



Annual School Compliance Data 2023

School Name: St Benedict's School

Registered School Number: 1004

School Contact Information

Address:	Alness St, Applecross WA 6153
Principal:	Mr Steve Miranda
Parish Priest:	Father Nelson Po
School Board Chair:	Mr Toby Hicks
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Website:	www.stbenedicts.wa.edu.au



Contextual Information

In 2023 St Benedict's was a co-educational Catholic Primary School of approximately 400 students ranging from 3 Year-Old Kindergarten through to Year 6. Our pedagogy is in line with the Walker Learning Approach across all grades. Our staff provide a stimulating program focusing on literacy, numeracy and Religious Education as well as a wide variety of cultural and sporting activities. The school offers an enrichment program which includes numeracy and literacy support across all years, along with specialist teaching in Physical Education, Japanese, STEM, Music, Library and Art. The school participates regularly in the annual Catholic Schools Performing Arts Festival. It incorporates a large learning space for children with access to modern technology resources, library, staff work areas and teacher resources. ICT is integrated across the curriculum. Religious Education is an integral part of our school life and this is apparent in the liturgical life of the school and our commitment to the "Making Jesus Real" program. The community at St Benedict's is very strong and supportive, with families participating in a wide range of activities including liturgies, classroom support, fundraising, as well as sporting activities.

Teacher Standards and Qualifications

All of the teaching staff at St Benedict's School :

- met the requirements of the TRB.
- hold current Working With Children Checks
- all teaching staff have a recognised Degree in Education or Early Childhood Education
- 4 teachers hold a Masters Degree

Workforce Composition

In 2023 the school work force consisted of:

Male Teaching Staff:	4
Female Teaching Staff:	25
Indigenous Teaching Staff:	0
Male Non Teaching Staff:	1
Female Non-teaching Staff:	23
Indigenous Non Teaching Staff:	0
Total Staff	53

Student Attendance

Attendance records are kept for all students, with attendance being checked and marked twice daily. In 2023, the following attendance rates are noted:

PP	92%
Year 1	91%
Year 2	90%
Year 3	90%
Year 4	91%
Year 5	90%
Year 6	90%

The overall average student attendance at St Benedict's School was 90%.

Student attendance is recorded in am and pm blocks daily on the SEQTA database. Formal notification of absences are kept and archived at the end of every school year. Non Attendance is managed via an automated SMS notifying parent's each day by 9.15am.

NAPLAN Assessments

The School has produced pleasing results across the key NAPLAN Areas. The below graphs highlight that the school has performed significantly higher than the National, State and CEWA Means.

Year 3 Data 2023

	<i>SCHOOL</i>	<i>CEWA</i>	<i>STATE</i>	<i>NATIONAL</i>
<i>READING</i>	428	400	395	405
<i>WRITING</i>	427	413	409	416
<i>SPELLING</i>	439	401	396	404
<i>GRAMMAR</i>	432	403	402	411
<i>NUMERACY</i>	411	401	399	407

Year 5 Data 2023

	<i>SCHOOL</i>	<i>CEWA</i>	<i>STATE</i>	<i>NATIONAL</i>
<i>READING</i>	515	495	487	496
<i>WRITING</i>	514	484	476	483
<i>SPELLING</i>	523	491	486	489
<i>GRAMMAR</i>	507	490	491	497
<i>NUMERACY</i>	504	483	482	488

Parent, Student & Teacher Satisfaction

The following activities would strongly suggest there is a high level of satisfaction among staff, parents and students on the operation of the school:

- involvement in the parish sacramental programme
- attendance at school liturgies
- regular productive School Board Meetings
- enthusiastic support for the Parents and Friends meetings and activities
- excellent support for the School Fundraiser evening
- positive feedback regarding the student mid-year and annual reports
- excellent attendance and engagement in parent teacher conferences
- effective functioning of the Student Representative Council
- regular parent attendance at school assemblies and special days
- willingness of parents to openly discuss issues with the principal and staff
- energetic, yet safe playground activity
- well-ordered and co-operative school environment

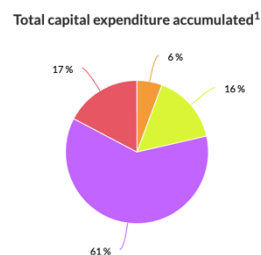
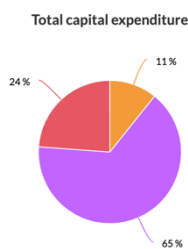
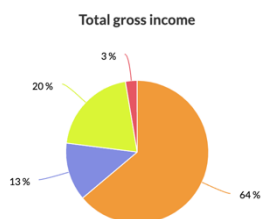
School Income

School financial details can be accessed from the publicly available My Schools Website.

