

# **St Finn Barr's Catholic School**

## **School Profile:**

St Finn Barr's Catholic School was founded by the Presentation Nuns in 1893 in Invermay and moved to its present location in 1927. The main administration building is a prominent feature of Invermay Rd. The entire school has been renovated over the last five years, including the building of a new kindergarten, hall and large open spaced discovery area for library and computing. SFB supports the ethos of educating the whole person through its learning and teaching programs. We are a W.E.S.T. school (Welcoming, Encouraging, Saying Sorry Sincerely and Thanking). This is an important element of our school culture and is supported by our peer-support program. Our school community is diverse and this adds greatly to the richness to our school's life. SFB has a multi-grade structure with the following classes; Kindergarten (x2), Prep (x2), Gr 1/ 2 (x3), Gr 3/4 (x3) and Gr 5/6 (x2). Our two Kindergarten groups attend school for 3 full days each. Both groups attend on Thursday. Stepping Stones runs Before School, After School and Vacation Care programs at SFB to cater and support our working families.

## **School Facts:**

School sector	Non-government
School type	Primary
Year range	K - 6
Total enrolments	231
Girls	104
Boys	127
Full-time equivalent enrolments	231
Indigenous students	8%
Location	Provincial
Student attendance rate 1	95%
Teaching staff	17
Full-time equivalent teaching staff	12.9
Non-teaching staff	11
Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff	4.9

## **Catholic Culture and Ethos:**

### *Liturgy and Prayer:*

Each Monday morning our school community gathers in our Church to begin the school week in prayer. Classes are rostered to take responsibility to lead this prayer.

St Finn Barr's School celebrated Masses through the year. Some of the school masses celebrated include: Beginning of the Year, Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass, Feast of St. Finn Barr and Mary McKillop. The school celebrated prayer liturgies for key events such as St. Patrick's Day, Holy Week, Easter and Advent. Each Thursday two classes on a rotating basis attend the weekly 12.00 o'clock Parish Mass.

### *Religious Education Curriculum:*

The school has developed a sequential curriculum based on units from the resource banks of the 'Good News For Living' curriculum framework. To support teachers in developing these units collaboratively, funding was provided to release teachers to work with Religious Education Officer Tony Lennard.

### *Spirituality:*

The staff support each other on their faith journey through prayer and reflection.

Our school has a significant focus on the MJR (Making Jesus Real) Program. This program is overseen by Peter Mitchell and promotes values education in a Christian and Catholic context. St Finn Barr's focuses heavily on being W.E.S.T. school and on our students being W.E.S.T. people. The letters represent Welcoming, Encouraging, saying Sorry with sincerity and Thanking. These values form the core of our focus with students.

### *The School in the Life of the Parish and Diocese:*

Our school, as part of the Launceston parish, provided Sacramental programs for students. The Sacraments are 'parish based, school supported and family initiated'. As a school community we supported the children from St Finn Barr's and the parish in their preparation and receiving of the sacraments.

### *Community Participation and Christian Outreach:*

Our students were actively involved in community awareness activities. These included Project Compassion, Good Samaritan Projects Tasmania, and the Launceston Winter Relief Appeal.

## **Student Learning and Achievement:**

### ***Student background***

School ICSEA value: 938

Bottom quarter	Middle quarters	Top quarter
72%	15% 4%	9%

### **NAPLAN Results for 2009**

#### **National Average Grade 3**

Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
414	419	399	417	395

#### **St Finn Barrs's Grade 3**

386	385	386	381	377
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#### **National Average Grade 5**

Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
487	485	487	500	489

#### **St Finn Barrs's Grade 5**

450	440	460	476	478
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### ***Student Performance:***

97% of Gr 3 students and 96% of Gr 5 students participated in the NAPLAN tests in 2010. The results from the NAPLAN data showed that the two areas of concern for St Finn Barr's were Writing and Numeracy. Both areas had been identified through internal school testing and review processes. To address these issues there has been a focus on Professional Development, utilizing extra support in each grade to support both writing and Numeracy. There has been a continued involvement in the ACTION Maths project which focused on improving Numeracy outcomes continue.

Gr 3 students were close to ALL Schools averages for Spelling.

Gr 5 students were close to ALL Schools averages for Numeracy.

There was strong improvement in comparing the results from Gr 3 with Gr 5 in Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy tested. The improvement was larger than the improvement for ALL schools between Gr 3 and Gr 5.

### ***Targetted programs:***

St Finn Barr's has a number of students who receive funding from Targetted Programs. These children received additional support in the classroom through individualised programs and by working with teacher aides.

### *Healthy Promoting Schools:*

St. Finn Barr's is an Asthma Friendly and Sunsmart School.

The school canteen began the process of gaining the Kool Canteen accreditation for healthy food choices.

### *Special Needs:*

Staffing provided support in an early intervention program in Kindergarten, targetting and identifying students in the areas of speech, early language and social / emotional development.

The school was provided funding for students with special needs including (but not exclusive to) Aspergers, Vision Impairment, Autism, Social / Emotional Needs and Speech. Students are integrated and supported within the classroom.

