, instruction efficiency and morale. Our school is blessed with strong teaching teams across both campuses, and we are grateful for the time and passion that all of our teachers put into educating the students at St Edward's. As a Professional Learning Team, grade teams of teachers meet each fortnight to analyse student assessment data, plan and evaluate units of work, and reflect on their teaching practice. This protected time is invaluable in enabling teams of teachers to work collaboratively to plan quality teaching and learning experiences for students in all key learning areas.



### Learning Walks

On several occasions this year, parents, families and teachers from outside our school have all joined us for learning walks around St Edward's. This fantastic opportunity has allowed us to showcase the excellent teaching and learning that is happening every day in all of the classrooms. By observing our pedagogical practices, parents were able to gain an insight into what learning really looks like at our school. If you would like to join us on a learning walk in the future, please keep an eye out for invitations next year.



### Coaching and Mentoring

Through learning walks, peer observations and co-teaching opportunities, our teachers are able to take on the role of coach and mentor for one another. Providing constructive feedback to peers is known to be a highly effective instructional practice and it allows our staff to reflect on their own teaching methods. At St Edward's, we believe that all staff can act as coach or mentor to one another due to the strong teams that we have throughout the school.

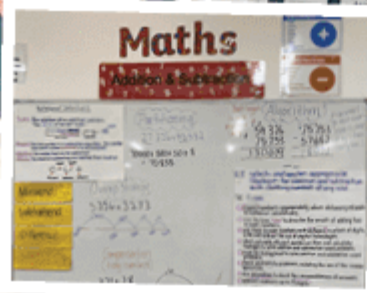
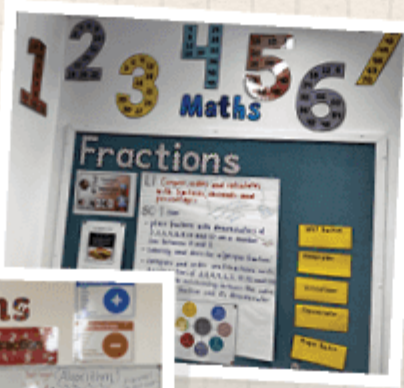
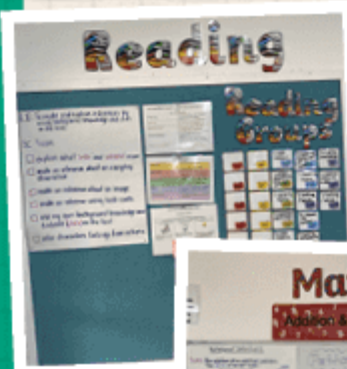


### Early Career Teachers

St Edward's School is an excellent place for teachers to begin their teaching profession. With a comprehensive support framework in place, we are able to provide quality feedback to our Early Career Teachers which is enhanced through the additional support provided by staff at the Armidale Catholic Schools Office. It was with great pride this year that Mrs Taylor Mavin, Mr Chris Kay and Mrs Alicen Ward were all successful in receiving their proficient teaching accreditation from the NSW Education Standards Authority.



# TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



## The Third Teacher

'The Third Teacher' is the name we give to the walls in our learning spaces. As a support for students, these walls consist of co-constructed Learning Intentions and Success Criteria, VCOP resources, samples of high quality student work and current student learning goals. In 2023, teachers have focused on how 'The Third Teacher' can also support student learning in Mathematics. Learning Intentions and Success Criteria, bulletproof definitions, common misconceptions, modelled strategies and student work samples are all now visible across our classrooms to support students during their Mathematics lessons.



## Living Well, Learning Well

### Rules For Living

The Armidale Catholic Schools Office has developed a wellbeing framework called 'Living Well, Learning Well'. This framework is underpinned by an unconditional positive high regard for children and young people. The community of St Edward's supports the framework by exposing everyone to our three rules for living: 'I am safe, I am valued, respected and cared for, and I am a learner'. Parents are encouraged to support these rules by committing to the Positive Partnership Agreement to allow everyone to feel safe, valued and respected.



## Multi-Tiered Student Support

A further element of the Living Well, Learning Well framework is a multi-tiered system of support. Tiered support allows our school to identify the support required for academic, engagement and wellbeing success and put these interventions in place. Tier one support is best first teaching and all students access this level. When additional support is required, students move into a tier two program such as the Minilit program for academic support, or the We Thinkers program for engagement and wellbeing support. Following this, if a greater need is identified, students will move into tier three programs such as the Read 3 program, Reading and Maths dashes, individual engagement plans or counselling.

# TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



## Tamworth Schools Professional Development

### Engaging & Meaningful Mathematics

To begin Catholic Schools Week this year, St Edward's hosted a professional development day for staff across all Catholic schools in Tamworth. With workshops focused on instructional practices and strategic planning, teachers were able to share ideas and insights on how to provide students with the opportunities to reach their full potential in mathematics. A thank you to John O'Connor (School Performance Leader) and staff from the Armidale CSO for leading this staff development.



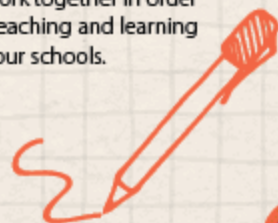
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### Combined Professional Learning Team Meeting



In continuing the collaboration opportunities between the Catholic schools in Tamworth, Term 3 saw staff gather in different stage teams at St Edward's, St Joseph's and St Nicholas schools. The focus of these meetings was unpacking the new curriculum in English and Mathematics and sharing expertise between the schools. As a system of schools within the Armidale diocese, it is important that staff are able to network together in order to improve teaching and learning across all of our schools.





# PARTNERSHIPS

## Sharing Expertise

### Parent Workshops

Partnerships with our parents is one of our big goals at St Edward's School. We know the benefit for our students if staff and families work together. One of the ways that we support this partnership is through our parent workshops. These workshops included topics such as Kindergarten Readiness, Oral Language, The Science of Reading, Understanding NAPLAN and Mathematical Thinking. Education around these topics allows conversations at home to reflect those at school and enhances achievement of personal learning goals. If you are interested in learning more about any of these topics, please keep an eye out for information on parent workshops in 2024.



### Newcastle Maitland Visits



St Edward's School continues to share and collaborate with schools outside of our system. Mr Jason Hanrahan and his team from the Maitland and Newcastle Diocesan spent time at both campuses as a part of their Tamworth study tour. The aim of their visit was to observe our system approach to the English and Mathematics blocks as well as the success of our Living Well, Learning Well Framework.

## School Enrichment

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Education

It has been pleasing to see that the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students at St Edward's continues to grow each year. With almost a quarter of our students identifying as indigenous, the school proudly offers authentic opportunities for students to learn about their culture and heritage. Our highly skilled Aboriginal Education Assistants guide the students through a variety of learning activities that allow students to gain a deeper understanding and connection to their history.





# PARTNERSHIPS



## Passion Projects

Our Education Assistants are the engine room of our school! Not only do they support students in the classroom and with intervention programs, these angels also run a wide variety of projects to support student engagement. A passion project is an individualised or independent project that allows students to pursue their own areas of interest or - as the name suggests - passion. In a passion project, students have an opportunity to dive into a specific skill, topic, or medium which has been an amazing way to engage, inspire and teach the students. Projects this year have included: creative arts, drama, oral language, key word sign, board games, social skills and fine motor skills.



## Library Learning

The St Edward's school libraries at both the infants and primary campuses have continued to be a source of excitement for all students this year. With expanded book collections, students are eagerly borrowing books each week and popular book series rarely get left on the shelves! With the library open before school, at recess and at lunch, you will always find students reading for pleasure, researching projects, playing board games with friends, completing art activities or even building models with Lego.

The success of the annual Book Week parade at both campuses, along with the ever-popular Book Fair, demonstrates the importance that our school libraries have for all students, staff and families.



## Author In Residence

We were very lucky to have Cameron Stelzer, a renowned Australian author, visit our school for a week during Term 2 this year. Cameron ran a whole range of workshops for all age groups where students were able to work on their skills as authors and illustrators. Thank you to Mrs Annie Madden for coordinating this visit for all students and staff.





## PARTNERSHIPS

### Debating Team

Our Year 6 Debate team has certainly found their voice this semester! With topics such as 'water bottles must be banned' and 'all zoos should be closed', the team worked seamlessly in creating well-researched arguments and rebuttals. Each debate the team participated in was closely fought, but the passion in how the team presented their arguments found them on the winning side on several occasions. Congratulations to the team of Paris, Martha, Amity, Isabella and Felicity, who were very well supported by their debate coach, Mrs Carla Michell.