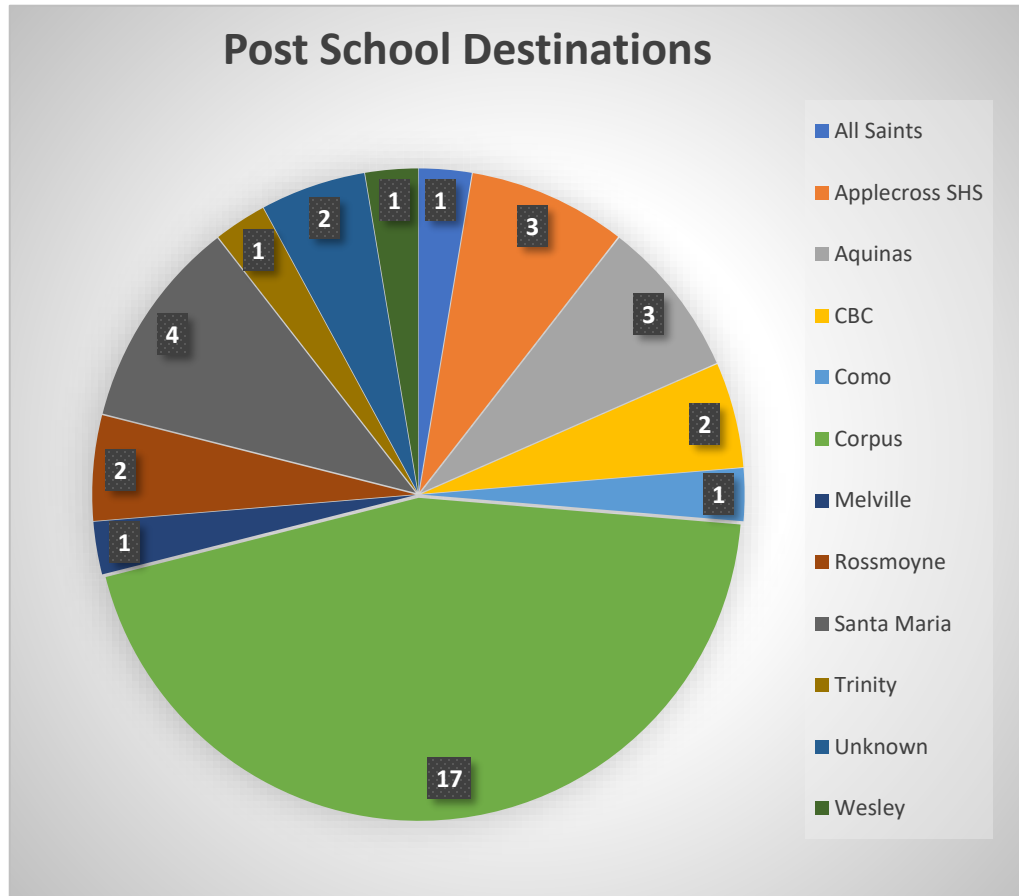
<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

Net recurrent income	\$ Total	\$ per student
Australian government recurrent funding	3,637,592	10,826
State / territory government recurring funding	748,017	2,226
Fees, charges and parent contributions	1,158,111	3,447
Other private sources	150,524	448
Total gross income	5,694,244	16,947
Less deductions	918,692	2,734
Total net recurrent income	4,775,552	14,213

Capital expenditure	\$ Total	\$ Accumulated ¹
Australian government capital expenditure	19,155	20,728
State / territory government capital expenditure	0	0
New school loans	0	57,299
Income allocated to current capital projects	116,352	222,827
Other	42,405	62,913
Total capital expenditure	177,912	363,767



Post School Destinations



Annual School Improvement

In 2023, the school addressed the following areas for improvement:

Catholic Identity

- Enhance the connection between school and Parish
- Continue to Embed MJR into the school
- Build Staff Capacity in Catholic Identity

Education

- Consolidate proficiency in Masth and through an inquiry approach
- Consolidate Talk 4 Writing across the school
- Opportunities for senior student sin the Arts area

Community

- Develop Cultural identity within the school
- Focus on Staff/Student wellbeing
- Community building via the P & F

Stewardship

- Opportunities to profile the school
- Reinvigorate Environmental initiatives across the school.
- Complete capital projects (2 stages)

