

2014 Annual School Report

St Michael's Primary School, Nelson Bay



12 Sproule Street
NELSON BAY NSW 2315
www.nelsonbay.catholic.edu.au

About the Annual School Report

St Michael's Nelson Bay is registered by the Board of Studies as a member of the Catholic system in the Dioceses of Maitland-Newcastle.

The Annual School Report provides parents and the wider community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The Report describes achievement of school development priorities in 2014 and gives information about 2014 priorities.

This Report is a legislative requirement under the [Schools Assistance Act, 2008](#).

The information in this Report is complemented by the school website where other school publications and newsletters can be viewed or obtained from the school.

Messages from Key School Bodies

Principal

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual School Report for 2014 for St Michaels' Primary School Nelson Bay. This report outlines the various significant events and achievements that have been part of the life of St Michael's during the 2014 school year.

St Michael's has a very strong Catholic identity and is very focussed on the young children in their care and they strive to ensure that all students have the best education possible. It has a very close relationship with its parish and is very much involved in parish activities.

There are a variety of programs which run in the school to assist students in all areas of the curriculum. These programs are assisted by the Learning Support Teacher and the Pastoral Care Worker who is funded by DEEWR.

St Michael's is a school which values the relationships between students, staff and parents. The enthusiasm, support and commitment of staff, and the supportive and hardworking parents as well as the happy, eager and cooperative students are very impressive.

2014 has again been a very successful year with many reasons to celebrate. Students have had many opportunities to experience and participate in sport, physical activity, performing arts and community events throughout the year.

St. Michael's continues to grow and develop. It is well respected in the community for both academic and cultural achievements and always participates in community events.

Parent Body

For the St Michael's P & F Committee of 2014, it's been a very productive and busy year. Fundraising events held were the Easter raffle, Mother's day stall, Lap-a-thon, Father's day stall, Lucky Local programs, Entertainment books and a Movie night. With the funds raised, we continued with the installation of air-conditioning systems in classrooms. We also have installed an irrigation system and are currently turfing the playground. This will be completed in the early part of 2015. The P & F committee is a great team of parents and friends along with the valuable support of the Principal, Teachers and the St Michaels Parish. All involved have a fantastic commitment to the students and for the overall benefit of St Michaels Primary School.

Student Body

St Michael's is a very nurturing, friendly and caring school. As leaders we have been able to help and support the teachers and the other students. Our school rules are to 'Be Safe, 'Be Respectful' and 'Be a Learner'. This year we have 8 school leaders for the first semester and 8 leaders for the second semester. That gave more students a chance to take on this role but we see all Year 6 as leaders. St Michael's is a great school.

Who We Are

History of the School

St Michael's School was opened in 1962. Prior to the opening of the school, the Sisters of Mercy travelled from Stockton Convent twice monthly to help instruct the large numbers of children of Catholic parents who were among the New Australians who had been brought to the former military camp. In 1960 Nelson Bay was cut off from Stockton Parish and was made a parish with Fr Dilley as the first resident priest. In January 1962 a new brick Church-Hall in Magnus Street was blessed and this was to serve also as three classrooms of the school. When school commenced on January 30 there were 42 pupils.

At the suggestion of Fr Brian Walsh, Director of Schools, a Parent-Teacher meeting was held on 28 February, at which there was almost a full attendance of parents who were in a position to attend. All were keen to meet the teachers and to cooperate with them in the education of their children. In 1963 school enrolment was 60. Eventually 5.5 acres of land were issued in Wahgunyah Road with the building of a school in mind. This eventuated in 1969. The new school was blessed and opened by Bishop Toohey on 14 September.

Further extensions to the school were blessed and opened by Bishop Leo Clarke on 12 February 1984. As the result of a generous donation exceeding \$100,000 by a parishioner, Mary Lopes, a modern school library was opened and blessed in 1991. The library was named the Lopes Library in honour of the benefactor. The present administration building was upgraded and opened on the 25th September 2003 by Bishop Michael Malone. In 2009, monies were distributed by the Federal Government, under the BER Scheme, to cover the construction of a hall and other vital infrastructure here at St. Michaels. The extensions were finished and in use by Term 3 2011. In 2014 St Michael's had a student population of 305 with 13 classes.

