The Assumption School, Bathurst

Annual School Educational and Financial Report

2013

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Assumption School, Bathurst is registered by the Board of Studies (NSW) and is part of a system of schools managed by the Catholic Education Office (CEO), Bathurst. The CEO, Bathurst is the ‘approved authority’ for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990.

The Annual School Educational and Financial Report for this year provides the school community with reliable and objective information about school performance measures and policies, as determined by the Minister for Education (NSW) in conjunction with requirements of the Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

This Report also outlines information about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance to the school community during the year, and the achievements arising from the implementation of the school’s Annual Improvement Plan.

Accordingly, this Report demonstrates accountability to the school community and the CEO, Bathurst.

This Report complements and is supplementary to school newsletters, yearbooks and other regular communications. This report will be available on the school and CEO websites by 30 June 2014 following its submission to the Board of Studies.

Further information about the school or this report may be obtained by contacting the school on 02 6331 3444 or by visiting the website at www.assumption-bathurst.nsw.edu.au
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE
On behalf of The Assumption School I hereby submit the Annual Report for 2013. The Report provides you with quantitative statements on the internal workings of the School and our relationship with the Bathurst community.

The 2013 Report adds value to The Assumption School being part of a special community where the values and ideals are reflected in the achievements and participation of the students in such a diverse range of academic, sporting and cultural events.

The Assumption School is dedicated to the education of each student to his or her potential in a regular educational setting. Special emphasis is placed on catering for the individual differences of students. As a school we strive for and are committed to the pursuit of excellence.

Success at this school is because of many factors – the staff and students are walking the same path. This school is about students and we know how to strive for better things “in meliora contende”. There is a genuine feeling of family – the buddy system works, the pastoral care is genuine, the discipline fair and the breadth of our curriculum extensive to cater for all student needs.

2013 saw more facilities developed at school. New astro-turf was laid on the top court area. Over 520 new power-saving lights were installed in all rooms and offices and new chairs and desks were provided for Infants classes. Unfortunately due to flooding the whole gymnasium floor had to be replaced. $15,000 was spent on ipads, chrome books and notebooks. An upgrade of the internal wireless system was completed. New reading and other curriculum resources are constantly purchased to give every assistance to staff and students.

The big project for me personally is the refurbishment and re-development of the Mitre Street Convent. Formally the beautiful Convent of the Sisters of St Joseph, now thanks to the support of the Parish and the Diocesan Trustees it will continue to play a role in the education of children. In 2014 we hope to open as an Assessment and Intervention Centre for the Diocese of Bathurst with specialists in psychology, speech and disabilities through a joint venture with school, CEO and CSU to provide not only our students with the best assessment opportunities, but children from distant schools in the Diocese. This is an exciting and adventurous endeavour and I’m absolutely sure it will succeed and become a model for other centres to follow.

Our academic standing and sporting successes this year were simply outstanding:
Our NAPLAN results continue to maintain levels above the State average;
Students placed in the Australian Literacy Quiz in February;
We were awarded 1st prize in the Bathurst Regional Council Autumn Colours competition;
Staff and students were in the local production of the "Wizard of Oz";
We had 2 students in the finals of the Diocesan Spelling Bee – Georgia Marston and James Patterson;
Timothy Powell won the Year 5 CWA Public Speaking competition;
The Bathurst Eisteddfod saw us gain places - 4 firsts, 3 seconds and 2 thirds in verse speaking, music and dance;
Assumption Year 6 students came second in the inter-school debating competition;
Ethan Cusick was placed 3rd in the Christmas Story Art Competition for his painting entitled Wise Men Still Follow Him. This was awarded out of 15,000 entries in NSW, with 80 finalists shortlisted. Congratulations Ethan.

Sporting achievements include:
2nd in ARU 7’s State Tournament playing the final at Allianz Stadium in front of 40,000 spectators. This was the curtain-raiser to Waratahs vs Great Britain;
Won NSW CPS 10’s Knock-out (State title);
3rd NSW RL Legends;
Won David Peachey Shield;
Won Paul Kelly Cup;
Won NSW and Independent Schools RL (State title);
Won NSW Open Boys Netball (State title);
Won Western NSW RU 7’s Competition.

