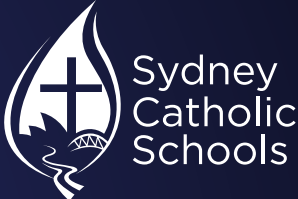




Annual Report 2024





SYDNEY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, FAITH IN ACTION

At Sydney Catholic Schools (SCS), we believe in the transformative power of education rooted in faith and community.

Our network of 147 primary and secondary schools within the Archdiocese of Sydney is more than just a collection of campuses. It's a dynamic, thriving community where students are inspired to reach their full potential and to lead with purpose and compassion.

Our schools are places of growth, where dedicated teachers, supportive families, and passionate staff work hand-in-hand to create environments that foster learning, belonging, and faith. We are committed to guiding each child on a journey of academic, spiritual and personal discovery.

At the heart of our mission is a commitment to academic excellence, grounded in the teachings of Christ and enriched by diverse learning experiences that embrace each child's unique talents, providing opportunities for personal growth.

From foundational literacy and numeracy in Kindergarten to outstanding achievements in NAPLAN and the HSC, our students are challenged and supported to become confident, capable, and intellectually curious learners.

In 2024, six of our schools ranked among the top 53 high-achieving NSW schools in NAPLAN. These schools consistently achieved above-average scores in reading, writing, spelling, grammar, and numeracy across all year groups tested when compared to students from similar socio-educational backgrounds.

HSC results were also impressive. Over half (51.4%) of all subject results were in the top two bands (5 and 6), with six schools featuring among the top 100 in the state and 13 in the top 150. Eight of our exceptional students were honoured with First in Course distinctions, and a record 280 nominations were received for HSC showcases in Arts, Technology, and Applied Studies.

We are proud to see our students excel academically while staying true to our core values of faith, community, and service. Through their achievements, they carry forward the Sydney Catholic Schools legacy of an enduring commitment to nurturing bright minds and compassionate hearts.

In the Catholic school's educational project there is no separation between time for learning and time for formation, between acquiring notions and growing in wisdom."

***THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL ON
THE THRESHOLD OF THE THIRD
MILLENNIUM #14***



147

Schools



110
K-6

6
K-12

31
7-12

73,881

Students



40,823
K-6



33,058
7-12

15,886

NCCD students



50,721

Language
backgrounds other
than English



1,155

Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander students



104

Associated parishes within
the Sydney Archdiocese





MISSION

To know and love Christ
through learning

VISION

Thriving Catholic communities
through excellent teaching
and learning

VALUES

TRUTH

Seeking to know and live
the truth

COLLABORATION

Engaging respectfully and
meaningfully with others

EXCELLENCE

Striving to achieve one's potential

EMPATHY

Appreciating and responding to
the views and needs of others

CURIOSITY

Nurturing the search for meaning



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



Archbishop Anthony Fisher, OP
Archbishop of Sydney
Founder and Member, Sydney Catholic Schools Trust
Cathedral House

Your Grace,

On behalf of the Board, it is with great pride that I present the 2024 Annual Report for Sydney Catholic Schools. This report reflects a year not only of change, but also continuing growth, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to our mission of delivering an outstanding Catholic education to students across the Archdiocese of Sydney.

At the heart of our schools is a steadfast dedication to nurturing the spiritual, academic, and personal growth of every student. Inspired by the teachings of Christ, we continue to build inclusive, thriving communities where students are encouraged to develop their God-given talents, deepen their faith, and prepare to become compassionate, responsible leaders in society.

This year, we have seen outstanding achievements in academic excellence, creative arts, sports, and vocational education. Our focus on holistic development has empowered students to grow not only in knowledge but also in character and faith. Whether it be through the Amadeus Music Education Program, the Unified All Abilities Sports Program, or the transformative cultural initiatives within our schools, it is clear that our commitment to inclusivity and excellence remains at the forefront of our work.

