

# 2014 Annual School Report

Our Lady of Victories Primary School, Shortland



15 Lovell Parade  
SHORTLAND NSW 2307  
[www.shortland.mn.catholic.edu.au](http://www.shortland.mn.catholic.edu.au)

# About the Annual School Report

Our Lady of Victories 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

The Annual School Reports outlines the many successes and events during the 2014 school year at Our Lady of Victories, Shortland. These successes and celebrations included both academic and sporting achievements. The school participated in a wide range of activities, cultural, sporting and academic, being successful in a variety of settings. The Annual School Report will assist you in looking at the range of opportunities Our Lady of Victories offers the students and families within our school community.

### Parent Body

The P&F continues its fundraising efforts to provide additional resources and opportunities for the students at Our Lady of Victories. I believe we are experiencing a change within the dynamics of the P&F with many longstanding families moving onto high school and new families coming into the school, bringing enthusiasm, excitement and fresh ideas to assist in providing the best learning environment and facilities for the school.

The P&F have supported the education of the children at Our Lady of Victories by providing financial support for singing classes, as well as contributing \$4000 towards new tablets, another \$4000 was directed to reading resources for the infant classes. Some of the fundraising activities that we have planned for the year ahead include our annual Easter Raffle, Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls, school Disco, and Bunnings BBQ. Our inaugural 'Trash and Treasure' day was great community success, both financially and pastorally, and will be followed up with another in 2015. Themed colour days (i.e. pink for Breast Cancer, Purple for Epilepsy) were used to encourage families to participate and feel connected to the school community.

We will continue to provide financial support for our fourth term singing lessons as this is thoroughly enjoyed by students, teachers and parents alike, and provides the basis of our annual Christmas Concert with class performances, a fundraising BBQ and Christmas Hamper raffle, and an opportunity to bring the families of OLV together, strengthening relationships within the school community.

We have outlined a number of goals for the upcoming year and are working together to achieve these for the benefit of the school and students.

Sally Barnes – President of OLV Parents and Friends Association

### Student Body

In 2014, we had a very exciting swimming carnival. Every year the infants do noodle races. Meanwhile the primary classes compete in the form strokes. There is also a medley race that some of the older children go in. If you come 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> you can represent the school at the regional carnival.

In 2014 some of the students, parents and artists painted a mural on the back wall of the primary classrooms. We painted a blue background first then we painted a rainbow with animals etc. It took a long time but it was finally finished and looks great.

Jasmine Hole, Caleb O'Brien, Scarlett Newton & Levi Carpenter (School Captains & Vice Captains)

# Who We Are

## History of the School

Our Lady of Victories Primary School was established by Fr Roley Smyth with three Sisters of Joseph (Mary Cecily, Matthew and Marguerite) originally being named St Joseph's in 1957. It started with an initial enrolment of 81 in a range of classes from Kinder to year 4. It grew steadily over the subsequent years and reached a total of more than 300 in classes Kinder to Year 6 during the sixties.

The school currently has an enrolment of 132 children and has been without the sisters for about 15 years, though the Sisters do have a presence in the parish. In 2007, the school celebrated 50 years of Catholic Education in Shortland and the completion of a new library, administration, staff and children facilities in June. In 2011, a community hall was constructed at Our Lady of Victories with Funding from the Federal Government BER program.

## Location/Drawing Area

The school is situated in Shortland and draws children from the surrounding areas of Birmingham Gardens, Maryland, Wallsend and Jesmond.

## Characteristics of the Student Body

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

LBOTE*	SWD*	Indigenous
18	9	6

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

# Religious Dimension and Culture of School Life

## Catholic Identity

Our Lady of Victories Primary School acknowledges the traditional owners of this land, the Awabakal people, and acknowledges the spiritual relationship they have with this country.

Our Lady of Victories Primary School, Shortland opened on 2nd December 1956 and has celebrated over 50 years of Catholic Education in the Parish of Wallsend-Shortland. It has a history built on the traditions of the school's founders, the Sisters of St Joseph.

