



Annual School Compliance Data 2020

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 Gianni Redolatti
Telephone:	08 62173500
Email:	admin@stbenedicts.wa.edu.au
Website:	www.stbenedicts.wa.edu.au



Contextual Information

In 2020 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 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. There is specialist teaching in Physical Education, Italian, Science, Music and Drama. 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
- 4.3 % teachers hold a suitable Masters Degree

Workforce Composition

In 2020 the school work force consisted of:

Male Teaching Staff:	4
Female Teaching Staff:	21
Indigenous Teaching Staff:	0
Male Non Teaching Staff:	1
Female Non-teaching Staff:	29
Indigenous Non Teaching Staff:	0
Total Staff	55

Student Attendance

Attendance records are kept for all students, with attendance being checked and marked twice daily. In 2020, the following attendance rates are noted:

PP	88%
Year 1	89%
Year 2	92%
Year 3	91%
Year 4	90%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	89%

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NAPLAN assessments were not administered in 2020, therefore no data is presented in this report.

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

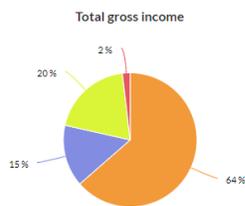
School Income

School financial details can be accessed from the publicly available My Schools Website.
<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

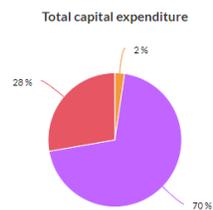
Full-time equivalent enrolments relating to recurrent income and capital expenditure: 323.0

Net recurrent income	\$ Total	\$ per student
Australian government recurrent funding	3,351,581	10,376
State / territory government recurring funding	785,011	2,430
Fees, charges and parent contributions	1,034,310	3,202
Other private sources	97,641	302
Total gross income	5,268,543	16,311
Less deductions	959,528	2,971
Total net recurrent income	4,309,015	13,341

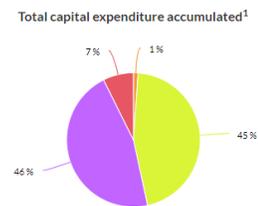
Capital expenditure	\$ Total	\$ Accumulated ¹
Australian government capital expenditure	1,358	3,537
State / territory government capital expenditure	0	0
New school loans	0	141,844
Income allocated to current capital projects	40,799	143,580
Other	16,161	22,968
Total capital expenditure	58,318	311,929



(excluding income from government capital grants)



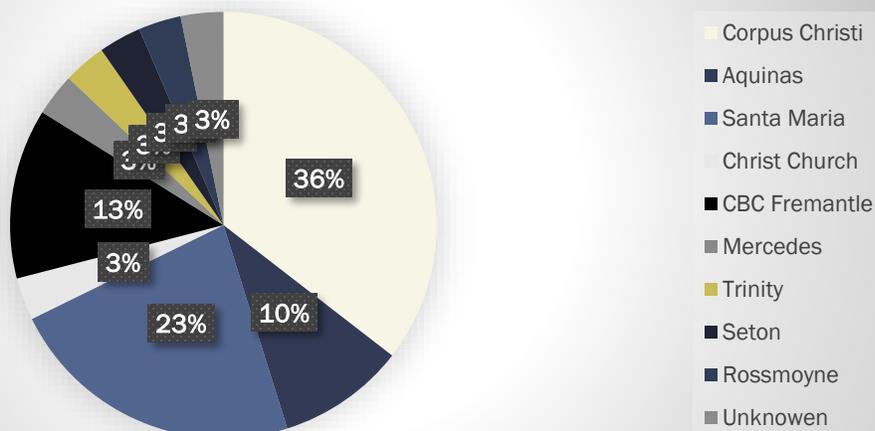
Percentages are rounded and may not add up to 100%



¹ Accumulated capital expenditure is the sum of three consecutive years.