Annual School Reports

Principal's AGM Report 2023

It is in the 70th Year of St Benedict's school that I would like to welcome you all here today, as we gather to reflect on the year and how the lives of our students have been enriched through their experiences and to show gratitude to all those who work tirelessly to make St Benedict's the exceptional school that it is. One of my most enjoyable roles as part of the leadership team is taking perspective parents on tours, when seeing the school through fresh eyes you realise how unique and remarkable St Bennies is, not only the physical environment but most importantly our students. They are engaged, motivated and welcoming, always happy to explain what they love about St Benedict's which is often their teachers. Perspective parents always comment on how happy the students and teachers are, the wonderful atmosphere, the surprise in what the students are choosing to work on and learn about and nearly all leave wanting this St Benedict's experience for their child.

Catholic Identity

The school/parish sacramental program continued to thrive this year, under the warm and encouraging guidance of Father Nelson. We are blessed as a community to have such an encouraging and supportive leader who is an integral part of why our parish and school have such a successful bond. This year the sacramental program saw a high number of participants in each sacrament with Confirmation being very well supported by the community. I would like to acknowledge all the staff who prepare the students for these life fulfilling Sacraments and the Sacramental team for all their planning and preparation led at St Benedict's by Genelle Allingame.

Our connection with the Parish is enriched by a number of events with the senior citizens, our Year six students have the opportunity to live our school value of Service through, serving food during the senior lunch and more recently by hosting the parish senior citizen morning tea. Thank you to Jodie Tomka, and the Year 6 events committee for tending to the needs of everyone with such warmth, the seniors all commented on the confidence of our students and how delightful it was to have a conversation with them. Thanks also to Lilly Bone's Year 4 class for providing the entertainment, which obviously was a highlight as the seniors clapped along with delight on their faces, these are the important moments in our school life.

The strength of our school was obvious for all to see including the executive director of Catholic Education WA Dr Debrah Sayce or Deb as our students called her at the 70th celebration of the school. The Mass was a delightful mix of gratitude for all those who had worked united to build St Benedict's School and the tight sense of community that we still experience each day, knowing this was all made possible through God's love.

Community

I would like to acknowledge the committee who planned and created an event that truly reflected what St Benedict's is all about community, to all staff who assisted in preparing each activity to enable our past and present students to know the enjoyment of being a St Bennies Kid for life.

This year we reached a milestone in St Benedict's growth as for the first time since becoming a double stream school, we now have a wait list in Kindy for 2024, while beginning the year with two 3K classes on a Thursday with staff ready to increase to two classes on Friday as demand increases. Our PP classes for 2024 have 4 places remaining with 2 places in year 1. This growth is a direct result of the hard work of all staff at St Benedict's and the relationships they develop with the students empowering them to become the best versions of themselves.

Education

This year we commenced the MiniLit program, identifying students in year 1 to 3 who needed additional support in literacy. The program has been an outstanding success working with over 36 students, enabling them to consolidate their literacy knowledge, through the precise teaching of essential reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Thank you to Sandra Caruso and Raylee Handcock for establishing the program and the dedication they have displayed in introducing MiniLit to St Benedict's.

In 2023 the teaching staff were able to continue developing their skills in applying the Talk 4 Writing approach which was evident in the way students applied a combination of oral language and structured writing activities, to create exciting and informative texts. I am sure the teachers will be the first to say how pleased they are to observe such a significant growth in students' confidence and written skills.

Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies Musical was another smashing success as all the students in Year 5 and 6 took to the stage. It is always amazing to see the talent brought out of our student by Matt Rechichi and Deb Searson as the students took on solo singing parts, whole cast singing and dancing, with the acting displayed setting the scene for a thoroughly entertaining evening for all. I am always humbled when I see all the year 5 and 6 students on stage, remembering some of them as being so shy in Year 1 almost not even speaking, to produce a performance with confidence, singing and dancing this is a credit to all St Benedict's staff.

Stewardship

This year we continued our mentoring of early career teachers, with weekly meeting to discuss questions arising and sharing of valuable knowledge. The success of the program is evident as some of these teachers have taken on roles, working with the staff to develop awareness of both environmental issues and strategies to support wellbeing of students.

