



**OUR LADY OF MERCY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**Annual School Community Report
2016**

OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT 2016

SCHOOL PROFILE

Our Lady of Mercy School is founded in the Catholic Christian tradition. The school is in the Meander Valley Parish which serves both Westbury, Deloraine and surrounding areas. The school is located adjacent to the Holy Redeemer Church in Deloraine.

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School aims to provide an education that develops the whole child.

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School is committed to nurturing Faith and encouraging each person's relationship with God, through Jesus Christ. We value a Christian way of living that promotes a commitment to care, service and respect for justice and compassion within our school community and in society in general. We strive to provide the best possible learning environment.

Our Lady of Mercy School was established by the Sisters of Mercy in February, 1895. The Sisters taught both boys and girls from infant to secondary classes and also took in girl boarders. In 1971 the secondary section was closed and the boarding school closed in 1972. The first lay principal was appointed in 1996. The school is now staffed entirely by lay people. The school's motto is 'The Lord is my light'.

We have 7 classrooms, a library, Performing Arts Room, a multi-purpose hall and office area.

The School Board works in collaboration with the Principal in the planning for, and bringing to reality, improvements in all areas of function at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School. The Board also oversees the responsible supervision of school resources and sees that the school meets its governmental, financial, industrial and legal obligations.

Parents are actively involved in many ways, especially through classroom help. We have a very committed Parents and Friends Association who have a representation on the Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council.

CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION

All children are welcomed at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School regardless of their religious background. We are partners with parents and guardians in the faith development of our students. We build on the foundations established at home and support each student in developing the knowledge and love of God through Jesus Christ. Our Lady of Mercy has a strong religious dimension that is evident throughout the school.

Father Richard Ross was welcomed into our school community as Meander Valley Parish Priest taking over from Father Terry Yard. Father Richard quickly became a valued member of our community and celebrated weekly Masses, liturgical celebrations and special days throughout the year.

Prayer, Liturgy and Celebration

Children are exposed to a rich variety of liturgical experiences and have daily exposure to Gospel values through all Key Learning Areas and interaction with staff and parents. The school's Catholic identity is expressed in various ways: through class and whole school prayer, liturgical

celebrations, religious symbols, the Religious Education Program, our values education programs – The Spirit of Jesus and Making Jesus Real, community service and the manifestation of Gospel values in the day to day happenings and interactions of the school community. Each class has an established sacred space and prayer is an integral part of the day in each class. In 2016, the school continued to provide a variety of experiences to foster the students' spiritual and faith formation.

Each term a liturgical overview reflects the involvement of children in whole school Masses, liturgical celebrations and special Feast Days. We began our school year with an Opening School Mass followed by a Commissioning of Staff, which was attended by staff, students, parents and parishioners. All students from Kinder to Grade 6 engaged in prayer liturgies in the Holy Redeemer Church and the Father Terence Yard Centre, with Prep to Grade 6 students attending parish masses. This structure was in consultation with Meander Valley Parish Priest, Father Richard Ross who regularly leads many of the liturgies. Advent, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter, Holy Week, Feast Days including Mary of the Cross MacKillop and a Thanksgiving End of Year Mass along with significant events such as Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, NAIDOC Week, Mother's Day and Father's Day were liturgically celebrated with strong attendance by family and friends. Parents and friends were invited to join their children in all the liturgical celebrations. Whole School Assemblies began with a prayer.

We gathered together with joy and thanksgiving to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Mercy with an afternoon of celebration. This is the day on which Catherine McAuley first opened the House of Mercy, in Ireland, and dedicated it to Mary, Our Lady of Mercy. We celebrated all the wonderful work the Sisters of Mercy and their friends do around the world. We extended a very special welcome to Sister Margaret, a Sister of Mercy based in Tasmania who celebrated this us. After a prayer service, we had a shared lunch and an afternoon of activities.