Post School Destinations

Year 6 Destinations



Annual School Improvement

In 2020, the school undertook the following activities to bring about overall School Improvement

- Sacramental Programme
- operation of the School Board
- operation of the Parents and Friends Association
- staff participation in professional development programs and activities
- involvement in the local school cluster activities
- preparation and distribution of the student progress reports
- school camps and excursions
- Use of information and communications technology (ICT)
- Music program
- Protective Behaviours Programs across the school
- Directed Phys-Ed programme
- QCS review instrument
- Record Standardised testing results centrally for tracking purposes
- Developed a 3 year strategic plan with the school community
- Staff review all data - Annual Action Plan for school Improvement
- Reviewed whole school approach for Numeracy
- Communication - Term Planners sent home to parents each term to show what will be covered in each class
- Pastoral Notes for students are centralised on SEQTA
- Have a relationship with a focus charity
- P&F provide opportunities to welcome new families
- Build relationships with local hospices
- Used Brightpath to extend and develop writing
- Walker Learning Mentoring
- Developed a Facebook page for increased communication
- Developed and Aboriginal Education Plan

Annual School Reports

Principal's AGM Report 2020

The year 2020, will go down in history as a year we will all remember. The year of the Corona Pandemic, that overturned our entire world, the year that the Collins Dictionary listed the noun of the year as 'Lockdown', the year we experienced a US Impeachment trial against Donald Trump and the year Trump was also removed from power, the year Prince Harry and his wife Meghan announced that they were stepping back from their roles as members of the royal family, the year the New York Stock Exchange recorded its worst day of trading since 1987 and sadly, the year of mass riots after the death of George Floyd whilst being arrested by police.

Amongst all these challenges, one thing that we celebrate is our life here in Australia, our life in our amazing state WA, and the amazing school we have. I believe it's a time to reflect on what we have, what we cherish and what we all hold close to our own hearts.

It's an opportunity to reconnect, to take hold and an opportunity to recall the important things in life.

This year our school celebrates its 67th year.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

I value the school's cooperative relationship with Fr Nelson and the St Benedict's Parish and I take this opportunity to acknowledge the work Father does for our school and our community. Fr Nelson is very committed to working with our staff and students and as our spiritual leader, guides us on our own faith journey. I thank the Parish Pastoral Council for their support throughout the year and look forward to further strengthening the bond between school and Parish.

Working with Covid restrictions, the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation were all celebrated. Each Sacrament celebrated with the true meaning and essence of its value and importance and I thank our staff and the Sacramental Committee for making these special moments in our faith journey occur. Our Family Masses took a momentary pause, but again were celebrated with the joy of the community, something that I have found to be a very special element of the Parish and School relationship.

Looking ahead, we look to expand opportunities to work with the Parish but also to focus on assisting those in need within our community and encouraging Community Service.

EDUCATION - TEACHING & LEARNING

Our curriculum focus in 2020 was to focus on Numeracy and Student Well Being. In Numeracy, our Professional Development sessions focused on how student learn mathematics best, as well as unpacking problem solving. As part of our student Wellbeing focus, we established a connection and now partnership with the Valuing Children Initiative and have adopted the four pillars of their valuing children approach. Both of these areas will continue to be a focus area for the school moving into 2021. Complimenting these two focus areas, staff have continued to embrace a culture of continuous improvement in all learning areas.

In 2020, we have continued individual and small group tuition in the Literacy for Life and EMU Maths program and I thank the staff working in these areas for the work, dedication and commitment to ensuring students are given opportunities to succeed. With this, in 2020, we established a revised Gifted and Talented Education Policy, formalising opportunities for students needed additional extension to have these opportunities throughout Years 4, 5 and 6, as well as representing our school and events such as the Tournament of Minds Competition and Regional Numero Challenge Day.

Our school continues to enhance and delivery an amazing education program through the Walker Learning approach with a high degree of engagement and success. Our school has been a source of professional development for other schools and has become a school of choice in surrounding areas, because of this pedagogical approach to teaching and learning.

The Sporting arena has had many highlights. The students participated enthusiastically in cross-country, athletics, interschool events, lighting carnivals and numerous clinics throughout the year. We thank Kate Sampson for her work in this area and congratulate and acknowledge the collective talent of our students in the sporting domain and look forward to their development in 2021.

In the arts, we have an exceptional music program and our students have had the opportunity to be immersed in high quality teaching and learning programs. We had a high representation in the annual Catholic Performing Arts Festival and we thank Debra Searson for her work in this area.

After consultation with our community, a decision was made to select an Asian Language in 2021 and we look forward to the introduction of this new language to inspire and engage our students in cultural awareness. We thank Leanne Sunjic for her years of service providing an Italian Program for our students.