Location/Drawing Area

St Michael's is one of the primary schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. St Michael's is a middle size school situated in Nelson Bay on the Tomaree Peninsula at Port Stephens. The school draws from a variety of areas on the Peninsula – Nelson Bay, Anna Bay, Fingal Bay, Soldiers Point, Salt Ash, Salamander Bay, Taylors Beach Tanilba Bay and Lemon Tree Passage.

Characteristics of the Student Body

The table below shows the number of students in each of the categories listed.

LBOTE*	SWD*	Indigenous
0	16	12

*Language Backgrounds Other Than English (LBOTE); Students with Disabilities (SWD)

Religious Dimension and Culture of School Life

Catholic Identity

The Sisters of Mercy, who travelled from Stockton Convent twice a month to help instruct Catholic children, founded St Michael's School. As a school community, strong emphasis is placed on the Gospel values of justice, service and love, embracing our School Motto of Truth and Trust, which was evidenced by our mission to outreach to the marginalised, the poor, and the elderly. Food collections for Saint Vincent De Paul, concerts for the infirmed in retirement homes, morning tea for parishioners, and fund raising for Catholic Mission are examples of our school community actively living out Jesus challenge to 'love one another as I have loved you'. The Catholic school focuses on the faith formation of young people and educates them through the implicit teaching of religion. The foundation of the Catholic school is based upon enhancing and promoting knowledge and understanding of the traditions of the Catholic community, its story, its experiences and its teachings. Hence, faith experiences are enriched and developed through a variety of prayer, and liturgy experiences. For example Liturgies of the Eucharist, Liturgies of the Word, linked closely to the Liturgical Year, curriculum units of work, and secular days of celebration, i.e. Mother's Day and Father's Day, St Michael's School does not replace the home but complements it, in the education of the students. We encourage parents to continue to take an active part in the children's faith journey, in partnership with the school experience.

The School as part of Parish and Diocesan Life

St Michael's School fosters a collaborative environment that promotes the catholicity of St Michael's School in the wider community. From the active involvement of Father Kevin in the liturgical and spiritual life of the school, along with the participation of staff, parents and students in a range of parish celebrations, exemplifies the spirit of the St Michael's community. The Parish Community is encouraged, and welcomed to be actively involved in school life. As a school community, St Michael's staff and students were involved in a number of Liturgies, which embraced both the Liturgical Year, as well as secular celebrations; these included Catholic Schools Week, Family Masses, and participation in the Sacramental Masses.

The focus of the parish is that the school is a vital arm of its educative mission and every endeavour is made to include the school in the overall pastoral plan of the parish.

Our Diocesan involvement includes participation in the annual Called to Serve Mass, Principal's Mass, Catholic Schools Week Mass and attendance at various other Diocesan celebrations. The Principal represents the school at parish council level, attending meetings and Diocesan Assemblies. The Parish Priest works cooperatively with the school's Religious Coordinator, Executive staff, teachers and parents during liturgy celebrations.

Teaching of Religion

St Michael's implements the Diocesan K-12 Religion Syllabus. An essential element of each day's learning is a focus time on children learning about our Catholic Faith, deepening their spirituality and providing a time for prayer and reflection. The importance of having such a time each day is reflected in the expectation that teachers in the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle ensure that 2 ½ hours teaching/learning time each week is allocated to Religious Education. Stages 3 are currently implementing the new units with some classes across K-4 trialling the new scope and sequence.

The classroom teaching at St Michael's promotes student centred learning, utilising the Diocesan Units of Work. Students are immersed through scripture, music, liturgy, prayer, human resources such as Father Kevin and Richard Cootes: therefore enabling opportunities for our students to come to know and understand Jesus' mission of love, through the content of the program and the lived experience. Year 6 participated in a Religion Assessment which was across the diocese.

The staff creates a spirit within the school, parish and wider community, which builds interpersonal relationships, and models the Christian virtues of forgiveness, respect for human dignity and acceptance of failure of both oneself and others. Prayer and reflection should provide a focus for the beginning of each day as well as at other times during the day. The importance of prayer is supported through the establishment of a special sacred space in each classroom, which reflects the unit of work being undertaken at the time. The purchase of resources to support the teaching and learning of Religion is ongoing.