I am so very proud of all students who continue and help create great school spirit and pride in what we can achieve. We might be a small country school but effort, commitment and a desire to achieve can result in great outcomes.

The School Captains Elizabeth, Rhayne, Prue and Brad did a wonderful job as school leaders and the Student Council is to be commended on their activities and fund raising throughout 2013.

MESSAGE FROM PARENTS and FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
It is with pleasure that I submit the report of The Assumption School P&F fundraising activities for 2013.

We have once again had a very successful year of fundraising. This year we did not have our major fundraiser of the annual fete but carried out a diverse range of other activities.

I would like to make special mention of the efforts of Sonia Nunan who organised and coordinated our annual Paddy’s Markets which raised almost $5000.

I wish to thank my fellow members of the P&F Executive, Vice President Sonia Nunan, Treasurer Yolanda Faulkner and Secretaries Jenny Baker and Karyn Taylor. Without the tireless assistance of these ladies, we would not have had such a successful year. Thanks also to all parents who contributed some of their valuable time in assisting our fundraising activities throughout 2013.

The P&F was able to donate an amount of $21,000 back to the school throughout the year for iPads, notebooks and other technology. We also finished furnishing the last of the classrooms with desks and chairs.
We continue our fundraising activities with the valued support of Mr Peter Nugent and the dedicated teachers of The Assumption School.

Yours sincerely, Alison Knight  
President, The Assumption School P&F

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S MESSAGE

Term 1 began with the bang of the starter’s gun at the annual Swimming Carnival. This year the winning house was Clayton and the Spirit Cup went to Clancy house. Years 5 and 6 students attended the Kids Literacy Quiz at Kinross in Orange. We also attended the Catholic Schools Week combined Mass in Bathurst and Young Leaders Day at Sydney in March.

Term 2 commenced with a very moving and thought provoking ANZAC Day ceremony. A large number of students performed in the local community production of “Wizard of Oz”. Students attended the Proclamation Day ceremony where we were presented with some splendid books due to our countless talented artists. In Term 2, Student Councillors were invited to meet the Governor General, Mrs Quentin Bryce at a civic reception in her honour. It is a meeting we will remember for the rest of our lives. Timothy Powell won the Year 5 section of the CWA public speaking competition this Term.

Term 3 started with us attending the opening of Local Government Week at Bathurst Regional Council. Year 6 students held a very successful Mini Fete raising $3,600. We entered many music, speech, drama and dancing sections at the annual Bathurst Eisteddfod.

Term 4 opened with a debating competition against the other Catholic Primary Schools in Bathurst. We attended Mighty Minds Muster and were awarded gold and silver prizes. We were successful in many sporting pursuits – Rugby 7’s (2nd to Knox Grammar out of 496 teams), won CPS Rugby Championships at St Joseph’s Hunter’s Hill, won Peachey Shield and NSW Independent Catholic Primary Schools Rugby League, won Paul Kelly Cup in AFL. Students also represented the school at PSSA swimming and athletics. Assumption students represented at Polding Carnivals in the sports of Hockey, Rugby Union and League, AFL, Soccer and Girls and Boys Netball.

You see 2013 has been a very busy, fun, sporty, educational and entertaining year. We would like to thank the other student leaders, all students, our teachers and school executive, Canteen manager and Uniform Pool manager for your continued support throughout the year. Assumption is a truly great school. We have thoroughly enjoyed leading it.

Elizabeth Noonan and Rhayne Toole
2013 School Captains
CATHOLIC IDENTITY
In the tradition of the Josephites, our focus is on the education of the whole person in partnership with parents and the wider community.

Founded in 1952 by the Sisters of St Joseph with focus on the doctrine of The Assumption that had recently been defined, it has always had and still has a strong family focus and a deep respect for the dignity of each person.

Our mission is to develop the faith of our students according to Gospel values, to maintain a standard of excellence in education, to provide a caring and safe environment and to make optimal use of resources and technology.

The Assumption School is a Catholic Primary School whose operation is part of the pastoral ministry of the Cathedral Parish, Bathurst.

