



2013
Annual Report

St Therese Primary School, Yenda

CONTACT DETAILS:

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The School

St Therese School Yenda is a small, family orientated school located in the Riverina district of NSW, 15km from Griffith. Our purpose is to educate and support each student in their academic, spiritual, social and physical development

We aim to prepare our students for today's society by providing an education rich in variation, technology and programmes designed to foster independence, leadership and critical thinking skills.

Teaching programmes and learning activities cater to multi-age classes, allowing each individual child the opportunity to reach their full potential and to work at their appropriate level.

The school is a valued institution in the Parish and wider community.

Catholic Identity

St Therese is a Parish School, part of the St Francis Parish of Yenda, Yoogali and Hanwood.

Our Catholic faith is integral to all that occurs at St Therese, Yenda. A daily time allocation is incorporated into the class timetable for Religious Education.

Vision Statement

St Therese School, Yenda is a faith community that models itself on the teachings of Jesus Christ. It respects the dignity of all and is committed to a quality Catholic education that develops students to their full potential.

Mission Statement

We have a passionate belief that engagement with a framework for learning builds community, capacity, connection, collaboration and community. These learning dimensions underpin our system-wide community of learners. (CSO 2011)

Community Learning Belief

We believe that a community of learners creates a **Community**, sharing common values, attitudes, interests and goals.

Capacity Learning Belief

We believe that a community of learners develops **Capacity** which refines sustainable skills for learning.

Therefore, we commit to

- independent, creative and self reflective life -long learners.
- Encouraging and fostering students to work to their full potential.
- Nurturing the students in their cognitive, spiritual, physical and emotional development.

Connection Learning Belief

We believe that a community of learners makes **Connections** through forming relationships.

Collaboration Learning Belief

We believe that a community of learners builds **Collaboration** by working together to achieve a common goal of learning growth and well-being.

Curriculum Learning Belief

We believe that a community of learners delivers a **Curriculum**, which inspires, informs and engages students in their learning.

Sacraments

All students share in the preparation and celebration of sacraments. Students being prepared for sacraments are introduced to the parish through commitment masses- the students commit to their preparation, parents commit to support them as do the parish as a whole. Reconciliation is offered in Year 2, First Communion in Year 3 and Confirmation in Year 6.

Liturgies and Masses

Mass and other liturgies to celebrate feast days are celebrated with the parish. The school works in close rapport with the parish priest, Fr Neru. At least once a term, St Therese hosts the regular Saturday night mass. The students are responsible for the readings, prayers and music at this mass.

Other special days such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter and Christmas are also celebrated with a special liturgy.

Prayer

Each day commences with formal prayer. Prayer is also encouraged at other regular times throughout the day. Students are encouraged to pray for their own intentions.

Pastoral Care

St Therese continues to support St Vincent de Paul, Project Compassion and the Missions. Special days throughout the year are also held for various charities.

Community Involvement

The students of St Therese School actively involve themselves in community events. In 2013 the students participated in the Anzac Day March and Carols by Candlelight.

Year 6 Religion Test

Students from St Therese participate in this test each year. Unfortunately, this year there were no Year 6 students enrolled to sit the test.

A Message from key School Bodies

This year has seen the full time Principal position allocated to Christine Calabria. Christine has done a wonderful job this year balancing teaching of the students and the general running of the school.

Marie Salvestro continues to do a great job Teaching, especially her important work with the younger students in the school. Also to the ladies in the office – Sonia DeLucchi and Julie Blackburn who always keep the office running smoothly and often go out of their way to help out- even when it's not part of their job. Thank you to the School Council members

For your time and commitment to attend the meetings throughout the year. We have had another successful year of fundraising which was mostly generated from the scrap metal drives. A big thank you must go to Pat Jones who kindly donated a large amount of scrap metal to the school. Thank you to the parents and carers of our students of St Therese. Your support for the

school is most important as the students are what makes our school so special. Lastly a special welcome to our new families for next year – Chloe Vidler, Samuel Raccanello, Lucas Foster, Tiarra and Joshua Hardwick. We look forward to having some new faces around the school.

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

St Therese School, Yenda has participated in the BST Literacy, Numeracy and Writing. Now named Naplan, the school monitors the Naplan Trend data each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year.

Professional Learning

- Senior First Aid
- CPR renewal
- Harassment/ Child Protection
- WH&S
- Best Start Training
- SENA – numeracy assessment
- Australian Curriculum K-6 Development Days
- PHRIS training
- Anaphylactic training
- Asthma education

Teaching Staff

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

A) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia

B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia but no formal teacher education qualifications

C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

A	B	C	TOTAL
3			3

Workforce Composition

The teaching staff at St Therese Yenda is made up of one full time teaching principal and two teachers, each working four days per week. We also have a teacher assistant working 11 hours per week and two secretaries, each who work 10 hours per week.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	94%
Year 1	86%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	89%
Year 4	89%
Year 5	-%
Year 6	91%

Student Non-Attendance

Student non-attendance is managed at St Therese School Yenda by:

- Recording in SAS according to the coding of the Education Act.
- If a student is absent for an extended period of time, families are contacted.
- Partial absences, late arrivals and early leavers are all marked accordingly.
- Requests from families for extended periods away from school need to go through the Principal and if necessary, the Catholic Schools Office.