One of the most significant developments in 2024 was the continued evolution of the Excellence in Action framework, which has enhanced our teaching practices through a consistent, evidence-based approach. This framework, underpinned by our Catholic values, is instrumental in supporting the academic and pastoral care needs of our students, fostering both high standards and a sense of belonging.

We have also strengthened our engagement with families and communities, recognising the vital role they play in the spiritual and educational journey of their children. Our commitment to partnership and collaboration remains central to the success of our mission.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, leaders, and school communities who, through their faith and commitment, continue to inspire and shape the future of our Archdiocesan schools. Their tireless efforts and unwavering support have been essential in realising our vision for thriving Catholic communities. In particular, I thank my fellow Board members, Mr Tony Farley and Interim Executive Director Mr Peter Turner who so generously and capably shepherded SCS during this year of transition in senior leadership.

As we look ahead, we reaffirm and recommit to our steadfast belief that every child deserves an education that is both academically rigorous and spiritually enriching. We remain very grateful for your support and encouragement as we pursue our mission to achieve excellence in all aspects of our students' education. May God continue to bless our students, families, and staff as we journey together in faith and learning.

Very Rev Dr Gerald Gleeson
Chair, Sydney Catholic Schools' Board



Very Rev Dr Gerald Gleeson

**Most Rev Daniel Meagher
DD VG EV**

Prof Catherine Thill



Prof Hayden Ramsay

Ms Loretta Di Mento

Mr Mark McCrossin



Mr Michael Digges

Mr Stephen Newton

OUR BOARD

Sydney Catholic Schools is governed by the Sydney Catholic Schools Board of Directors, which is the corporate trustee for Sydney Catholic Schools Trust.

As trustee, the Board is responsible for ensuring Sydney Catholic Schools undertakes its activities for the purpose of the Trust, which is:

To pursue the advancement of education through the operation of an effective system of Catholic education at all levels, which contributes to the total educational needs of young people in Catholic schools, in accordance with the principles of the Catholic Church.

Loretta Di Mento concluded her service on the Board on 8 August 2024. Michael Digges concluded his term on the Board on 5 December 2024. We extend our sincere thanks to Loretta and Michael for their valuable contribution and dedicated service during their tenure.

IN 2024 THE
BOARD WAS
SUPPORTED
BY FOUR
COMMITTEES:

- > Audit and Risk
- > Core Strategy
- > Capital Planning
- > People and Culture



LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Sydney Catholic Schools entered the next phase of its 200-year journey in 2024 with a period of transition in the executive leadership team.

Following Executive Director Tony Farley's departure in the first quarter of 2024, Interim Director Peter Turner expertly guided the organisation ahead of the appointment of Danielle Cronin in October.

Ms Cronin brings an impressive record of service to Catholic education over two decades and is one of Australia's leading education policy specialists. She is also the first female Executive Director of schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney and a current school parent.

The Board would like to thank Tony Farley and Peter Turner for their service and support of our community during their respective tenures.

We are confident that under Danielle's leadership Sydney Catholic Schools will continue to flourish. We look forward to working together as she continues to build on the strong foundation laid by her predecessors and leads Sydney Catholic Schools into a future filled with faith, hope, and opportunity.



Tony Farley
Executive Director



Peter Turner
Interim Executive Director



Danielle Cronin
Executive Director Elect



Jacqueline Frost
Chief of Staff



Anthony Cleary
Director: Mission and Identity

OUR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our Catholic schools operate smoothly with the help and expertise of eight directorates: Education and Research, Mission and Identity, Property and Finance, IT and Systems Integration, School Support, People and Culture, Governance and Legal, and the Executive Director's Office.

Together they support our system of 147 primary and secondary schools and more than 70,000 students, upholding the system's vision of 'Thriving Catholic communities through excellent teaching and learning.'