Retreats and Faith Development Programs

The school acknowledges the importance of religious and faith development programmes for both staff and students. The school participates actively in prayer to support each other and the families of the school and Parish. The staff gathers one morning each week to pray together. On a number of occasions the staff also engages in deep personal reflection during prayer times.

Staff continued to update their Faith Education Accreditation, with many staff participating in the school based Lenten Program. Teachers attended courses to fulfil requirements to meet ongoing accreditation expectations.

Students receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion had the opportunity to attend a retreat. Students receiving the Eucharist travelled to St Mary's Cathedral, and Mary MacKillop Place, and those students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation attended a retreat based on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Sacramental programs are conducted after school and in evenings. These form part of the school and parish faith development. Senior students also take part in a 'Mighty Mate' training program and leadership course.

Values and initiatives to promote respect and responsibility

St Michael's promotes respect and responsibility through both formal and informal programmes and initiatives. Our actions both at school and in the wider community are integral to our school's philosophy and values. The school and wider community take very seriously their commitment to social justice and are very proud of their efforts in this area. The generosity of the children, staff and parents and their commitment to social justice issues reflects their awareness of the needs of others.

Activities that reflected our Social Justice perspective included the many fundraisers to support the Catholic Missions, Our Mission Day with Richard Cootes, the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal for hampers and participation in the Anzac March. The school choir and a number of classes also visited retirement villages at Easter and Christmas time to entertain the residents and hand out simple gifts on behalf of St Vincent De Paul. Our students are encouraged to realise how significant they are in each other's lives. How they indeed can be the face of God to others. This is reflected in the way we try to treat one another; with dignity and respect. The school also set up a Minnie Vinnies so that the students could support those who are not as lucky as themselves. The school continues to spend a significant amount of time supporting positive behaviours that are bounded by respect, responsibility and personal commitment.

Our school rules: **Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner** provide the focus for explicit teaching on what this behaviour would look like in different settings. The school has placed a real emphasis on rewarding positive behaviour to keep the children desiring to be successful. We continue to use our "Gotcha" token system which is levelled and encourages all students to believe in themselves and to continue at all times to strive to be the very best person they can be. Our students are encouraged to realise how significant they are in each other's lives. How they indeed can be the face of God to others. This is reflected in the way we to treat one another; with dignity and respect.

Policies

Enrolment Policy

St Michael's Nelson Bay follows the guidelines provided by the Catholic Schools Office *Enrolment Policy 2013*. This Enrolment Policy has been devised in order to accommodate the needs of families seeking a Catholic education. It aims to set direction for school procedures and practices for enrolling students into Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and to establish a common, consistent approach in enrolment practices and assist the system of Catholic schools to provide schooling, where possible, for all Catholic children who seek enrolment, cater for the individual needs of each child equitably within the constraints of the available teaching and material resources and to encourage parents enrolling their children in Catholic schools to give support to parish and school life, especially in education in faith.

Copies of the Policy are available from the school, or from the Catholic Schools Office website. Parents concerned about school fees should ensure they make contact with the school. Diocesan provisions (including standard discounts for those with a Health Card) exist to help in this area, and the Principal can also exercise discretion where genuine need exists.

Student Welfare/Discipline

In 2014 St Michael's continued with the National School Chaplaincy Program. This has allowed the school to employ a Pastoral Care Worker who has co-ordinated programs in conjunction with executive staff and classroom teachers (Seasons for Growth) and special individual programs to support students socially and academically. The Friendly School and Families Program commenced in 2009 and has continued. This was supported with the Gotcha Award system as part of the Positive Behaviour Support Program. St Michael's School prohibits the use of corporal punishment and encourages all to work together to create a positive, warm, friendly and caring environment. All action taken, even minor unacceptable behaviour is documented. Parents are informed immediately as per our Pastoral Care Policy. In the planning room, strategies to build skills for the future are presented. Behaviour of a more serious nature or grievances are resolved by conferences where all have the right to be heard, express views and be listened to. The policy sets out planning room procedures, letters, communication slips, bullying procedures, time out procedures, as well as the school award system. Procedural fairness is followed in all instances. Policies are available on the school website.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Catholic schools have the responsibility to promote cultures of trust, cooperation and respect in the lived experience of the Catholic Christian setting. Bullying in a school mitigates such a culture and inhibits the development of positive relational outcomes for the common good of students, teachers and caregivers. St Michael's *Anti-Bullying Policy* is reviewed regularly and is available on the school website.