The school has the Assumption Church in the same grounds and has a very close association with the Parish. The sacramental programme is incorporated within the Parish and emphasises participation by parents and other support people; with Reconciliation in Year 2, First Eucharist in Year 3 and Confirmation in Year 6. Assumption staff and students are involved in Parish ministries and some Assumption teachers participate in the Diocesan Cursillo Movement.

The school programme acknowledges the centrality of the Liturgy and focuses on the Liturgical Year Cycle with major feasts of Mary and the Saints being celebrated as they occur in the Liturgical calendar. Each grade is responsible for Masses and Liturgies throughout the year including: Opening School Mass, Welcome Mass, Feast of The Assumption, Saint Mary of the Cross Liturgy, Holy Thursday, Mothers’ and Fathers’ Days. Year 6 participate in a three-day Christian Living Camp with smaller schools. There is an opportunity for a staff retreat each year. Most teachers have a Certificate or Diploma in Religious Education. Formal and informal prayer is an important part of every day.

In 2013 we joined the six Catholic schools in Bathurst for a special Liturgy of celebration and celebrate Catholic Schools’ Week culminating in a Schools’ Spectacular displaying students’ talents. It was a remarkable event, a source of hope and inspiration for all.

Parish contact in 2012: Father Patrick O'Regan, 100 George Street, Bathurst NSW 2795
Phone: 02 6331 3066 Email: gratia@bigpond.net.au
SCHOOL FEATURES
The Assumption School is a two stream Catholic Primary School (K – 6) catering for 385 students in 14 classrooms.

A supportive start to formal education is provided to Kindergarten students by introducing each of them to their own Year 5 ‘buddy’. The role of the buddy is to help Kindergarten students settle in to their new school environment and is ongoing through their early school years.

Ongoing professional development in 2013 included teachers having access to Teachers Education Software Solutions (TESS) that is a programme to provide teachers with the fundamental tools and framework for teaching. We are using SKWIRK, an educational website that features syllabus-aligned content for key learning areas. Staff were also involved in DIBELS, an intensive training programme to implement strategies for improving reading accuracy and fluency.

Support programmes are created and set up by the Learning Support Teacher and teachers. The Learning Support Teacher runs the Intensive Reading Programme and guides the Peer Tutors from Years 5 and 6 with the assistance of the Catholic Education Office and oversees all children on Integration Funding. Gifted and talented children are catered for with enrichment programmes in the school. The needs of our indigenous children are met by an Aboriginal Aide in conjunction with the Support Teacher of Aboriginal students. The School Band continues to grow. In 2013 the band participated in Monster Band Day, Catholic Schools’ Week, Bathurst Eisteddfod and played for charity, social and special school days.

A multi-purpose Hall and extension provides opportunities for assemblies and performances. School assemblies provide regular opportunities for students to speak publicly and provide an audience for their written English as well as demonstrating musical or dramatic abilities. Hall inclusions are sound and lighting systems and a baby grand piano enhances performances. The Learning Centre provides desktop computers for student access and a mobile trolley for portable computers. Staff are supplied with laptops and IT resources are an ongoing investment.

Sporting facilities provided for students include two playing fields and shade covered playing areas that complement the outdoor learning environment. The extension to the Undercroft allowed further sport activities to be played no matter what the weather conditions.

ENROLMENT POLICIES AND PROFILES
Enrolment Policy
The Assumption School seeks to provide enrolment primarily for the children of parents who are members of the Cathedral Parish community, however, this does not exclude from enrolment, the children of Catholic or non-Catholic parents who are not members of the Parish community.

Enrolment at Assumption follows the Diocesan recommendation that children entering Kindergarten must turn 5 years of age by 30 April of their first year of school. The school advertises for enrolments mid-year to allow time for applications to be processed and planning to begin for the incoming uptake. Enrolment application forms are available from the school office and the school website www.assumption-bathurst.nsw.edu.au Enrolment Forms must be accompanied by Baptism, Birth and Immunisation Certificates. Generally, siblings of current students will be offered first placement to...
Kindergarten. In October or November we hold Orientation Days to assist staff in assessing the needs of our new students. Enrolment Forms also ask for listing specific medical and learning conditions in order to assist us with providing care and support of these students.