Inspired by their founder, Mother Mary Mackillop, the Sisters were compelled by God's Spirit to provide a Catholic education to all children to bring about a more just and equal world. The spirit of the Sisters of St Joseph is still evident in the school's commitment to providing the best education possible for all its students, allowing all to have the opportunity to attain their personal best.

{A little bit of history..... Before the church was opened in November 1964, Sunday Mass was celebrated in one of the school's classrooms. This meant that each Friday afternoon, classroom furniture was moved and church pews brought in so that Mass could be said in the classroom, and each Sunday evening, furniture was moved back for the beginning of the school week. }

Our Lady of Victories School is committed to developing a Catholic Faith Community where the formation of respectful, honest, caring and loving relationships with God, with self and with others is promoted and fostered. This is done through the teaching of Religion, Personal Development and Health lessons, social justice discussions, fund raising events for charities, Class Masses, weekly Liturgies, community celebrations such as ANZAC Day, Year 5 Buddy Training Day, Kinder Orientation, Year 5 Leadership Day, Feast Day celebrations and a Year 6 Fun Day.

Every Monday, the school community assembles for a Liturgy that celebrates and promotes being part of a Catholic Community. Each Liturgy is led by a different class each week. The themes of the Liturgies are dependent on various factors such as Church Season, special Church Feast Days, Saints' Days and the spiritual needs of the school community as a whole.

During the Church season of Lent, the focus of Monday Liturgies is Project Compassion. Featured in these Liturgies are the individuals/communities who are showcased in the Project Compassion campaign. Through PowerPoint presentations and video clips, children learn about these people and learn about the ways that Caritas Australia help them improve their lifestyles.

During 2014, each class was responsible for organising a Class Mass. These Masses were celebrated in Our Lady of Victories Church on Fridays at 9am. The whole school attended these celebrations as well as parents and parishioners. An 'Opening of the Year' Mass and 'Catholic Schools Week' Mass were two of the Masses our community celebrated. During the 'Opening of the Year' Mass, the newly appointed School Captains were invited to recite a pledge of allegiance and commitment to their role of student leaders, as well as being presented with their badges. A 'Graduation Mass' for Yr. 6 students was celebrated in December.

## **The School as part of Parish and Diocesan Life**

Our Lady of Victories School values being part of the wider parish community of Wallsend-Shortland. Some of the ways the children and their families are involved in the life of the parish are through altar serving, Liturgies, Masses and Sacramental Programs.

In 2014, there were some special Liturgies held at Our Lady of Victories School.

On Shrove Tuesday, a 'Burning of the Palms' Liturgy (to make the ashes to be used for Ash Wednesday) was celebrated in the School Hall. On Ash Wednesday, the Primary Students attended the Parish Mass at 9am, while the Infant Students received the ashes during a Liturgy with Fr Dom and Sr Angela in the school hall.

In March, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Victories was celebrated with a School /Parish Mass. Also included in the celebrations was a sausage sizzle for children and parents, and a games afternoon. Proceeds from the sausage sizzle were donated to Caritas Australia for their Project Compassion Appeal.

Also in March, Our Lady of Victories School celebrated Catholic Schools Week. After joining the children at Mass, parents enjoyed a morning tea, visited classrooms, and were then treated to a performance by each class in the hall. Also during Catholic Schools Week, the School Captains attended the Diocesan Catholic Schools Week Mass held at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

During Holy Week, the children attended a Reconciliation Liturgy during which the symbols of Christ's Passion were carried forward, placed in a sacred space near the altar and reflected upon. Fr Dom Carrigan attended the Liturgy and spoke to the children about the symbols and about the importance of reconciliation in their lives.

To commemorate Anzac Day, returned soldiers of the Shortland Community attended a Liturgy in the School Hall. Afterwards they enjoyed morning tea with some parents, students and staff. The School Captains attended and participated in the Dawn Service on 25th April at Memorial Grove in Shortland.