On Tuesday, 28th June Father Terence Yard celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a priest at the Holy Redeemer, having been ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Hobart, in 1966. Father Terry, retired from the position of Meander Valley Parish Priest in December, 2015. Father Terry has been unwavering in his ministry to the citizens of the Meander Valley Parish. His support and nurturing of the children at Our Lady of Mercy during this time has endeared him to all within our school community. Father Terry's service and commitment to making things better for everyone has been greatly valued and appreciated. The number of people who had travelled from across Tasmania and interstate were testament to Father Terry's service and impact across our state. Students witnessed a gathering of 21 Priests concelebrating Mass with Father Terry, and a Church that could not seat all its attendees. Our Lady of Mercy students were noted, through their dress, their behaviour and their singing by those present as fine ambassadors for our school. Mass was followed by afternoon tea in the Father Terence Yard Centre and students were treated to a golden icy-pole by Father Terry to celebrate the wonderful occasion.

Religious Education Curriculum

Religious Education is the foundation of our school and is an integral part of our Curriculum. The formal Religious Education Program is drawn from the (2005) Curriculum Framework for Religious Education, 'Good News for Living'. Under the guidance Miss Dianne Murray, Assistant

Principal: Religious Education, and an Education Officer RE from the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office, our teachers implemented the program with a high level of success during 2016.

Spirituality

The staff support each other on their faith journey through prayer and reflection and on scheduled Spirituality Days. The Making Jesus Real Program (MJR) specifically offered to Grade 5 and Grade 6 students continues to be integrated into life at Our Lady of Mercy. The Spirit of Jesus Program (SOJ) was introduced in Grade 3 and Grade 4. These programs are overseen by Mr Peter Mitchell and Mr Julian Davie and designed to promote Christian values and to foster a relationship with Jesus that is real to the students and applicable to their daily lives. Staff and students are able to draw on it to reinforce the development of values and spirituality in the classroom and playground settings.

The School in the Life of the Parish and Diocese

The Meander Valley Parish Sacramental Team led by Parish Priest - Fr Richard Ross, Assistant Principal: Religious Education - Miss Dianne Murray and two parish catechists have responsibility in candidate preparation for the Sacramental Program. Our Lady of Mercy continued in its role as support for both parish and parents in preparing children for the reception of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. The Parish worked with the school in identifying students eligible to receive sacraments and the Sacramental Team worked with parents/guardians in preparing a number of our students for the Sacraments. The Sacramental Preparation Program places a strong emphasis on family involvement, recognising that parents/guardians are the main educators in faith of their children.

Children's Liturgy of the Word commenced on every third weekend in the month, during Saturday evening Mass at Holy Redeemer, Deloraine and Sunday morning Mass at Holy Trinity, Westbury. Sacramental Team members ministered the Children's Liturgy of the Word for children during the Mass. This program is very successful way to support children to understand the readings and Gospel teachings. It is a fun way to learn and praise God.

Miss Dianne Murray, Assistant Principal: Religious Education attended the Parish Pastoral Council meetings, giving an update on school events.

Community Participation and Christian Outreach

Students and their families donated food for St Vincent de Paul Winter Relief Appeal and their Christmas Appeal. In 2016, our school continued its outreach program of providing assistance to Catholic charities. These included the Archbishop's Samaritan Fund and Caritas. Students also played an important role in the Deloraine Carols by Candlelight.

Parent Involvement

Within the first few weeks of the school year, teaching staff met with parents to discuss the structures and routines that occur in their child's classroom. This was followed a few weeks later

with individual student goal setting meetings. Parent/Teacher meetings were held again following mid year reports.

Parent involvement is actively encouraged through our Volunteer's Program. All parents that volunteer have a valid Working with Vulnerable Person's card.

The weekly newsletter contains items of general information, educational articles, a diary of upcoming events, a report from class teachers on a rostered basis, Parents & Friends and community notices. Photos highlight the activities of students during the previous week.

The school sincerely appreciates parents assisting in the classroom, canteen, fundraising and excursions.

OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School is committed to providing the best possible education for its students. The school aims to develop the whole child spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally and morally. Teachers use the Australian Curriculum as a basis for student learning. The Tasmanian Religious Education Curriculum as outlined by the Catholic Education Office is used by teachers to plan for Religious Education lessons.

Learning and Teaching

The staff of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School are dedicated to ensure positive learning outcomes for all children. The teaching staff work collaboratively with one another to share resources, planning ideas and teaching tools.