Enrolment Policy

St Therese School Yenda is an inclusive school and welcomes enrolment applications from students with disabilities and from other faith traditions. It is an expectation that parents support the school's religious, educational and community goals. St Therese School Yenda also adheres with the Diocesan Enrolment Policy

Characteristics of the Student Body

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
13	8	0	0	21

**Language background Other Than English*

School Policies

Discipline

St Therese School Discipline Policy aims to provide a safe, caring and supportive learning and teaching environment.

We encourage students to show responsible behavior which in turn will develop a healthy self esteem. Students are encouraged to show respect and consideration for all members of the school and parish community.

Student Welfare

St Therese is a faith community that models itself on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Therefore every child has the right to be and feel safe. Opportunities are also promoted so that students are able to take risks and all their efforts are valued and celebrated. Our student welfare policy along with our vision and mission policy aims for positive and productive relationships among its peers.

Complaints and Grievances

Staff, students and parents are encouraged to seek solutions to problems as soon as it is evident that a problem exists. All complaints and grievances are to be taken seriously and appropriate processes put into place for procedural fairness. If a problem exists it is encouraged that the school principal is contacted. If more clarification is required then contact the Catholic Schools Office Consultant, the Parish Priest or School Council Chairperson.

Changes to School Policies

All policies have been reviewed and updated as required and in accordance with the NSW Board of Studies and CSO requirements. These policies were updated in 2013. In 2013 audits were carried out for Religious Education, Mathematics and HISIE. Registration for all other school policies was also held in 2013. Policies are updated regularly and kept in the school office.

Improvement Targets

The teaching and learning at St Therese's School aims to educate students in such a way that they become confident, caring and independent workers who are capable of creative thinking.

The main focus for improving targets is to expose students to different styles of learning. In today's age the creative use of technology is essential in order to equip students for the future. Students are encouraged to use a variety of presentation techniques for their work.

Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and access to computers and i-pads. Digital cameras and video cameras are also available for student use. The school subscribes to internet based programs that complement our teaching and foster independent learning skills.

All teachers provide feedback to students using explicit marking for assessment tasks that relate directly to their learning. The analysis of assessment tasks steers future teaching directions.

Analysis of NAPLAN results has deepened the understanding of students' learning needs, and given teachers greater skill in designing learning activities appropriate to individuals needs.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

St Therese is a small school where all year levels interact with one another on a regular basis. We are very proud of the way that this happens and the care and respect for each other is so noticeable.

As there were no Year 6 students this year, there were no school captains. This then gave all students the opportunity to be 'leaders' in their own right.

Every effort is made to give students extra-curricular experiences. Opportunities given include:

- *Cross country, swimming and athletic carnivals.*

Cross Country is held with St Mary's and St Patrick's School, while St Mary's allow us to join in with them for swimming and athletics.

- *Swimming programs*
10 week swimming program at the Griffith pool for all students
- *Participation in community events*
eg ANZAC day
- *Cultural performances*
- *External providers visiting the school* eg Rugby League Development Officer
- *Inter-school visits*
Year 5 from St Therese went and did Science with the Year 5's from St Mary's every Wednesday. St Therese student went and had days at a 'big' school with St Patrick's Griffith.
- *Spiritual events eg masses and liturgies*
- *Leadership opportunities eg running the assemblies*
- *Public Speaking opportunities*
- *Service Club activities* eg CWA
- *Clean Up Australia day*

During Term 4 the "Open Days of Discovery" program is offered to students who will attend school the following year. The program is open to all children of the community; however, preference is given to those with a genuine desire to enrol their child at St Therese School.

We believe this to be a unique program in the area, which together with our extensive orientation program, provides "pre-schoolers" with a sound educational experience and fosters smooth transition to school. This program has become highly regarded in the community.

Community Satisfaction

The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school.

Parents

My child is usually happy at St Therese School Yenda

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
20%	80%	%	%

Students

I am usually happy at St Therese School Yenda

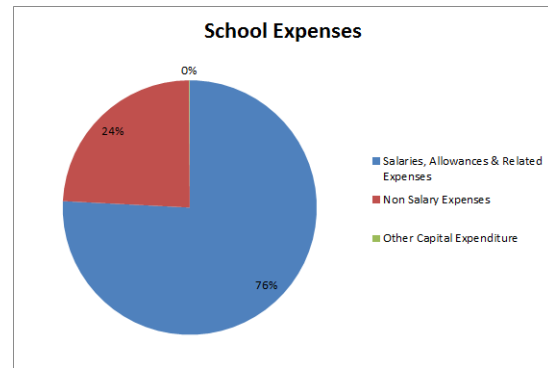
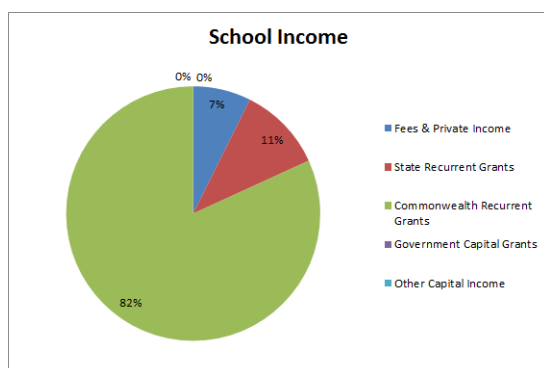
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
20%	80%	%	%

Staff

I am usually happy at St Therese School Yenda

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
100%	%	%	%

Financial Statement Summary



About This Report

This report has been prepared by the School Principal – Miss Christine Calabria