Milton Scott
Director: IT and Systems Integration



Eric Leahy
Director: People and Culture



Glenn McLachlan
Director: Finance and Property



Kevin Carragher
Director: Education and Research



Margaret Savage
Director: Governance and Legal



Damien Kerr
Director: School Support

Sydney Catholic Schools' unique structure fosters an environment of excellence. Our centralised support team of multi-disciplinary experts collaborate with our principals, teachers, and staff to leverage the collective expertise, resources and facilities available across the whole system.

Because of this design, our principals are empowered to harness shared resources, knowledge, and expertise, leading to enhanced educational outcomes for all students. The collaborative spirit of our educators and leaders ensures that every student receives a comprehensive education that prepares them for success in a dynamic world.



OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH

Sydney Catholic Schools is responsible for the leadership, operation and management of 147 Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of Sydney.

THRIVING CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

- > To participate in the life and mission of the Catholic faith community
- > To deepen our knowledge and engagement with the Catholic faith and tradition
- > To build each student's capacity to continuously reason reflectively, logically and critically
- > To embrace the interdependence of human existence as global citizens, who are responsible to and for themselves and others
- > To provide an engaging, holistic learning experience, where students thrive academically
- > To be places where every student excels in a multitude of ways, through personalised and self-paced learning.



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OUR SCHOOLS

AEROTROPOLIS

Austral, St Anthony of Padua Catholic College
Carnes Hill, Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School
Prestons, St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School
West Hoxton, Clancy Catholic College

ASHFIELD-OLYMPIC PARK

Ashbury, St Francis Xavier Catholic School
Ashfield, St Vincent's College
Concord West, St Ambrose Catholic Primary School
Concord, St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Croydon, Holy Innocents' Catholic Primary School
Enfield, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Five Dock, All Hallows Catholic Primary School
Five Dock, Domremy Catholic College
Haberfield, St Joan of Arc Catholic Primary School
Mortlake, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
North Strathfield, Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School
Strathfield South, St Anne's Catholic Primary School
Strathfield, St Martha's Catholic Primary School

AUBURN-LAKEMBA

Auburn South, St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School
Auburn, St John's Catholic Primary School
Auburn, Trinity Catholic College
Belfield, St Michael's Catholic Primary School
Belmore, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Campsie, St Mel's Catholic Primary School
Greenacre, St John Vianney Catholic Primary School
Lakemba, Holy Spirit Catholic College
Lakemba, St Therese's Catholic Primary School
Lidcombe, St Joachim's Catholic Primary School
Punchbowl, St Jerome's Catholic Primary School
Regents Park, St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary School
Sefton, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School

BOTANY-RANDWICK

Botany, St Bernard's Catholic Primary School
Clifton Gardens, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School
Clovelly, St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
Coogee, St Brigid's Catholic Primary School
Daceyville, St Michael's Catholic Primary School
Erskineville, St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Glebe, St James Catholic Primary School
Kensington, Our Lady of The Rosary Catholic Primary School
Kensington, Our Lady of The Sacred Heart College
Leichhardt, St Fiacre's Catholic Primary School
Malabar, St Andrew's Catholic Primary School
Maroubra Junction, St Aidan's Catholic Primary School
Maroubra, Corpus Christi College
Maroubra, St Mary - St Joseph Catholic Primary School
Mascot, St Therese Catholic Primary School
Matraville, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
North Sydney, Marist Catholic College North Shore
Randwick North, St Margaret Mary's Catholic Primary School
Randwick, Brigidine College
Randwick, Marcellin College
Randwick, Our Lady of The Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
Rosebery, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Sydney, St Mary's Cathedral College
Waterloo, Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Primary School
Waverley, St Charles' Primary School
Waverley, St Clare's College

CITY WEST

Annandale, St Brendan's Catholic Primary School
Dulwich Hill, St Paul of the Cross Catholic Primary School
Enmore, St Pius' Catholic Primary School
Marrickville, Casimir Catholic College
Marrickville, St Brigid's Catholic Primary School
Stanmore, St Michael's Catholic Primary School
Summer Hill, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