The full text of the Enrolment Policy 2007 may be viewed on the school website. There were no changes made to the enrolment policy during 2013.

School Profile
The Assumption School is a two-stream Catholic Primary School of 385 students, situated in a rural city with a population of 40,000. Bathurst is Australia’s oldest inland settlement proclaimed on 7 May 1815. The Assumption School was established in 1952 by the Sisters of St Joseph, Perthville. The first lay Principal was appointed in 2000.

Enrolment Statistics 2013

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<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Girls</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>6</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>197</strong></td>
<td><strong>188</strong></td>
<td><strong>385</strong></td>
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</table>

There were 11 indigenous students, 8 non-English speaking background students and 6 students with disabilities who received funding support enrolled at Assumption School during 2013.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION

Attendance Rates: Student attendance for each year group and the whole school.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Attendance Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>94.70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>93.75%</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>93.03%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>93.86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>93.60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>92.25%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Whole School</strong></td>
<td><strong>93.54%</strong></td>
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</table>
Student attendance is managed by providing parents with information and personal contact if necessary. Early in Term 1, parents are notified by school newsletter of the importance and legal obligations of children attending school. Parents are informed that any absence must be notified to the student’s teacher by written note.

Teachers are obliged to inform the Principal of any unexplained absence and this is immediately acted upon by phoning the parents of the student concerned to ascertain the reason for student absence. The Principal reviews all class rolls at the conclusion of each school term. This ensures that all absences are explained.

**SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

The Assumption School follows the prescribed Board of Studies (BOS) curriculum guidelines for all subjects in Kindergarten to Year 6. Teachers have developed units of work around BOS topics to meet the needs of their students.

The school has a Special Education unit which caters for students with learning disabilities and an Enrichment group provides extension activities for talented students.

The Assumption School has two specialist Music teachers for Kindergarten to Year 2 and Year 3 to Year 6. We have a School Band. The school conducts numerous extra-curricular activities such as debating, choir, dance, chess, public speaking and specialised sport drills, for example in AFL, netball and football.

The school has a strong Student Council that conducts many activities throughout the year to raise funds for the needy and school resources. Their fundraising activities include an annual mini-fete, biggest morning tea, book fair, sport days. Students also participate in many community activities including the ANZAC day march and nursing home visits.

Catholic Education Office Religious Education test results in 2103 were outstanding: 58 participants gained 5 High Distinctions, 20 Distinctions, 25 Credits and 8 Participation Certificates.

The International Competitions and Assessment for Schools provides an opportunity for all students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation. Results in 2013 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>High Distinction</th>
<th>Distinction</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Participation</th>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>Writing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>
STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN)

Literacy and Numeracy

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 around Australia sat the National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Tests in May 2013. Individual student reports were provided in September 2013. Analysis of these results assists the school in planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

Detail on school performance is provided in the following tables. Band distributions and percentages of students achieving the national minimum standard are outlined separately for Years 3 and 5.

Points to note are:

- In Year 3 students placed in Band 1 are below national minimum standard. Students in band 2 are achieving national minimum standard and students in bands 3 and 4 are “at proficiency”
- In Year 5 students placed in Band 3 are below national minimum standard. Students in band 4 are achieving national minimum standard and students in bands 5 and 6 are “at proficiency”.

Band Distribution (%) - YEAR 3

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Band 1</th>
<th>Band 2</th>
<th>Band 3</th>
<th>Band 4</th>
<th>Band 5</th>
<th>Band 6</th>
<th>% at/above National Minimum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>25 96</td>
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<td>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</td>
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<td>Numeracy</td>
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</table>

This Year 3 cohort has achieved extremely good results. Our school aim is to now move as many Band 3 and 4 students to higher levels. This will be achieved by some concentrated work in numeracy, especially problem solving. Spelling results have improved but further progress is possible.
Band Distribution (%) - YEAR 5

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>3</th>
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<th>5</th>
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<th>7</th>
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<th>% at/above National Minimum</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>95.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocese</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures reflect the academic history of this cohort. There were a number of students on integration and special needs. The result in Spelling is commendable and reflects the effort of staff and students to raise their personal results. Numeracy is an area that will necessitate greater concentration in problem solving, number patterns and algebra.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHER STANDARDS

Professional learning
The total number of days in professional learning activities for 2013 was 308, over 36 staff members.