Weekly staff and curriculum meetings were held which reflected term, annual and System direction. Whole day professional development experiences were also held. The school continued its focus on backward design planning, in particular in the area of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS). There was also the implementation of a whole school focus on Oral Language, which is in line with the Literacy Strategy as outlined by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office.

Students from K – Gr 6 participated in specialist lessons that include Music, Speech and Drama, Dance and Physical Education.

Students are exposed to engaging and enriching learning activities in the classroom setting. Teachers create an inclusive learning program that caters to the needs of all students. In 2016, there were many exciting learning opportunities for students from K-6 which included excursions to Canberra, Bush Tucker trail and drama performances in Launceston. In 2016, students across the school had access to iPads with a ratio of 1:1. The use of ICT has enabled teaching staff another resource to create learning opportunities that develops student skills, knowledge and understanding.

Reporting on student achievement occurred twice- at both mid and end of year. This is in line with Tasmanian Catholic Education guidelines.

Targeted Programs

The support of individual learning needs was a key priority in 2016. Teacher and Teacher Assistants were trained in a variety of programs to implement in the classroom to support student

learning and development. Staff from the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office also assisted in the implementation of these programs.

Student Leadership

Student leadership is strongly fostered at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School. In 2016, students in Grade 6 were elected to positions of leadership that include School Captains, Vice Captains and House Captains. Through these roles, students led house groups at sporting carnivals, facilitated whole school assemblies and represented the school at various community events.

Positive Behaviour Support

In 2016, School Wide Positive Behaviour (PBS) was a continued focus. At the beginning of the school year, staff refreshed the school expectations and behavioural matrix. Following staff discussion, it was decided that our new expectations are:

We are Safe

We are Thoughtful

We are Learners

Following the implementation of these new expectations, classroom teachers used the PBS matrix to teach expected behaviours. Circle time, which is a social and emotional program was also implemented. As part of the PBS program, staff collected data and recognised the positive choices being made by students. Promotion of the PBS program was also significant with various stickers and signage being placed around the school.

ENROLMENT

Class structures in 2016 were:

Kindergarten: 16 students

Preparatory: 10 students

Grade 1: 13 students

Grade 2: 14 students

Grade 3: 15 students

Grade 4: 18 students

Grade 5: 22 students

Grade 6: 16 students

The Enrolment policy is in accordance with the TCEO guidelines, with the guarantee of a place for every Catholic student seeking enrolment. In Term 1, Kindergarten students attended school for three full days. All other students attend school fulltime.

Parents of students absent from school are required to ring or email the school to notify student absence. The school follows guidelines for student absence as directed by TCEO.

Our teaching staff comprises experienced professionals whose qualifications enable them to be fully registered with the Tasmanian Registration Board. There were 12 teaching staff and 7 ancillary staff members. All staff members have a current and valid working with vulnerable persons check.

The Leadership Team was comprised of the Principal, Assistant to the Principal: Religious Education, Assistant to the Principal: Learning and Teaching and the Learning Support coordinator.

Teacher aides at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School are dedicated and highly skilled. They liaise closely with teaching staff, Catholic Education Office personnel and specialists.

Staff also includes a Finance Officer and Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Utility Officer, WHS officer, ICT Aide and cleaner. These roles have differing hours of employment.

The Parish Priest, Fr Richard Ross, fosters active participation of all our students in the Faith life of the school and has developed a positive relationship with both staff and students.

School Staff

Leadership:

Principal: Mrs Mary Wall

AP:LT and Literacy Project Officer - Mrs Chris Huett

AP:R.E - Miss Dianne Murray

Learning Support- Mrs Clare Weare

Miss Danielle Niaura - Prep/ Grade 1

Miss Mariah Parsons- Grade 2

Miss Dianne Murray & Miss Michelle Donohoe – Grade 3/4

Mr Nicholas Saltmarsh & Miss Michelle Donohoe – Grade 4/5

Mr Christopher Weare & Miss Michelle Donohoe – Grade 5/6

Mrs Amelia Reynolds – Music, Drama, School Choir, Chamber Choir

Mr Nick Cramp - Physical Education

Teacher Assistants:

Mrs Jayne Bennett - Primary

Mrs Anita Bowman – Kindergarten

Miss Katelyn Cramp - Primary

Mrs Kim Dane - Primary

Mrs Michelle Durack - Primary

Mrs Rachele Streich - Primary

Mrs Carmen Wadley- Primary

Administration:

Mrs Anne Stewart - School Secretary/ Finance Officer

Mrs Katie Gardner – Administration /ICT Aide/WH&S

Services:

Mr Pat Coleman – Groundsperson/Security

Miss Rachel Lowery - Cleaner

School Board Membership 2016:

Chair – Mr Simon Bennett

Vice Chair -

Secretary – Ms Vanetta Harding/Mrs Heather Cosgriff

Treasurer – Mr Michael Sullivan

Parents and Friends Executive Committee

President – Mrs Gina Sullivan

Vice President -

Secretary – Yvette Donovan

Treasurer – Jayne Bennett

Canteen Coordinator – Jayne Bennett

Uniform Coordinator - Vanessa Gibson

NAPLAN 2016 Summary Report

Our Lady Of Mercy Catholic School

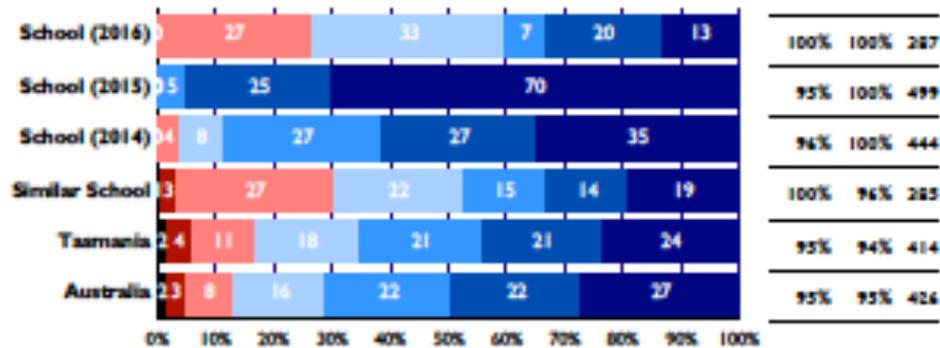
Group **Percentage of Students in each Band**
(NMS = National Minimum Standard)

■ Exempt ■ Below NMS: Band 1 ■ At NMS: Band 2
 ■ Above NMS: Band 3 ■ Band 4 ■ Band 5 ■ Band 6

Summary **Percentage of Students with Relative Gain**
(from 2 years prior)