Complaints and Grievances

The school has formal written protocols in place to address complaints and grievances. These protocols are in line with the Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy (2013), developed to provide a consistent approach for all Diocesan schools. This policy aims to address the concerns of Parents / Carers and the wider community. These concerns may include children's learning, behaviour and welfare, School organisation and management, student health and safety issues.

A copy of this policy and the informative parent brochure is available from the school office, school website or is available on the Catholic Schools Office website. The policy and associated support material was updated in 2013.

Student Achievements

Academic Achievements

During Terms 2 and 3 of 2014, students across grades 3-6 sat the ICAS Science, English and Mathematics competitions. Student achievement in the three subject areas was very pleasing with a number of students achieving results within the top 10-25% of NSW and the ACT. Our Year 5 and 6 students sat the Newcastle Permanent Mathematics Competition with pleasing results. 1 student achieved a High Distinction while 15 were awarded a Distinction and a further 30 students received a Merit commendation.

St Michael's school was successful in the Regional Public Speaking competition with two students successfully progressing to the Diocesan level.

Students were given the opportunity of participating in a variety of enrichment activities across a variety of subject areas. A specialist teacher began enrichment groups from grades 3-6, focused on developing student ability to apply problematic knowledge and creative thinking skills across a number of key learning areas.

School Academic Priorities

Priority	Steps taken to achieve the priority
Improve data collection and analysis	Purchase of PAT testing online and refine collection and plotting data to improve student outcomes
Analysis of NAPLAN data	Explain thoroughly to staff NAPLAN results and discuss how to improve results
Coordinate resources for English and Maths curriculum	Conduct audit of resources for new syllabuses and purchase what is required to assist with teaching

Performance in National Testing

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2014

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. An analysis of these results assists school planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs. The tables below show the percentages of students who achieved particular skill bands in numeracy and the aspects of literacy. The school results shown are compared to students nationally. Literacy is reported in four content strands (aspects): Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. Numeracy is reported as a single content strand.

NAPLAN results in Literacy, Numeracy and Writing for Years 3 and 5 indicate a high standard of academic achievement at St Michael's. Results showed an increased number of students in the top 2 bands for reading, grammar and punctuation. Data indicates that the school's integration of newly purchased reading in conjunction with a consistent approach to the development of skills has benefited our students. A recent focus in the area of numeracy from K-2 has been reflected in school results with an increased number of our Year 3 students falling into the top 2 bands compared to the state average.

NAPLAN Program 2014 - Year 3 Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 6 and Above	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	18.2%	22.2%	46.7%	6.8%	11.1%
	<i>National Performance</i>	24.5%	21.1%	27.4%	11.4%	14.6%
Band 5	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	40.9%	28.9%	22.2%	59.1%	35.6%
	<i>National Performance</i>	21.7%	22.6%	22.5%	27.7%	21.6%
Band 4	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	25.0%	20.0%	17.8%	20.5%	28.9%
	<i>National Performance</i>	22.5%	23.2%	21.6%	29.8%	27.2%
Band 3	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	6.8%	13.3%	6.7%	11.4%	17.8%
	<i>National Performance</i>	16.2%	16.2%	14.6%	17.9%	21.2%
Band 2	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	9.1%	15.6%	4.4%	0.0%	6.7%
	<i>National Performance</i>	8.6%	9.5%	7.5%	7.0%	10.0%
Band 1	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	2.3%	0.0%
	<i>National Performance</i>	4.5%	5.3%	4.4%	4.2%	3.4%