Teachers were involved in the following professional learning activities in 2013:
- CEO Workplace Policies: Workplace bullying, Professional conduct in the workplace
- School Policies: 4-Year Plan, Critical Incident Plan, Lockdown and Evacuation Procedure
- Child Protection responsibilities
- NAPLAN analysis
- Senior First Aid training
- Special Education training
- Autism conference
- Personal Learning Programmes
- Technology in the classroom
Individual teachers were involved in the following professional learning activities in 2013:

- CEO Workshops / Inservices: developing new Religious Education Units, Godly Play production, ICT in RE, National Curriculum, middle management staff selection, Principals’ conferences, Assistant Principal training, DIBELS training, Leadership training, MultiLit training, special needs behaviour training, support funding
- Young Leaders Training
- NAPLAN Writing Workshop
- Religious Education Cluster Meeting
- Teachers Institute Workshop
- Band Workshops
- Special Education Conference
- Teachers’ Assistants Training
- Indigenous Workers Training, NAIDOC Day
- Gifted and Talented Workshops
- Reading to Learn
- Diocesan Sports Council Meetings
- Diocesan, Polding and PSSA Sports Meetings
- Support Teachers meetings including Autism / Aspergers Syndrome
- SAS Training
- IEU Information
- Executive – professional work on quality education components leading to school improvement

The staff at Assumption School have covered a diverse range of professional learning. The amount of financial support given to professional learning is considerable.

Teacher Standards
The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher Qualifications</th>
<th>Number of Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Those having teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) guidelines</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Those having qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia or one recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines but lack formal teacher education qualifications</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Those not having qualifications as described in 1 or 2 but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context. Such teachers must have been employed: - to ‘teach’ in NSW before 1 October 2004 (either on a permanent, casual or temporary basis), and - as a ‘teacher’ during the last five (5) years in a permanent, casual or temporary capacity.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teacher Attendance and Retention Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher Attendance</th>
<th>95%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Retention</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male Indigenous</th>
<th>Female Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers/Coordinator</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Assistants</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarians</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancillary Staff</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL POLICIES: STUDENT WELFARE, DISCIPLINE, COMPLAINTS and GRIEVANCES

Student Welfare and Anti-bullying Policy
The Assumption School Welfare Policy focuses on respect for both staff and students. We aim to develop in the children deep respect for one another both at home and at school. The school expects strong support from all parents. Parents have high expectations for their children and therefore the school works extremely hard in partnership with them to develop a successful and happy student.

A successful and harmonious group of students contribute to our success as a school. As a staff, types of inappropriate behaviours have been classified as minor, major or serious. Procedural steps accompany each type, as do consequences and actions to be followed. Student awareness of these is raised at assembly, in class activities and through the weekly newsletter. In dealing with issues relating to welfare at Assumption, the dignity of each individual will be upheld. The protection of the individual from all forms of harm is paramount and the staff should be congratulated on their professional commitment and support to all students.

The full text of the school Student Welfare and Anti-Bullying Policy may be accessed via the Principal and extracts are included in the school newsletter. There were no changes made to the Student Welfare and Anti-Bullying Policy during the year.
**Discipline Policy**
The Discipline Policy at Assumption School aims to facilitate the development and experience of responsible self-discipline among students. It also seeks to promote the wellbeing and good order of the school community.

Our Discipline Policy determines acceptable student behaviour and appropriate disciplinary measures and is intrinsically related to the principles and values of the Gospel.

We are pro-active in our approach and discipline relates closely to the Welfare Policy.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school. The school does not sanction administration of corporal punishment by school persons and non-school persons, including parents, to enforce discipline in the school.

The full text of the school Discipline Policy may be accessed via the Principal and extracts in the school newsletter. There were no changes made to the Discipline Policy during the year.