The Parish of Our Lady of Victories holds an anointing Mass every three months. In 2014, Yr. 4/5 attended one of these Masses as part of their class Religion discussions on Sacraments. The children were warmly welcomed by those attending Mass and were very reverent and respectful throughout the service.

Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day are always special at Our Lady of Victories School. In May, a Mothers' Day Mass was prepared by Year 2 and attended by many mothers and grandmothers of the school and parish. After Mass, a morning tea for mothers was prepared by staff and parent helpers and served by Yr. 6 children. In September, a Fathers' Day breakfast was held in the school grounds, followed by a Fathers' Day Mass prepared by Year 1.

Also in 2014, the school and parish celebrated the Feast of Mother Mary MacKillop by attending Mass which was organised and led by Yr 3/4.

The school's Religious Education Coordinator and Yr 4/5 teacher are members of the Parish Sacramental Team. Together they coordinated and ran the classes for the Sacramental Programs in which 15 children from O.L.V were enrolled. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated in March, Confirmation, with Bishop William, in June and Eucharist in September.

In November 2014, the Parish of Our Lady of Victories, Shortland, celebrated its 50 years anniversary. Children from the school participated in the Parish Mass by taking part in the Gospel procession. Children also performed a few items at the celebrations after Mass.

During 2014, Sisters Maria and Mary (from Vietnam) continued their work at the school one day a week helping teachers and students in Kinder and Yr 3/4. The Sisters performed some traditional Vietnamese dances and songs at the Parish 50 Years celebrations.

## Teaching of Religion

At Our Lady of Victories, the teaching of Religion is an integral part of our week. Religion lessons are integrated across other Key Learning Areas and the use of information technology is recommended and used when and where possible. Teachers base their teaching of Religion on the Maitland-Newcastle K-12 Religious Syllabus and Resource Units. New units of work in Stage 3 were introduced by the Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools Office and implemented in Year 5/6 in 2014.

In 2014, Year 6 students participated in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Religious Education Literacy Assessment. The students achieved very good results in this assessment.

## Retreats and Faith Development Programs

Staff is encouraged to take part in at least one of the Faith and Spiritual Development courses run by the Spirituality Team at the CSO. In 2014, the staff attended a Regional Spirituality Day at St James School Kotara South. The day was led by Brendan Hyde, a lecturer in children's spirituality and Godly Play, at ACU.2

## Values and initiatives to promote respect and responsibility

At Our Lady of Victories we value every student and encourage each child to reach their potential. We value respect for all, honesty and truth. In October 2014, Yr 5 children participated in a Leadership Day in preparation for their roles as school leaders in 2015. Year 4/5 teacher, Mr. Mark Spencer from the Catholic Schools Office and the school's REC were facilitators. The knowledge and skills that became apparent on this day have proved to be effective tools, for the students in Year 6 2015, to use as they begin their final year at Our Lady of Victories as leaders and mentors to younger children.

During Lent, Project Compassion boxes were available for children to use in their classrooms, at the school canteen and at home. A Lenten Calendar was displayed in each classroom that suggested possible ways of helping others each day of Lent. The generosity was outstanding, indicating a true spirit of social justice within the school.

The school fully supports the work of St Vincent de Paul through fund-raising efforts for their Winter Appeal and Christmas Appeal. In July there was a Colouring-In Competition and an out-of-uniform day to raise money for the Winter Appeal. In December, an out-of-uniform Christmas T-Shirt Day was held to raise money for the Christmas Appeal. Christmas Appeal envelopes were also given to each family. The response from families in 2014 exceeded any total ever reached in any previous year.

## Policies

### Enrolment Policy

Our Lady of Victories 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

An atmosphere of mutual respect, care and understanding is a feature of Our Lady of Victories school life and, student welfare is a high priority at the School.

Our Lady of Victories Pastoral Care worker provides excellent support for students, teachers and families. The students themselves have relished the Pastoral Care worker's presence.