NAPLAN Program 2014 - Year 5 Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 8 and Above	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	13.2%	7.9%	28.9%	2.7%	2.7%
	<i>National Performance</i>	14.6%	12.0%	16.4%	3.6%	8.8%
Band 7	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	31.6%	34.2%	21.1%	18.9%	21.6%
	<i>National Performance</i>	19.9%	21.6%	20.2%	11.9%	17.1%
Band 6	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	36.8%	39.5%	31.6%	29.7%	48.6%
	<i>National Performance</i>	26.0%	27.2%	25.1%	30.0%	27.7%
Band 5	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	15.8%	10.5%	13.2%	35.1%	13.5%
	<i>National Performance</i>	21.3%	20.8%	20.1%	31.1%	26.4%
Band 4	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	2.6%	2.6%	0.0%	5.4%	13.5%
	<i>National Performance</i>	11.2%	11.1%	10.9%	13.7%	13.5%
Band 3	St Michaels Primary School Nelson Bay	0.0%	5.3%	5.3%	8.1%	0.0%
	<i>National Performance</i>	5.1%	5.3%	5.2%	7.7%	4.6%

Cultural Achievements

St Michael's participated in a variety of cultural events in 2014. Early in the year students were treated to samples of various African rhythms. They were introduced to a number of native African instruments, namely the *Shekere*, a percussion instrument made from the dried fruit of the gourd vine and loosely covered with a wide decorative band of beads. The African performer, Jonas delighted the students and captured their attention with his traditional songs and stories from his childhood growing up in Ghana. They had the opportunity of demonstrating their musical prowess and unique dancing styles. The incursion provided a great exploration into the world of live music and a wonderful glimpse into another culture.

Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 experienced the theme 'Connect to Reading' with the Australian shortlisted books for 2014. Students were also extended the opportunity of meeting local author and illustrator Liz Anelli. During her visit she shared her new book titled 'Howzat' and engaged the students in a number of activities which focused on creating illustrations to help develop a story and essentially make it more vivid and real.

Stage 3 students put on an outstanding World Expo, sharing their cultural knowledge of places in our world. Parents and Parish members were treated to food, dance and costumes from all various corners of our globe.

Our Year 2 students visited Tocal Homestead for a day excursion as part of their English / HSIE topic, 'Changes over Time.' This excursion provided the students opportunities to explore the changes and continuities in the way families have done domestic and rural things over time. This unit focuses on the effects of changes in technology and gender roles. It was a fantastic 'hands-on' learning experience for our students; one that could not be replicated in the classroom.

Kinder and Year 1 students visited the Australian Reptile Park at Somersby. This excursion involved the students drawing on their five senses to learn more about our animal behaviour and environmental adaptation. The students enjoyed the show and the experience of seeing the animals up close and getting to touch and hold them as well. The excursion was a great opportunity to consolidate their learning in the curriculum area of science.

During Term 3 the students of Year 5 and Year 6 walked to Nelson Bay Inner Lighthouse. This was part of the topic, "What Makes Port Stephens so Special?" Along the walk children stopped at certain key points to learn about settlement, history, tourism, fishing

and World War II involvement. Staff and students were very grateful to Mrs Deborah Stretton from d'Albora Marina, Ranger Steve from the Marine Parks Authority and to the four Members of OCCI (Ocean and Coastal Care Initiative) for their terrific assistance with the day. The students then harnessed their thirst for knowledge to complete some amazing presentations about aspects that make Port Stephens such a great place to be.

Parents and Parish members were invited to enjoy the rich and diverse talents of our students with a School Talent Quest. It was a positive experience and served to inspire other talented students to participate in future events.

2014 saw the emergence of a Year 6 Leadership Team. This approach to school leadership afforded a number of our Year 6 students the opportunity of partaking in the role of school leader. All Year 6 students were engaged in a Leadership Day facilitated by the Year 6 Teachers and Support Staff. This day aimed at promoting positive role models, educating students about leadership and excellence, and inspiring and empowering students to make a positive contribution to the school.

St Michael's showed a strong commitment to Environmental Education with the establishment of a student environmental committee. With the support of Bunnings and guidance from committed staff, students established vegetable and herb garden beds. This project was a great success and resulted in the produce from the garden being utilised by the school canteen for healthy lunches and snacks.

A large group attended Anzac celebrations despite inclement weather on the day and represented the school by taking part in a moving ceremony at the Nelson Bay Bowling Club.