Participation Rate % At or Above NMS % Mean Score
 ■ Low □ Medium ■ High

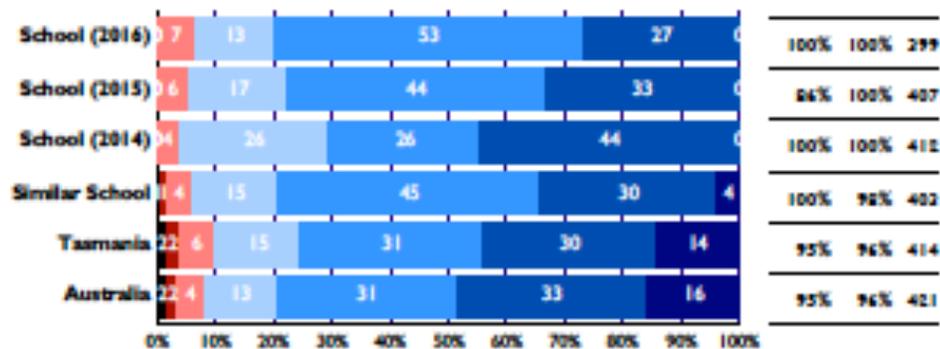
Year 3 Reading



Students 2014: 15

No students with matched scores from this school from 2 years prior

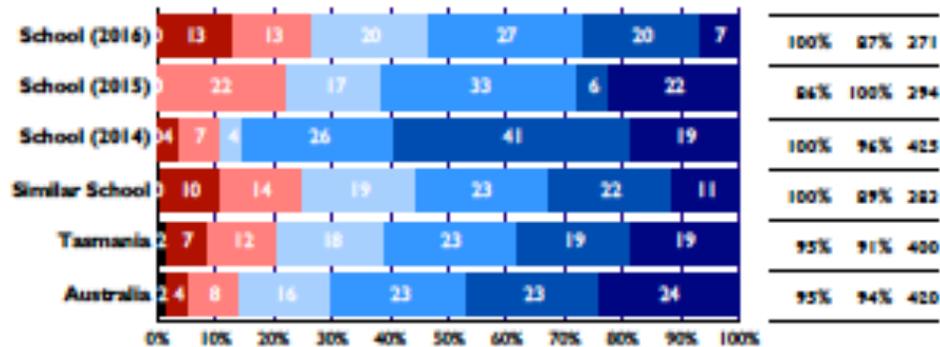
Year 3 Writing



Students 2014: 15

No students with matched scores from this school from 2 years prior

Year 3 Spelling



Students 2014: 15

No students with matched scores from this school from 2 years prior

NAPLAN 2016 Summary Report

Our Lady Of Mercy Catholic School

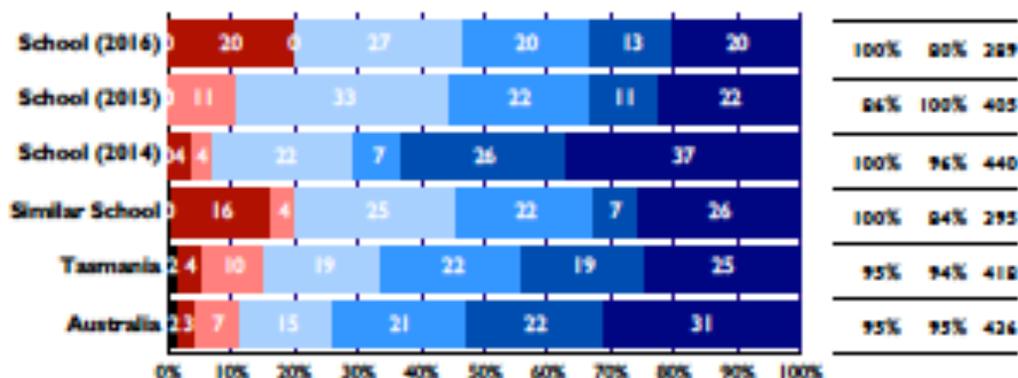
Group **Percentage of Students in each Band**
 (NMS = National Minimum Standard)

■ Exempt ■ Below NMS: Band 1 ■ At NMS: Band 2
■ Above NMS: Band 3 ■ Band 4 ■ Band 5 ■ Band 6

Summary **Percentage of Students with**
Relative Gain
 (from 2 years prior)
■ Low □ Medium □ High

Participation Rate % At or Above NMS % Mean Score

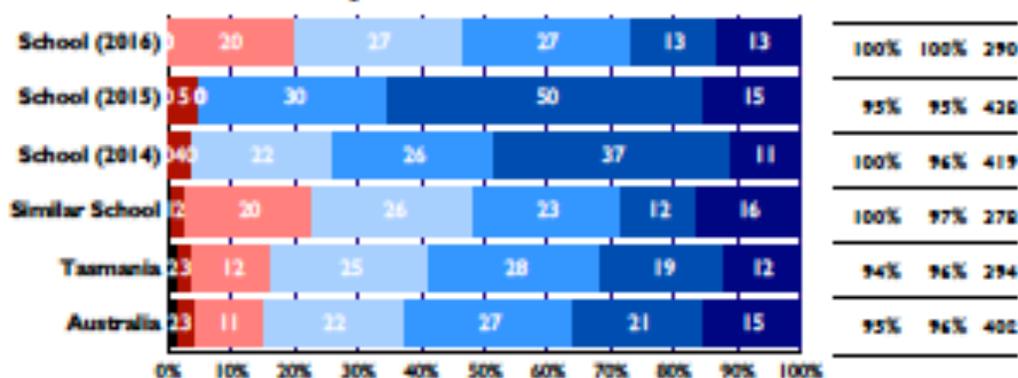
Year 3 Grammar and Punctuation



Students 2016: 15

No students with matched scores from this school from 2 years prior

Year 3 Numeracy



Students 2016: 15

No students with matched scores from this school from 2 years prior

Notes

The national minimum standard for Year 2 is Band 2.

Mean scores are conventional average scores.