The most popular student welfare programs offered were:

- Kindergarten and Year Six Buddy program;
- Garden Grubs and Chicken Wranglers;
- Lunch play group – once a week;
- Year Six camp - offering opportunity for personal challenges, group work, leadership skills as well as outdoor fitness activities;
- Pastoral Care Worker – open door policy, supporting all students, families and staff;
- Seasons for Growth Program – an outline of the program was presented to parents, prior to completion of the program by a number of students;
- Cool for School program which supports the school's strong approach to Anti-Bullying.
- Year Six to Year Seven Transition Program.

All children were encouraged to participate in school activities. The school supported all programs to ensure no child is excluded due to socio-economic or physical constraints.

Our Lady of Victories Pastoral Care Policy has been identified as a target policy for review in 2014.

## Discipline

The school Behaviour Management Policy clearly outlines the Rights and Responsibilities of all children at Our Lady of Victories both in the classroom and on the playground. It clearly sets out the consequences of making the right and wrong choices. **Corporal punishment is not practised at Our Lady of Victories. Our Lady of Victories does not promote the use of corporal punishment by parents in relation to school discipline.**

Copies of the Behaviour Management Policy are given to all new students and are available from the office and the school website. It was last reviewed in 2008. The Student Behaviour Management Policy is available on the School Website by clicking on the Policies Button or by request from the office.

No changes have been made to the policy since 2012 but this policy is to be reviewed in 2015.

## 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. Our Lady of Victories *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

Academic excellence is valued at Our Lady of Victories. We encourage children to participate in the University of NSW Competitions in Maths, English, Science and Computers as well as Debating and the Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition. Those children who have a skill in the areas of Art, Maths, English and Science are invited to attend a 4 week enrichment course held at San Clemente High School for Year 6 students. Two children from each Stage participated in the Regional Public Speaking competition held at Our Lady of Victories and one child came first in the Stage 1 section for the second year in a row.

## School Academic Priorities

Priority	Steps taken to achieve the priority
Improved student achievement in literacy and numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse NAPLAN results to set explicit goals and strategies for numeracy and literacy</li> <li>• Statement of intent to improve NAPLAN in Numeracy</li> <li>• Implement new English syllabus</li> <li>• Review Programming Proforma</li> </ul>
Improve the quality and effectiveness of students' written texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Release teachers from class to fully engage with the analysis of NAPLAN writing data</li> <li>• Develop a school wide scope and sequence to ensure students engage in writing a range and balance of imaginative, informative and persuasive texts</li> <li>• Students will engage in writing on a daily basis – to include formal writing instruction across KLAs and other opportunities eg WOW (Writing only Writing – journaling etc)</li> <li>• Students will produce a minimum of one 'published' text per term</li> <li>• Systematic and explicit teaching of the sentence structure, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary specified in each stage of the new NSW syllabus</li> <li>• Systematic and explicit teaching of editing skills</li> </ul>
Student support mechanisms that promote wellbeing and mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement anti-bullying tracking using Gate 21</li> <li>• Policy review and evaluation of Pastoral Care and Behaviour Management</li> <li>• Continue and reinforce positive behaviour program</li> </ul>