Groups from St Michael's visited local area Aged Care Homes entertaining the residents with songs, games and poetry and concluded their visit with a shared morning tea.

Sporting Achievements

During 2014 St Michael's continued to be involved in many sporting activities at various levels. The school encourages all students to participate in sporting activities whether they are school based or community based in the Port Stephens area.

Various sporting clinics are also run at the school including rugby, soccer and cricket. The school competed in the Newcastle Knights Knockout, the Jarrod Mullen Rugby League, the AFL Paul Kelly Cup, Touch Football Gala, Rugby Union Knockout, Diocesan Netball Gala Day and the Port Stephens Soccer Challenge.

Many students represented the school at Regional, Diocesan, Polding and State levels in a variety of sports.

Other Highlights for 2014

During 2014 St Michael's had a focus group for extension and another one for intervention. These were throughout a variety of classes and a teacher was employed two days a week to work with these groups. This teacher also organised a School Talent Quest drawing on the creative talents of our students.

The school also employed an Occupational Therapist working across all grades.

Staff

Staff Qualifications

Qualifications and Experience	Number of Staff	
I. Teachers with teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR).	19	
II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications		
III. (a) Teachers not having qualifications as described in I or II above but having relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context	(a)	(b)

III. (b) Of these which are New Scheme Teachers.		
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Workforce composition

Number of Staff	
Total teaching staff	19
Total non-teaching staff	7
Grand total	26

Percentage of teachers who are Indigenous	0%
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Professional Learning Undertaken

All staff members at St Michael's are encouraged to undertake Professional Development throughout the year. Professional learning is considered an integral part of the teaching and learning process. 2014 was a very busy year for Professional Learning. Various members of staff participated in Coaching Accreditation Program, Introduction to Coaching and Co-Coaching. Members also attended Professional Learning Community sessions, The Art and Science of Teaching, the Ipad Conference and the Hawker Brownlow Learning Conference. All staff attended a Maths Curriculum workshop. In the area of Sport one teacher attended the ACHPER Workshop. Staff also attended their respective Executive courses and days.

Teacher Attendance

The average teacher attendance rate for this school is 95%.

Teacher Retention

The teacher retention rate from 2013 to 2014 was 100%. Two temporary teachers were replaced with another two temporary teachers.

Enrolments

Actual Enrolments 2014

Scholastic Year	Number of Students
Kindergarten	53
Year 1	30
Year 2	42
Year 3	46
Year 4	51
Year 5	39
Year 6	50
TOTAL	311

Student Attendance

Percentage of student attendance by Year level and school average for 2014:

Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	School Average
93.21%	93.42%	93.64%	92.62%	94.05%	91.22%	90.81%	92.71%

Managing non-attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents and guardians, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. The compulsory schooling age is 6 to 17. Principals and school staff, in consultation with students and their parents, will usually be able to resolve problems of non-attendance. While parents should be reminded of their legal obligations under the Education Act (1990) the welfare of the student must be the focus of this consultation. The most effective means of restoring and maintaining regular school attendance includes sound attendance monitoring practices and regular follow-up of unexplained absences by contacting parents promptly. Resolution of attendance difficulties may require a range of additional school based strategies including student and parent interviews, reviewing the appropriateness of the student's educational program, development of a school-based attendance improvement plan, referral to the school counsellor or outside agencies and support from school - based personnel. If a range of school - based interventions has been unsuccessful, support may be requested by referring individual cases of unsatisfactory attendance to the Catholic Schools Office.

Annual School Priorities

Priority	Steps taken to achieve the priority
Look at link between poor coordination and reluctance to read	Employ an Occupational Therapist to work with students and teachers
Set up tracking system for student achievement	Set up excel charts for logging student achievement from year to year Purchase online PAT testing
To build capacity within the staff	All teachers train in Co-coaching

Community Satisfaction

"Thank you for your strength, leadership and compassion this year. It means a lot to all of us at St Michael's."

"We love St Michael's and are sad to leave."

"Thank you for the support shown to our family throughout the year."