### *Other Achievements:*

Students were involved in the Launceston Speech and Drama Competitions where all classes performed well,

Students in Prep - 6 participated in School Cross Country and Athletic Carnivals with students from 3 - 6 involved in the Swimming Carnival. All students from Prep to Grade 6 are involved in a Swimming Program. Primary classes are held at the end of the year for 2 weeks.

Grade 5/6 classes are involved in an annual three day camp.

At the whole-school assembly held each week students receive Student of the Week Awards, Merit Certificates and the Grade 6 students choose and announce the God Squad Award. Assembly begins with acknowledging the original custodians of the land on which our school has been built.

Students are encouraged and supported in making positive choices in behaviour and receive good decision cards for doing so.

Curriculum and Pedagogy:

Learning Environment:

*Learning and Teaching:*

Our school supports the ethos of educating the whole person through its learning and teaching programs.

The school has a multi-grade structure with the following grades: Prep (x2), Gr 1/2 (x3), Gr 3/4 (x3) and Gr 5/6 (x2) .

The school uses the N.S.W. Mathematics Curriculum. The multi-grade groupings support the stages of development in this document. Teaching teams were established within these multi-grades with each team planning collaboratively. We were involved in the ACTION Maths initiative for the third year. The focus was on improving the pedagogy of the teachers through modeling best practice and discussion utilizing the TCEO's educational officer.

Students begin each day with Daily P.E., with two hour uninterrupted literacy blocks and one hour numeracy blocks for all grades across four continuous days in the week.

The literacy block is made up of a one hour reading and one hour writing block. Focus for teachers, with teacher aide support, was to increase the reading, writing and spelling outcomes for all children.

Learning Support continued for students with specific needs. Individual Educational Plans were written in consultation with parents.

Our school provides all the key learning areas: Religious Education, Numeracy, Literacy, Studies of Society and the Environment (S.O.S.E.), Science, Physical Education, Health and Wellbeing, Music, Visual Arts, Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T.). There is an additional focus on major and minor Integrated Units of Inquiry each term. Leadership Values Programs, Peer Support, Grade 5/6 Camp and Intra-school sport are also part of the mandated curriculum at St. Finn Barr's school.

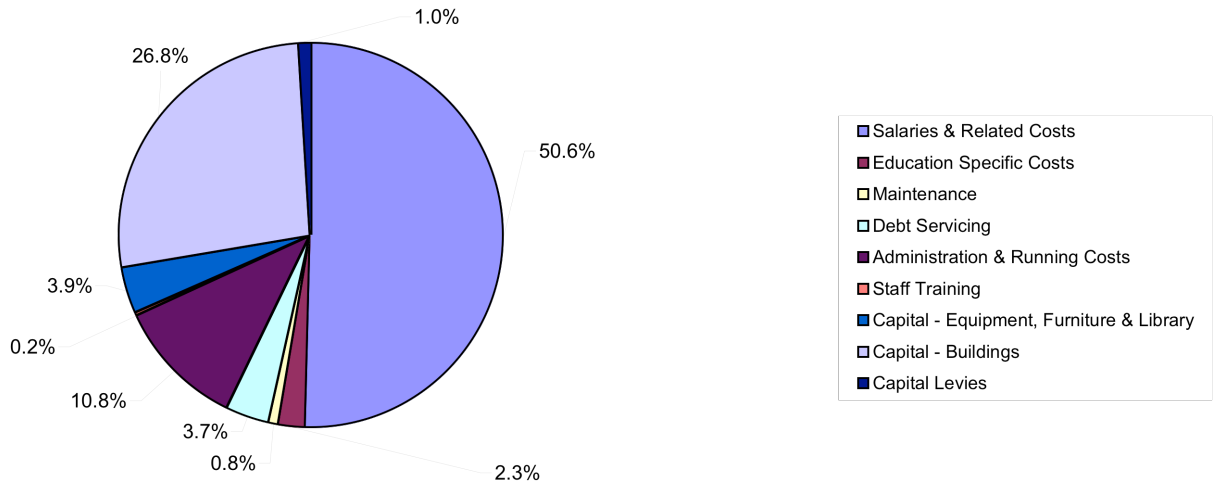
Leadership:

<b>Leadership structure for 2010</b>				
<b>Principal</b>				
<b>Assistant Principal Religious Education</b>		<b>Pastoral Care Support .</b>		
Kindergarten CTT	Prep CTT	Gr 1/2 CTT	Gr 3/4 CTT	Gr 5/6 CTT

The staff consisted of one Principal, nine full-time teachers and four part-time teachers. Eight part-time teacher aide assistants were employed, one full-time Utility officer, .9 Office/ Bursar and a part-time librarian technician.

All staff were appropriately qualified.

**ST FINN BARR'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
EXPENDITURE 2010  
Total Expenditure \$3.0 million**



**ST FINN BARR'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
SOURCES OF INCOME 2010  
Total Income \$2.6 million**