As our focus areas and specialist areas shift in 2021, to be more closely aligned with student needs and societal changes, Science will adapt a new approach using the STEM initiative. To kickstart this change, our school participated in Science Week with a Scitech Road Show, Reptile Encounter and a world class 'Wacky Science Show'. We look forward to developing this week in 2021 to engage and enhance opportunities for our students.

STEWARDSHIP

Our School Board plays a pivotal role in the development of our school and I extend my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the School Board members, led by Gianni Redolatti. This year, after many years of service, Shaun Mayne will be stepping down from the School Board. With this, I would also like to thank Shaun and other members of our Board for their commitment and also for their support, knowledge and understanding of the school context in which we work in. I am truly blessed to have such a supportive and understanding School Board.

I would formally like to acknowledge the 2020 P & F Association. Your contributions to the school, through community building events and fund raising have been fantastic. We sincerely thank Brooke McCamey and the Executive Group for their dedication to our P & F as well as Class Reps and other helpers throughout the year. Again, as a Principal, I am very fortunate so be working with such an empowering and motivated group of parents and I look forward to the many events of 2021.

This year, we farewell a number of staff:

- Leanne Sunjic who has provided many years of service as our LOTE teacher
- Chanel Livesey who joined us mid-year and provided two days for extended leadership support
- Natalie Bobojcov who has worked in our Kindy Program this year; and
- Kirsty Carmody who will be retiring at the end of this year.

We thank these staff members for their service to our students, school and community and wish them the best for the future.

This year we have worked under significant financial pressure and have been required to make some adjustments throughout the school for 2021. As a community it is important to note that these adjustments have all been made with the student's best interests and I ask for your support and we navigate through the next few years.

COMMUNITY

At the end of my first year at St Benedict's, I have reflected on our school, our staff, our students, and our community. In 2020, there have many challenges to navigate through, but also a myriad of celebrations along the way. Leading a school should bring joy, passion and satisfaction and I can honestly say, I have absolutely loved every day.

Professor John Hattie, the world leaders in educational research, identifies the biggest contributing factor to student achievement as quality teachers. As a Principal I am extremely proud and fortunate to have such dedicated and hardworking teachers and support staff. In my 21 years in education, I have not seen such commitment before, and I believe we are blessed. I sincerely thank all our staff for all they have done for our students in 2020. A particular vote of thanks to my Admin Staff and Extended Leadership Team for their support during my first year at St Benedict's.

We will be farewelling several families along with our graduating students in a few weeks and we wish them every success as they continue with their education. We sincerely hope that the values instilled in them at St Benedict's will continue to provide the benchmark for their education and interactions with others into the future.

I wish you all the very best for the remainder of 2020 and look forward to the years ahead.

Steve Miranda

Advisory Council Chair Report 2020

The global health crisis of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), this year, has seen a series of unanticipated events never seen before in recent history. Border restrictions, lockdowns, and social distancing put on hold the daily life of many, in effort to reduce the spread of the disease. In addition to its impact on public health, COVID-19 has been responsible for the downturn in the Australian and global economy. Many businesses have suffered with suspended operations and, subsequently, many families within our community have felt first-hand the heartache of these disruptions to services (either as a business owner or an employee, being made redundant or experiencing altered work arrangements).

Like these businesses, to address the impact of COVID-19, the school has had to make some tough decisions, to ensure the financial health of the school, along with providing a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff members. The St Benedict's Advisory Council, has worked closely with the school leadership group, on all matters of a financial, commercial and operational nature. Through a strong vision, frequent communication and swift action, we have been able to address the vulnerabilities, COVID-19 has brought to the fore, as well as implement prior key performance commitments.

This year, our Advisory Council remained largely unchanged, however, we welcomed the new P&F Council representative, Kristi Bates. The various sub-committees of the Council also continued in their scope of work to address finance, building maintenance/capital works, risk management, marketing and parish links. Priority areas for the sub-committees included: an improved marketing campaign for student enrolments; new school logo implementation and new uniform rollout; traffic management; financial and risk management review; and capital development planning for new undercover areas around the school, all in order to complete the school's transition to a full double stream.