### Music Making



The Creative and Performing Arts was an area that the school wished to develop this year. With Mr James Crasswell joining our staff in 2023, instrumental groups have been created in all grades at the primary. Guitars, drums, keyboards, ukuleles and xylophones can all be heard in our Music Hub, and the enjoyment that the students are getting from this experience has been fantastic. We look forward to hearing their musical skills and repertoire flourish in the future!



### McCarthy Catholic College Partnerships

Gross motor skills are an important part of learning at school. Not only do these skills support play, they also support concentration and focus. PDHPE students from McCarthy Catholic College have visited St Edward's each fortnight to work with small groups of Kindergarten children with a focus on gross motor skills. Kindergarten students have loved working with their "big buddy" to learn skills such as balancing, skipping, throwing and catching. Further to this partnership, the CAFS class from McCarthy have also supported our Kindergarten Orientation during Term 4. Having these students on hand to wipe away tears and encourage little people to have fun at school is invaluable.

McCarthy students not only work with our Kindergarten students to help with their gross motor skills but also refine activities for our primary students too. This year the McCarthy students worked with our Year 4 classes to help refine their gross motor skills onto more set specific tasks. This partnership not only helps the McCarthy students demonstrate their knowledge in gross motor activities but it also allows our students to demonstrate their individual skills, teamwork and ability to participate in group settings.







## Parents and Friends Association

Our school is incredibly fortunate to have such committed and passionate members of our Parents and Friends Association. Their drive and generosity seem limitless, and we are indebted to them for supporting so many school fundraising projects this year. From mother's and father's day stalls, the pie drive, BBQs at sports carnivals, Easter raffles and the mango fundraiser... the list goes on!

Students were taken aback at the arrival of twelve brand new outdoor seating tables that were purchased by the P&F through their fundraising efforts, with the school also benefiting from their generosity with a new school BBQ and large gazebo tent that will be used for sporting carnivals. A huge thank you to Lauren Propsting, Melissa Vine and Jessica Smith for leading our P&F, and to all the countless volunteers who have assisted at any of the events during the year.



## Sporting Focus

### Jump Rope for Heart

This year, St Edward's students participated in Jump Rope for Heart for the first time in over twenty years. The program aims to raise much needed funds for the heart foundation and is an excellent way for our students to not only improve their fitness but to also set small achievable goals. More than half the students participated in the event with everyone improving their skipping skills and learning some amazing tricks over the five week program. We were so excited to end our program with a jump off day where our wider community was invited to come and witness the amazing skipping abilities of our students.





# PARTNERSHIPS

## Whole School Carnivals

St Edward's School holds three annual sporting carnivals. These events are not only a great occasion for our school community, but also act as pathways for students to progress further in these sports.

Our school starts the year with our Year 3 to 6 students participating in the school swimming carnival. This year's carnival saw Therry take out the win with everyone involved showing our true St Edward's spirit in both participation and cheering. St Edward's School was able to send 19 students to Gundeeah to represent our school at diocesan swimming.



Cross country is a special occasion as we get to utilise our amazing school grounds to run the course - there are not many schools in Tamworth that boast such an amazing backdrop for their cross country! This is always the first sporting event that Kindergarten students are able to participate in and they never fail to amaze all the staff and parents. Kennedy was the champion house of the day, and so were the 42 students who went on to represent our school at diocesan cross country held in Barraba.



**GREAT**

Our annual athletics carnival was a picturesque day with not a cloud in the sky (a rarity for the Athletics centre in winter). Our students from Kindergarten through to Year 6 competed in both track and field events throughout the day. This is a special day for our school as it is another opportunity to celebrate with our parents and wider St Edward's community. This year we had a large number of students not only represent our school at the diocesan athletics carnival, but eight students then went on to make the diocesan team to compete at the Polding carnival in Sydney. Our very own Aria Sutherland in Year 2 went one step further and made the Polding team which competed at the NSW PSSA State athletics championships where she finished in 6th place in the 100m. How amazing are the students at St Edward's!!





## PARTNERSHIPS

### School Awards



#### Australian Education Awards

For a third consecutive year, St Edward's School was a finalist in the Australian Education Awards, this year being nominated in the Regional School of the Year category. Whilst we may not have come away with the overall title, this is another impressive accolade for our school community.