Participation rates are calculated on the basis of all assessed and exempt students as a percentage of the total number of Year 2 students in the school including those absent and withdrawn.

Exempt students are counted as assessed when calculating the participation rate, but are not included in scoring or national minimum standard calculations for the school.

Students absent or withdrawn from testing are counted as not assessed when calculating the participation rate and are not included in scoring or national minimum standard calculations for the school. Students may be withdrawn from the testing by their parents or carers.

Similar school values are based on the results of all students/schools, adjusted for a parental education profile similar to the school.

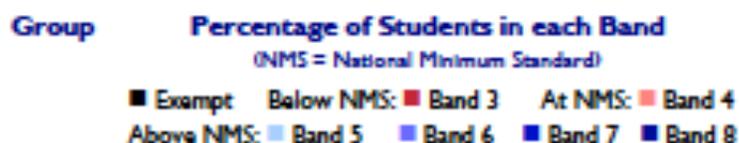
NB: Similar school values may be determined using different methodologies for reporting at www.mrcschool.edu.au.

A guide to the school and student reports has been distributed electronically to your school.

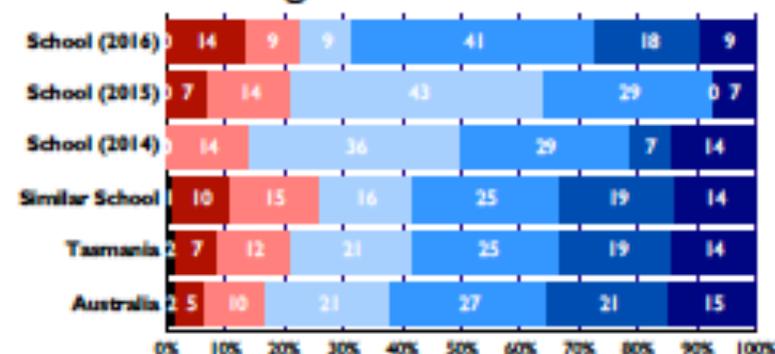
Please contact Education Performance and Review on 6143 3706 for any enquiries.

NAPLAN 2016 Summary Report

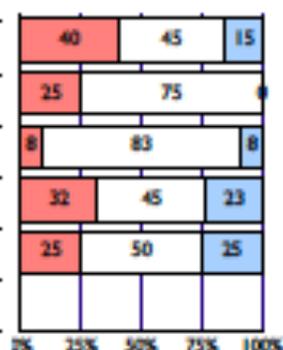
Our Lady Of Mercy Catholic School



Year 5 Reading



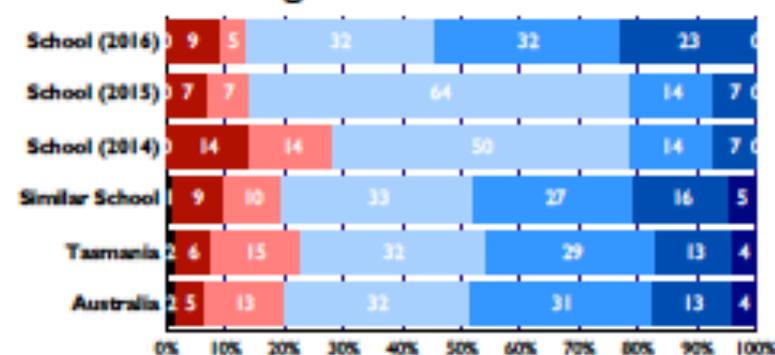
Participation Rate %	At or Above NMS %	Mean Score
100%	86%	486
92%	92%	458
100%	100%	499
90%	89%	496
95%	91%	493
95%	92%	500