Interwoven with many of the Advisory Council's undertakings is the School's Strategic Plan for 2019 - 2021, which is progressing and meeting its expected outcomes. Furthermore, most of the key performance indicators of the School Improvement Annual Action Plan 2020 have also been achieved.

From 1 January 2020, Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) underwent a major change in corporate governance, transitioning to CEWA Ltd. All aspects of CEWA governance were reviewed and are currently being updated. This has led to changes in Delegation of Authority and approval levels across the system. Subsequently, the School Board is now referred to as the 'Advisory Council'. This will ultimately lead to better oversight within the CEWA/St Benedict's framework, promoting greater clarity and transparency.

Financial management of the school budget this year has been particularly challenging. With COVID-19 significantly affecting the economic climate, the school has subsequently seen a reduced level of fee payments. To support families in this difficult time, CEWA has mandated a freeze of school fee increases in 2021, with no impact to our high level of teaching and resources. Nevertheless, nearing the end of a transition from a single to double stream school, new enrolment numbers for 2021 have remained solid. Although, maintaining double stream retention rates will continue to require constant review. This year, the school will see a manageable deficit, however, next year we are forecasting a welcome surplus currently addressed through the reconfiguration of staffing, tighter budgeting measures, and improved efficiencies.

This year saw Steve Miranda take over the helm as Principal, at St Benedict's, bringing a great wealth of knowledge and expertise. Steve has settled in very quickly to the St Benedict's community and has introduced some new and exciting innovations into our school with great ease, despite the unparalleled challenges of COVID-19. Steve, the way you responded to the government restrictions with clear and succinct communication to the community is to be congratulated. Thank you, Steve, for your strong leadership, dedication and unwavering commitment over the course of this challenging and vastly different year. I know the school is in good hands with your inclusive and transparent leadership.

I would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the school parents, to also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the leadership team, the teachers and the administrative support staff for their amazing efforts in managing the outcomes of COVID-19 this year, particularly during the remote school learning period in March and April. Each one of you played a key role in the lives of our children during a time of great uncertainty. Your resilience, agility and tireless effort to implement remote learning in a seamless

transition is greatly appreciated. Furthermore, your measures to ensure a safe and healthy environment, for our children to return to the school grounds, were also highly reassuring.

With the closure of the school and the transition to home schooling, the eyes of many parents were opened to realise that teachers not only educate our children, but are pivotal in our children's social connectedness amongst each other, builders of trust, ignitors of creativity, facilitators of fun, and mentors in any moment. Whether in the playground or online, teachers create a sanctuary for our children. I would like to acknowledge the various innovative teaching strategies our highly skilled and passionate teaching staff undertook to nurture and engage our children during this unsettling period, ensuring continuity of 'everyday life' through fun craft activities, classroom ZOOM conferences, storytelling on SEESAW, or even a warm smile or family pet appearance on a recorded class message. Thank you, St Benedict's teachers, for your steadfast commitment to our children's education and wellbeing.

I would also like to thank the P&F Executive Committee, for all their efforts this year to provide, annual P&F 'whole of school' activities within government restrictions, whilst offering parent and community connectedness through P&F committee meetings.

To Father Nelson Po, the Sacramental Coordinators and the St Benedict's parish – We thank you for your incredible, ongoing, support throughout the year, ensuring the Catholic identity, traditions and pastoral care were embedded in the lives of our children, despite the COVID-19 limitations placed on the parish. In a time of crisis, the parish provided a place of hope and security for our community.

To my fellow Council members, my sincere gratitude for your service and levels of commitment. Thank you for your contributions and individual expertise in the pursuit of quality education and best practice financial management. I would especially like to acknowledge Shaun Mayne who is stepping down from the St Benedict's School Board after six years of service. Your valuable input and wealth of knowledge will be sadly missed.

In closing, despite the unpredictability of COVID-19, I believe St Benedict's is readily placed to implement the necessary measures to ensure a safe environment for our children and staff members, with innovative teaching strategies and a strong educational focus. The St Benedict's community is a nurturing and inclusive community that will emerge stronger together from this experience.

I wish everyone a safe and wonderful Christmas, and a prosperous 2021. I look forward to the new ventures and achievements the St Benedict's community will undertake in the year ahead.

Gianni Redolatti