#### Spirit of Catholic Education Award

Congratulations to Mrs Alexandara Brownsmith who received the Experienced Teacher Award at the 2023 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards! As a strong classroom practitioner, Alex took on the role of Oral Language Specialist Teacher in 2022. She has been instrumental in guiding our School Readiness program, and she has developed a suite of assessments that enables the school to know each individual student's learning profile prior to beginning school. Alex is an outstanding teacher and leader, and we are very fortunate to have her amongst our staff here at St Edward's.



#### Australian Teacher Aide of the Year

St Edward's is also blessed with an incredible team of Education Assistants. All of our amazing EAs are worthy of receiving an award as their tireless efforts and invaluable contribution to the education of our students is phenomenal. This year, our very own Kathryn Duffy was nominated for the prestigious Australian Teacher Aide of the Year award for her expertise in supporting students in learning to read. Although Kathryn did not walk away with the title, we count our blessings every day to have her as part of the St Edward's staff and Year 5 team.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Sacramental Celebrations

### Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation

Catholic students in Years 2, 3 and 6 received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation during this year. This is always a special time for the students and their families. We thank Father Paul and Deacon Paul for their support of the children during this time.



## Curriculum

### Aboriginal Spirituality in Religious Education

At the end Term 3, the teaching staff gathered together to refresh their knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spirituality within the curriculum. On this day, the staff heard from Mr Darryl Martin (CSO), Miss Brittany Cloake, Mr Jarrod Peachey and Mrs Amanda Gwalter as they shared their expertise in this field.



### Staff Twilight Reflections

The CSO Renewal Team led two staff twilight reflections during 2023. These occasions enable the staff to nourish their prayer life and relationship with God.

### Year 6 RE Test

Our students demonstrated their knowledge within RE in completing the annual Year 6 RE test earlier in June. The students received pleasing results with an average score of 26.8, with 24 students receiving a Distinction and 7 students receiving a High Distinction.





## School Masses and Liturgies

### Feast Day Masses

The whole school has gathered together on several occasions throughout the year to celebrate Masses in the Church. In addition to this, students have also participated in grade and class liturgies to mark special occasions in our church and community. Students and their families have also been able to celebrate together at our weekend family Masses.



## Service

### Fundraising

The school community has generously donated to a number of worthy causes this year. Caritas and Catholic Mission continue to be the organisations that the Armidale diocese supports due to their charitable works for communities in need. From PJ day, Free Hat Fridays and Crazy Socks, the students have participated in lots of fun ways to raise money.

Our school has also supported the Winter and Christmas Appeals organised by St Vincent de Paul. We wish to thank all families who have donated goods for these worthy causes which make a difference in our local community.



## Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies society continue to focus on service to others and have worked hard promoting and supporting the fundraising efforts of the school. The team has also given up their time each week to ensure our school is kept neat and tidy. Students particularly enjoyed picking oranges from our fruit trees at school and donating them to HOPE kitchen, a parish initiative that provides free meals to the community.





# MOVING INTO 2024

## 2024 Annual Improvement Plan

Taking the time to reflect on the successes of 2023 demonstrates how much there is to share and celebrate here at St Edward's. All students should be commended for their effort and application this year, and they are to be incredibly proud of their own growth and achievement.

With a dedicated staff and committed school community, we are consistently able to provide high quality learning opportunities for all of our students. Our gratitude as a school extends to all parents, families and the wider community who have supported St Edward's School in 2023, we certainly could not do our job without you!

As we move into 2024, the school will again continue to focus on its strategic mission and vision where all staff, students and stakeholders aim to be the best versions of themselves. **We will build on the solid foundations from this year with three key priorities:**

1. **Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction**
2. **Strong Teams**
3. **Fostering Partnerships**



These priorities will be achieved through targeted strategies, projects and outcomes that will be worked on throughout the year. Some of these will include:

### Multiple Outcomes

- Implementing the new English and Mathematics curriculum in Stages 2 and 3
- Refining assessment and reporting practices
- Improving instructional pedagogy through coaching and mentoring
- Creating opportunities for improved student agency
- Collaborating between staff, schools and wider networks
- Enhancing school enrichment opportunities for students
- Embracing the positive partnership commitment with parents and families
- Sharing the continued success of the school, staff and students

**MOVING INTO 2024**





## 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**