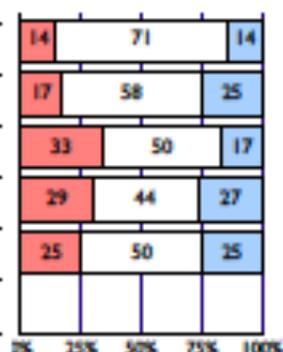
Students 2016: 22

Matched Scores 2014-16: 20

Year 5 Writing



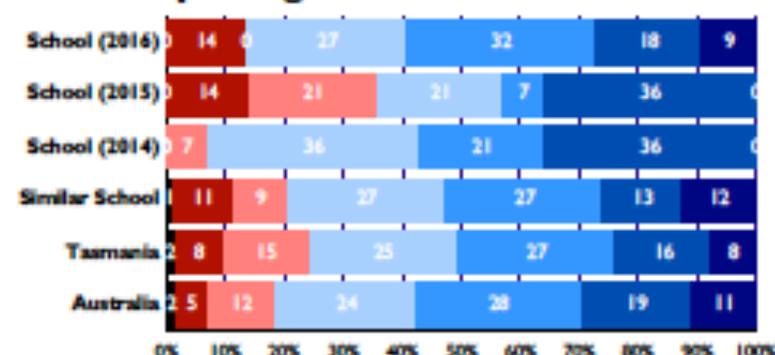
Participation Rate %	At or Above NMS %	Mean Score
100%	91%	473
92%	92%	450
100%	86%	448
97%	90%	474
95%	92%	470
95%	92%	473



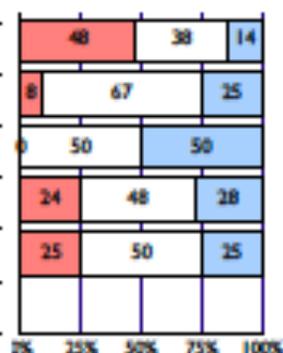
Students 2016: 22

Matched Scores 2014-16: 21

Year 5 Spelling



Participation Rate %	At or Above NMS %	Mean Score
100%	86%	486
92%	86%	462
100%	100%	492
97%	88%	480
95%	90%	479
95%	92%	492