**Complaints and Grievances Policy**
With every good will, problems may arise and it is important that these concerns be dealt with swiftly and effectively to address the issue, allay fears and prevent issues developing into major problems.

Parents may view the policy through its publication on the CEO website. It is expected that all complaints will be dealt with impartially, confidentially, fairly and speedily.

The process involves:
- Parents first address the problem with the Principal or staff member most closely concerned, as soon as possible after the incident. Goodwill on both sides and clarification of the issue should ensure a happy resolution.
- If this informal approach is not successful, a formal complaint may be lodged with the Principal. This should be submitted in writing outlining the problem and the concerns about the initial handling of the issue.
- Concerns may also be raised with the Catholic Education Office or Parish Priest. Most concerns should, however, be dealt with at school level and the CEO would encourage this approach.

If the problem is still not resolved, reference to the appropriate external agency may be made.

The full text of the school Complaints and Grievances Policy may be accessed via the CEO website. There were no changes made to the Complaints and Grievances Policy during the year.

**SCHOOL DETERMINED IMPROVEMENT AND TARGETS**

**Catholic Life and RE**
Assumption welcomed a new School Chaplain, Father Joshy in 2013.

There was an emphasis placed on staff to consider studies in Religious Education leadership and content.
Students participated in the Christmas Story Programme for the first time with Ethan Cusick (Year 4) gaining 3rd place in NSW for his art work.

**Learning and teaching targets**
Learning and teaching at Assumption saw a major concentration on the English curriculum. There was also a focus on Grammar and Spelling as a result of efforts in NAPLAN.

Resources were spent on reading across all grades with an emphasis on Infants books.

iMaths was introduced using classroom technology.

**Leadership for School Improvement**
Leadership for school improvement involved staff in the Diocesan Hub and Spoke Programme where personal learning programmes and curriculum development became a major focus for all staff.

**Strategic Resourcing**
Strategic resourcing focused on the redevelopment of the Convent building in Mitre Street to develop the site into a Special Education Resource Centre for Assessment, Diagnosis and Remediation. This is a joint venture with Bathurst Catholic Education Office and Charles Sturt University using psychologists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists and other outside agencies. The cost impost to the school is around $200,000.

The school completed an office refit to make the school reception area more attractive and a safe place to work. The refit enables the school secretary’s view of the entrance into the building and addressed workplace, health and safety concerns.

**INITIATIVES PROMOTING RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY**
The students at Assumption are constantly reminded about common courtesy to elders and fellow students. We have a definite “hands off” policy and promote respectful communication and company with others.

Students display the outcome of such expectations through participation in the ANZAC day march, nursing home visits, Student Council meetings, music and public speaking at community events, eg. Legacy dinners.

Students are encouraged to participate in leadership days, christian living camp, Eisteddfod, Sport, musical presentations and community run activities such as the Bathurst Edgell Jog and other fun runs to support others less fortunate than themselves.

**PARENT SATISFACTION**

**Parent Comments**
“The Assumption School provides a nurturing, caring and happy environment for our children to be part of. I feel very blessed and honoured to have my child attend this school.” Rachel Goddard

“We started at Assumption School 4 years ago and our children are so lucky to belong to such a great school community.” The Nunan Family
“Our children love attending Assumption School because it feels like one big family. We are impressed by the way children are encouraged to look after each other.” Elissa and Paul Jones

“We send our children to The Assumption School because of the special relationships that staff form with students and the extra care that is taken with every child.” F Brown

“The Assumption School provides our children with a loving, caring environment following the Catholic faith, wearing their uniform with pride and giving them the opportunity to be part of a wonderful school community.”

“The Assumption School offers my child a fantastic environment to be educated in. The school and community spirit amongst the teachers, support staff and pupils is unique and outstanding. My child has, and continues to create memories that will last a lifetime.” Kimbalee Cheney
FINANCIAL STATEMENT (2013)

Catholic Schools are accountable for all monies received. Each year, the Catholic Education Office, Bathurst submits to the Commonwealth Government a financial statement on behalf of the 33 primary, K-10 and secondary schools. In addition, the financial accounts for each school and for the Catholic Education Office are audited annually.