## 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 Program 2014 - Year 3 Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 6 and Above	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>22.2%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
	<i>National Performance</i>	24.5%	21.1%	27.4%	11.4%	14.6%
Band 5	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>22.2%</b>	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>22.2%</b>
	<i>National Performance</i>	21.7%	22.6%	22.5%	27.7%	21.6%
Band 4	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>
	<i>National Performance</i>	22.5%	23.2%	21.6%	29.8%	27.2%
Band 3	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>22.2%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
	<i>National Performance</i>	16.2%	16.2%	14.6%	17.9%	21.2%
Band 2	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>22.2%</b>
	<i>National Performance</i>	8.6%	9.5%	7.5%	7.0%	10.0%
Band 1	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
	<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	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
	<i>National Performance</i>	14.6%	12.0%	16.4%	3.6%	8.8%
Band 7	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>53.3%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>60.0%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>26.7%</b>
	<i>National Performance</i>	19.9%	21.6%	20.2%	11.9%	17.1%
Band 6	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>
	<i>National Performance</i>	26.0%	27.2%	25.1%	30.0%	27.7%
Band 5	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>	<b>46.7%</b>
	<i>National Performance</i>	21.3%	20.8%	20.1%	31.1%	26.4%
Band 4	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
	<i>National Performance</i>	11.2%	11.1%	10.9%	13.7%	13.5%
Band 3	<b>Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortlist</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
	<i>National Performance</i>	5.1%	5.3%	5.2%	7.7%	4.6%

## Cultural Achievements

Our Lady of Victories offers weekly music lessons to interested children in piano and guitar. There are a number of children who participate and share their learnt skills with the community at assemblies and special occasions. The school employed a singing/choir teacher to teach Acapella singing and the children and staff presented a wonderful Christmas Carols night for the community in our new hall using the new stage lights provided from parents fundraising.

## Sporting Achievements

The school competes at many levels giving the opportunity to all primary children to represent at a school, regional and diocesan level. In 2014 our school had one child who represented the Diocese in Hockey Trials.

## Other Highlights for 2014

Catholic Schools Week was one such significant event for our school. A special liturgy was organised to celebrate the role Catholic schools play in the academic education and faith development of our students. The school held an 'Open Day' which gave parents and grandparents the opportunity to visit classrooms and view their children's work. The event concluded with a concert for which each class performed an item.

We continued our Garden Grubs Club with each class having oversight on a bed in our Veggie patch. A substantial crop was cultivated with tomatoes, lettuce, carrots and strawberries being harvested in abundance. These were used for classroom treats and in the canteen. The Wallsend's Men's Shed fox proofed our chicken coup after sadly losing our "ladies" to foxes. They have been replaced by two active egg layers.

# 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).	10	
II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications	0	
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) 0	(b) 0
III. (b) Of these which are New Scheme Teachers.		

## Workforce composition

Number of Staff	
Total teaching staff	10
Total non-teaching staff	6
Grand total	15

Percentage of teachers who are Indigenous	0%
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## Professional Learning Undertaken

After trialling various elements of the new K-10 English syllabus in 2013, staff fully implemented the syllabus in 2014. The Assistant Principal, Mr Bernard Hammond, attended a Professional Development Course facilitated by Michael Murray (Primary English Teaching Association Australia), which focused on the importance of basing teaching in this Key Learning Area around 'Key Concepts' in English. Mr Hammond reported back to staff on the ideas, content and strategies suggested and staff have taken these on board, incorporating 'Key Concepts' as a basis for planning and programming with the new syllabus

The staff attended a Professional Development Course facilitated by Dr Catherine Attard (University of Western Sydney) which focused on the new K-10 Mathematics Syllabus.

## Teacher Attendance

The average teacher attendance rate for this school is 96%.

## Teacher Retention

The teacher retention rate from 2013 to 2014 was 100%.

Provide appropriate explanation if required i.e. 4 retiring teachers

# Enrolments

## Actual Enrolments 2014

Scholastic Year	Number of Students
Kinder	17
Year 1	22
Year 2	17
Year 3	19
Year 4	21
Year 5	14
Year 6	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127</b>

## 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
96.1	96.4	94.7	96.2	96.8	96.8	93.1	95.7

## 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

Analysis of the school's 2103 NAPLAN data and collegial discussions among staff during Professional Learning Meetings identified the teaching of writing as a target area for improvement in student outcomes. Subsequently a submission was formulated to obtain funding under the School Improvement Project program. The successful funding submission has enabled teachers: to be released from class to further analyse NAPLAN data; to develop overviews of texts students construct across different Key Learning Areas; to investigate and purchase appropriate resources to assist with teaching of writing; and to plan collaboratively with Stage colleagues.