Students 2016: 22

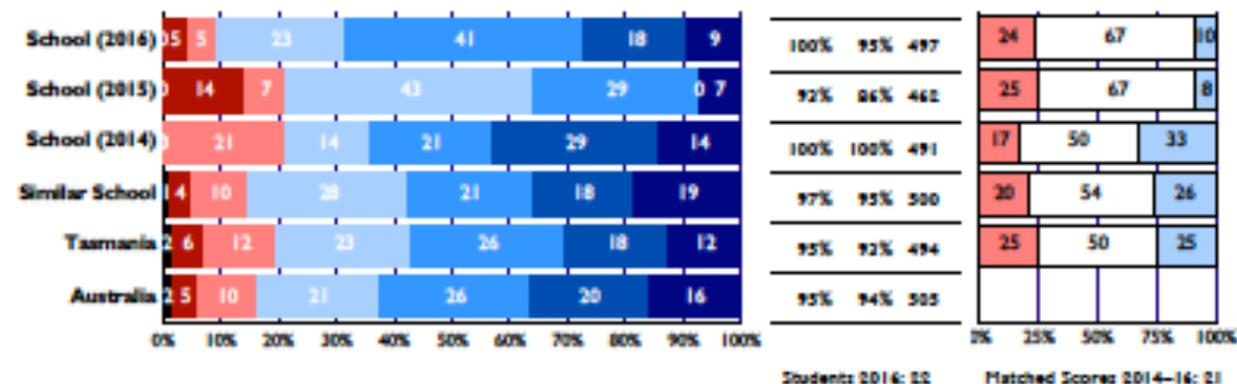
Matched Scores 2014-16: 21

NAPLAN 2016 Summary Report

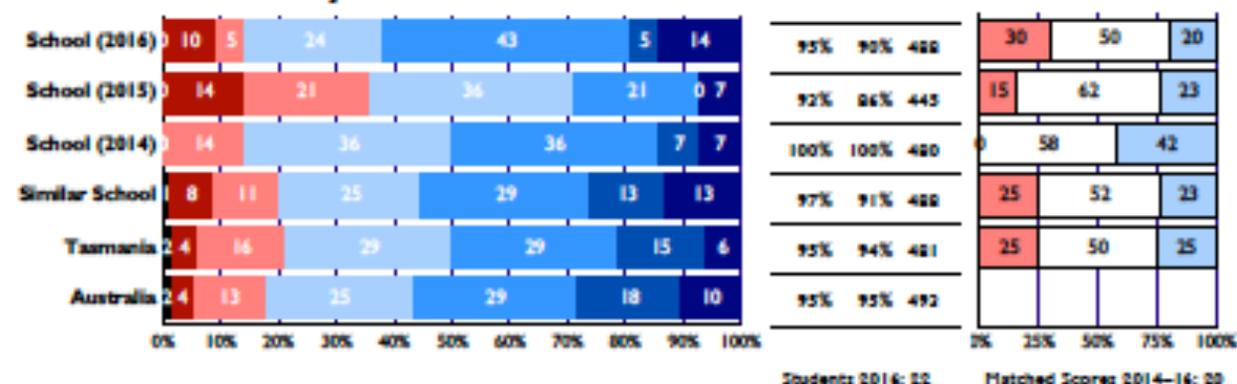
Our Lady Of Mercy Catholic School



Year 5 Grammar and Punctuation



Year 5 Numeracy



Notes

The national minimum standard for Year 5 is Band 4.

Mean scores are conventional average scores.

Participation rates are calculated on the basis of all assessed and exempt students as a percentage of the total number of Year 5 students in the school including those absent and withdrawn.

Exempt students are counted as assessed when calculating the participation rate, but are not included in scoring or national minimum standard calculations for the school.

Students absent or withdrawn from testing are counted as not assessed when calculating the participation rate and are not included in scoring or national minimum standard calculations for the school. Students may be withdrawn from the testing by their parents or carers.

Similar school values are based on results of all students/schools, adjusted for a parental education profile similar to the school.

Relative gain: Each student's level of relative gain is determined by comparing their gain to the gains of Tasmanian students that had the same (or similar) NAPLAN score two years ago. Graphs of the percentage of students with Low, Medium and High gains are based on all Year 5 students in the school who also sat the test in the school in Year 3 two years prior.

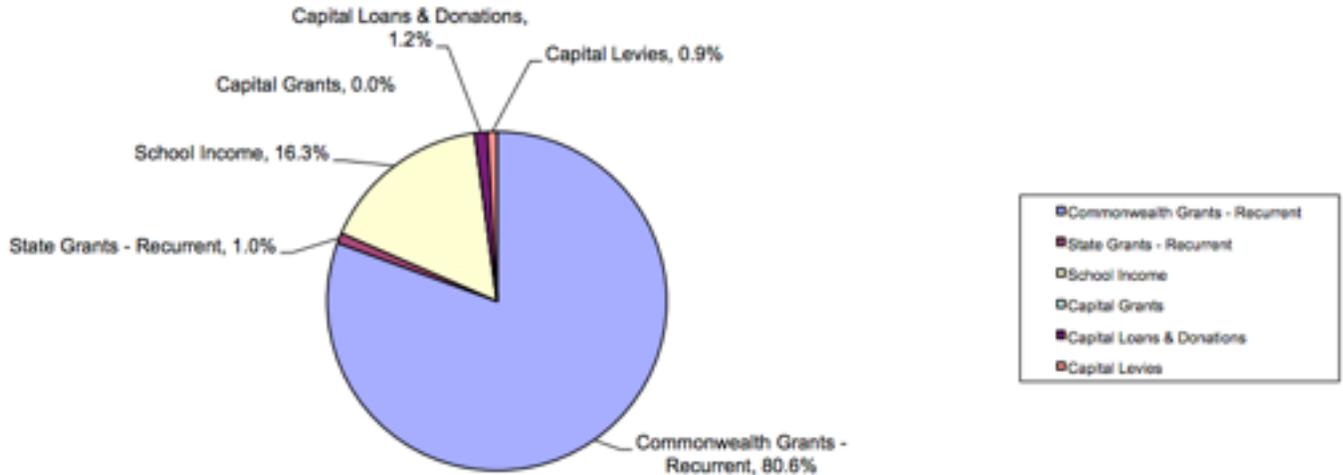
NB: Gains and similar school values may be determined using different methodologies for reporting at www.mrcschool.edu.au.

A guide to the school and student reports has been distributed electronically to your school.

Please contact Education Performance and Review on 6145 5706 for any enquiries.

Financial Statement

OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC SCHOOL SOURCES OF INCOME 2016 Total Income \$1.8 million



OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC SCHOOL EXPENDITURE 2016 Total Expenditure \$1.9 million

