



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST BEDE'S SCHOOL

Braidwood, NSW

2014 School Report to the Community



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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This report was prepared by:

Mr Gerard Galvin
PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

St Bede's community continues to be an integral part of the Braidwood community. Our links with the community are important and signify our proud history with over 154 years of Catholic education in the area. Staff pride ourselves on providing opportunities for the students to grow and learn, and encouraging parents to be engaged in the school life of their child. I am proud to be a part of such a warm and welcoming school where each person is valued and accepted, students are encouraged to do their best and we demonstrate to all that we are 'A School with Heart'.

School Council Message

2014 has been a very busy year at St. Bede's. We have refurbished two classrooms with two more currently underway and the construction of a new toilet block. St Bede's has always been lucky to have parents willing to help whether they have worked in the canteen, catered for funerals or clearing sales, have spent time at the school gardening, in the classroom helping or attended meetings. To all those parents I thank you.

Mr Greg Gilbert Community Council Chair

SCHOOL FEATURES

St Bede's is a Catholic Primary School located in Braidwood. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 113 students. Students attending this school come from a variety of areas consisting of 58 male and 55 female students; 6 indigenous students; and one student from a Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 14 staff comprising 12 teachers and 2 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including clerical and learning support. The school employs no staff of Indigenous descent.

In 2014, Students were grouped in six classes : Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5/6. Most learning is conducted in these class groupings however opportunities are provided when learning can occur across class groupings including Creative Arts Rotations, Interest Groups and performances. Kindergarten and Year 1 worked particularly close with Literacy and Numeracy along with a 'Big Mate-Mini Mate' system working between Kindergarten and Yr 6. St Bede's is a small school that has a strong focus on academic achievement where each individual is encouraged to be their best. All classes collaborated with a peer class during 2014 as part of a Term Three Asia focus. There is a well-established on-going assessment program focussing particularly on literacy and numeracy. St Bede's has a family like atmosphere where staff assume a sense of responsibility for each student not only those in their particular class.

We have continued to improve the school grounds with some extremely dedicated parents who volunteer time to ensure our school is a well-presented and attractive environment. A new biodiversity garden was established and in 2014 we were successful in obtaining an \$18000 grant for gardens, shade and play equipment to improve the health and well-being of staff, students and parents. Staff, students, parents and parish had a number of opportunities this year to mix with

family barbeques, whole school masses and liturgies, performances, sport carnivals and working bees. St. Bede's is a place where students, families and staff work together to ensure our community is strong and vibrant. The school's website can be found at www.stbdebesb.nsw.edu.au

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Bede's follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Treasures New and Old*.

2014 saw teaching staff focus on improving assessment in Religious Education and the consolidation of our new Mission Statement 'A School with Heart' where we inspire, nurture and challenge each other to 'Live from the heart, love from the heart and learn from the heart'. This Mission is reinforced in all we do, particularly as a focus in the Peace Room where we gather for prayer, announcements, celebrations and awards. A combined prayer book was published in 2014 through the efforts of parish and school and will be used as gift for all new parishioners and families enrolling at school. The school and parish continue to strengthen ties by combined masses, shared morning teas and social gatherings after mass.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

Students in **Years 3 and 5** sat the *National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy* (NAPLAN) in May this year. 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.

School and National Mean Scale Scores

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	419	402	412	426	402
School	419	384	378	434	398

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	501	468	498	504	487
School	546	473	468	514	502

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	94%	94%	93%	94%	95%
School	85%	85%	95%	95%	90%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	93%	90%	93%	93%	93%
School	92%	100%	84%	100%	92%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	42%	5%	20%	40%	21%
Band 5	5%	40%	5%	10%	15%
Band 4	15%	15%	25%	30%	26%
Band 3	10%	25%	25%	10%	10%
Band 2	10%	0%	20%	5%	15%
Band 1	15%	15%	5%	5%	10%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	41%	8%	0%	41%	0%
Band 7	16%	8%	41%	8%	33%
Band 6	33%	33%	25%	16%	41%
Band 5	0%	16%	8%	8%	16%
Band 4	0%	33%	8%	25%	0%
Band 3	8%	0%	16%	0%	8%

The above tables show that the majority of students are above the National Minimum Standard. 92% of students in Year 5 were in Band 6 or above in Reading however we are over represented in Writing with the majority falling within Bands 4-6. Year 3 students performed well with results in Grammar and Punctuation particularly pleasing with 80% in the top three bands. Spelling is an area for continued improvement.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Enrolment Policy

In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the school's website or on the Catholic Education Office website at <http://www.ceog.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx>

St. Bede's School has a three week enrolment period in May which has an open day involving school tours and information sessions in the school hall. Once enrolment forms are received, an interview is held with the Principal. Transition visits are arranged for Term Four.

Attendance Policy

All students are expected to attend school each day. Exceptions to this may be if the child is unwell or where parents apply for an exemption. If unwell, parents are asked to send a note in explaining the details of the absence upon the child's return to school, ring the Front Office where an Absent Note is completed or parents are now able to use the notification option on the Skoolbag app. Absences that are anticipated e.g. family holidays, require an Exemption Certificate. These are available from the school website or from the Front Office. Action may need to be taken for those students who are regularly absent from school without reasonable cause.

Student Welfare and Restorative Practice

At St Bede's school we strive to maintain a fair, consistent and workable Student Welfare Policy that is clearly understood and upheld by all members of our school community. In late 2011 and throughout 2012 staff worked through restorative practices with a new policy implemented in 2013. We aim to promote the development of students who are self-disciplined, and who choose freely and responsibly. Students will be encouraged and supported in their effort to attain these skills.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school. In addition we do not sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons to enforce discipline at our school. The full text of the school's Student Welfare and Restorative Practice is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy

The school policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that parents and caregivers must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory environment. Any concerns raised are responded to promptly and fairly and confidentiality is always maintained. A full text of the school policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

In 2015 St Bede's will focus on:

- Embedding the Australian Curriculum, particularly Mathematics and refining the documentation of our Literacy Block
- Trial the expansion of our iPad program to a Bring Your Own Device BYOD to improve learning outcomes for all our students
- The exploration and promotion of Leadership opportunities to all staff
- St Bede's Staff visiting other schools to inform their teaching