Priority	Steps taken to achieve the priority
Dynamic and harmonious relationships within the school community and between the school and parish	Promote communication with the Parish Sacramental Team and provide support and resources where and when required  Promote the annual Parish / School Family Mass
High quality delivery of a contemporary and relevant religion curriculum	Work with RE & S services to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Pedagogy</li> <li>• Review Assessment</li> </ul> Provide release for staff for RE In-service
Student support mechanisms that promote wellbeing and mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement anti-bullying tracking using Gate 21</li> <li>• Policy review and evaluation of Pastoral Care and Behaviour Management</li> <li>• Continue and reinforce positive behaviour program</li> </ul>

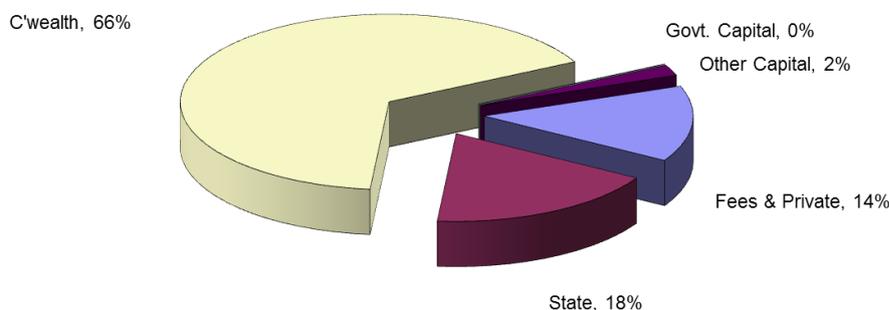
## Community Satisfaction

Our Lady of Victories was involved in the SEVDEV process in 2013. The community was widely surveyed and satisfaction in the school performance was high. Complete results of surveys and the review panel's validations and recommendations are available from the school office. Our Lady of Victories enjoys a high satisfaction rate within the community including parents, students and teachers.

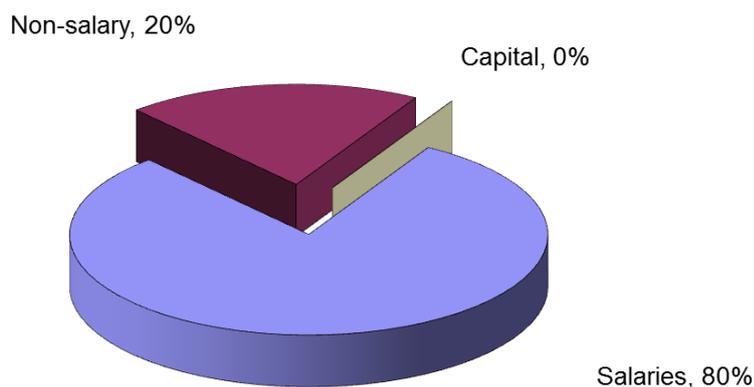
## Financial Information

The following graphs represent the income and expenditure for Our Lady of Victories Primary School, Shortland for the school year ending 31 January 2015 as aggregated from the annual returns to the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Training.

**Recurrent & Capital Income**



## Recurrent & Capital Expenditure



## Concluding Statement

Our Lady of Victories serves a community where student learning is enriched by the generous support of the staff and parents. School initiatives which broaden the scope of activities offered to our students are supported by staff, parents and community members, who give generously of their time and expertise. Our school has a good reputation in our community for its pastoral support and excellent education. We are growing slowly and look forward to the coming years.

Please visit our website at [www.shortland.catholic.edu.au](http://www.shortland.catholic.edu.au) and see what is happening in our school.

## 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:

**Gerry Vandermaat**  
Principal  
Our Lady of Victories Primary School  
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SHORTLAND NSW 2307  
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For further information relating to the Diocesan Policy please refer to: <http://mn.catholic.edu.au>