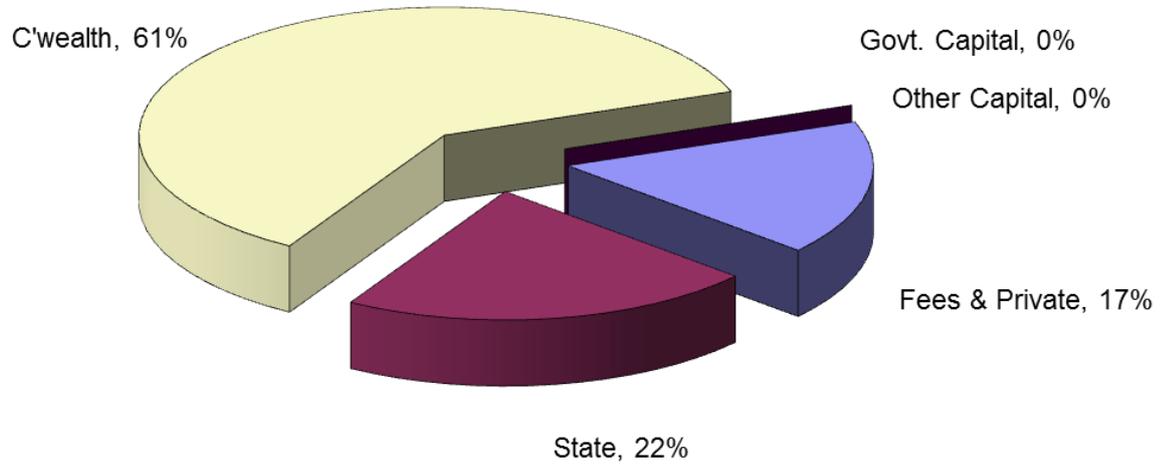
"St Michael's thank you for taking such great care of our children."

"Thank you St Michael's staff for your dedication and commitment."

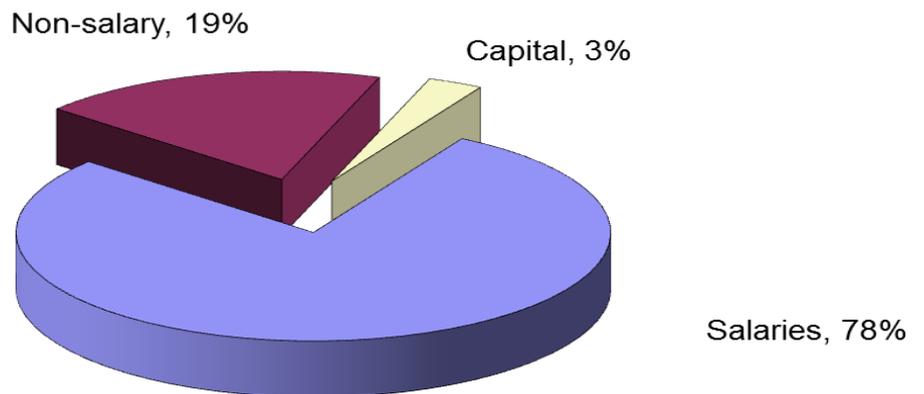
Financial Information

The following graphs represent the income and expenditure for St Michael's Primry School, Nelson Bay for the school year ending 31 January 2015 as aggregated from the annual returns to the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Education.

Recurrent & Capital Income



Recurrent & Capital Expenditure



Concluding Statement

St Michael's Primary School Nelson Bay is proud of its heritage and of its position in the Port Stephens community. This Annual Report is a reflection of the achievements and activities undertaken during the 2014 school year. I am extremely proud of our school community. We have a very talented, committed and dedicated staff, hard-working and cooperative students, generous parents and a very supportive Parish Priest. My thanks to all involved in the education of children at St Michael's Nelson Bay.

Report Access and Publication

This report is available to members of the school and wider communities. Copies will be supplied to the Catholic Schools Office, The Board of Studies, The Parents and Friends Association, the Parish Priest and to all parents.

Copies of this school's Annual School Report are available to the general public. Persons wishing to access a copy of the report should contact:

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Principal

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(02) 4981-1111

For further information relating to the Diocesan Policy please refer to: <http://mn.catholic.edu.au>