2023 was a year of celebration with the birth of three babies, congratulations to Sian Lewis, Jenna Annese and Nathan Hanretty. These new arrivals have seen us welcome back Marie Giorgi, Ashley Lyons and new to our staff in Term 3 Alex Field. I take this opportunity to thank several members of our staff who will be leaving us in 2024: Riley Graydon LWP, Kate Sampson Semester 1 LSL, Julia Lawrence, Natalie Matthews, Pip Crommelin, Jess Klessens for the arrival of her baby Jocelyn Gardner, Lauren Waller, Andrew Marrollo, Lily Ty, Raylee Handcock and Brooke McCamey.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Susan Moltoni for the 8 years of service she has generously given to St Benedict's School. Susan been instrumental in developing financial planning and overseeing all aspects of the school expenditure. Personally, I have really appreciated her support and guidance this term, Susan will be leaving us at the end of the year to a new role.

As we conclude this year, I would like to acknowledge the passion, dedication and spirit that each and everyone here brings to the St Benedict's community and give thanks that we are fortunate enough to be part of such a unique and open-hearted school.

Thank you to Genelle and Jodie for their support and wisdom this term and to Connie and Jaqui for keeping everything ticking over in the office. We all look forward to celebrating the end of year together.

Belinda Bergersen

Acting Principal

School Board Chair Report

It's my pleasure to welcome you all to the St Benedict's Annual General Meeting for 2023 in what is a very special year for the School, this year marking the School's 70th anniversary.

2023 has also seen significant changes for the Advisory Council, with recent structural changes at CEWA leading to necessary changes to the role and responsibilities of the Advisory Council. When asked what the Advisory Council does, the best description I can provide is that it acts as a group of "trusted advisors" to the principal and the leadership team in relation to decision they make for the School. Contrary to what some may think, the Advisory Council is not involved in decision making and does not hire or fire staff. Merely it offers its advice, experience and support to the principal and leadership team as they undertake their day to day roles at the School.

It is through this prism that I proudly state that 2023 has been a strong year for St Benedicts. And on behalf of the Advisory Council, and the parent body, I would like to thank Steve and his leadership team for their ongoing work and commitment to making St Benedict's a wonderful educational environment for our children to undertake their primary school education.

"Leadership team" is an apt term to use, because this year has seen a number of people step into new roles, as Steve has taken long service leave over this last term. I would like to acknowledge the work that Belinda Bergesen has done in filling the role of Acting Principal during Term 4. I think its fair to say the brief to most acting principals might be best described as "just keep it rolling". However, this term Belinda has had to take charge of the School's 70th birthday celebrations on top of the usual day-to-day schooling matters. And I want to thank Belinda, Jodie Tomka and Genelle Allingame for the work they put into organizing a wonderful morning to celebrate the School's birthday, together with all the many staff who also contributed and put their hand up to organise classrooms, games, tours, ice cream vans, bubble blowers, birthday cakes, and to generally make the celebration a great success. Thank you to you all.

The other observation I will make to you all is that running a primary school is a difficult task, requiring a balancing of School needs, diverse parenting views and opinions, all against the background of a finite financial budget provided largely by government funding supplemented by school fees paid by parents. In addition to this, St Benedict's is in a somewhat unique situation where it has, and likely always will, see numbers of students leave during their primary school education to a number of the Catholic high schools that surround it. This is a fact of life for the School community, but I want to make it clear it is not necessarily something that all Catholic primary schools face. In the face of all of this however, our leadership team, teachers and volunteers do a wonderful job to ensure that the students at St Benedict's receive the best education, and to ensure that all students who attend St Benedict's are well equipped to step into the next phase of their schooling as and where that occurs.

Looking toward 2024, it will be exciting to see the commencement of the new capital works at the School to Alness Street and Reynolds Road. It has been disappointing that those works have not been able to commence this year, but the reasons for the delays are all outside of the School's control and relate to all the issues we have heard so much of throughout the year in relation to inflation, worker shortages and challenges with builders. Although these delays are frustrating, the works, when completed, will be a significant step in the future of the School.

To the teachers here today, on behalf of the Advisory Council and the broader parent group, I want to say a heartfelt thank you for the work you put into our children's education each day. Teachers are a special and fundamental building block of any successful society. Each year you take our children into your classrooms and you help them to grow and become better versions of themselves. For all you do, inside and outside of your working hours, I want to say thank you for your contribution to St Benedict's, and as the year winds down wish you all a restful Christmas period and new year.

Finally, can I thank the other members of the Advisory Council. A good advisory council works because of the diversity of opinions and experiences brought to each meeting, and so to Bec Pizzi, David Parkinson, Shaun Kan, Gennaro Camerano, Giulia Wake, Garrick McCamey, Father Nelson and Gerri Clay, as well as Steve, Belinda, Genelle and Jodie, thank you for your contributions this year.

May I wish you all here today and safe and happy end to 2023, a wonderful Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Thank you.

Toby Hicks
Chair
St Benedict's Advisory Council