EAST HILLS

Bankstown Central, St Brendan's Catholic Primary School
Bankstown, La Salle Catholic College
Bankstown, St Felix Catholic Primary School
Bass Hill, Christ the King Catholic Primary School
Georges Hall, St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Milperra, Mount St Joseph
Panania, St Christopher's Catholic Primary School
Revesby Heights, De La Salle College
Revesby, St Luke's Catholic Primary School

HORSLEY

Cabramatta, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
Fairfield, Our Lady of The Rosary Catholic Primary School
Fairfield, Patrician Brothers' College
Holsworthy, St Christopher's Catholic Primary School
Liverpool, All Saints Catholic College
Moorebank, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Smithfield, St Gertrude's Catholic Primary School
Villawood, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
Wakeley, Mary MacKillop Catholic College

NORTH SYDNEY

Balmain, Fr John Therry Catholic Primary School
Bondi, Galilee Catholic Primary School
Lane Cove, St Michael's Catholic Primary School
Leichhardt North, St Columba's Catholic Primary School
Mosman, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
Paddington, St Francis of Assisi Regional Catholic Primary School
Padstow, St Therese Catholic Primary School
Rose Bay, McAuley Catholic Primary School
Woollahra, Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

RYDE

Denistone, St Therese's Catholic Primary School
Drummoyne, St Mark's Catholic Primary School
Eastwood, Marist College
Eastwood, St Kevin's Catholic Primary School
Gladesville, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School
Hunters Hill, Villa Maria Catholic Primary School
Marsfield, St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
Meadowbank, St Michael's Catholic Primary School
North Ryde, Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School
Ryde, Holy Cross College
Ryde, St Charles' Catholic Primary School
Woolwich, Marist Sisters' College

SOUTH WEST

Bonnyrigg Heights, Freeman Catholic College
Bonnyrigg Heights, John the Baptist Catholic Primary School
Bossley Park, Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School
Hinchinbrook, Good Samaritan Catholic College
Horsley Park, Marion Catholic Primary School
Hoxton Park, Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School
Lurnea, St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School
Mt Pritchard, Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Primary School
Sadleir, St Therese Catholic Primary School

ST GEORGE

Arncliffe, St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School
Beverly Hills, Regina Coeli Catholic Primary School
Bexley, St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School
Blakehurst, Mater Dei Catholic Primary School
Brighton-Le-Sands, St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School
Earlwood, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
Hurstville, Bethany College
Hurstville, St Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School
Kingsgrove, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School
Kingsgrove, St Ursula's College
Kogarah, Marist College
Kogarah, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Oatley, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Penshurst, Marist Catholic College
Penshurst, St Declan's Catholic Primary School
Riverwood, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Rockdale, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Sans Souci, St Finbar's Catholic Primary School
South Hurstville, St Raphael's Catholic Primary School

SUTHERLAND SHIRE

Burraneer, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic College
Caringbah, De La Salle Catholic College
Caringbah, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School
Como, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Cronulla, St Aloysius Catholic Primary School
Cronulla, St Aloysius College
Engadine, St John Bosco Catholic Primary School
Engadine, St John Bosco College
Gymea, St Catherine Labouré Catholic Primary School
Menai, Aquinas Catholic College
Menai, Holy Family Catholic Primary School
Miranda, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School
Sutherland, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Sutherland, St Patrick's College
Woolooware, St Francis De Sales' Catholic Primary School

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Lewisham, Eileen O'Connor Catholic College

EDUCATION & RESEARCH VET

Bankstown, Saint Yon Trade Training Centre
Burwood, Southern Cross Catholic College
Hinchinbrook, St Joseph Trades Skills Centre

FAITH FORMATION

MISSION AND IDENTITY

Our schools are holistic, faith-filled educational communities that respect tradition while learning in a contemporary environment. The cornerstone of our Mission and Identity is the Archbishop's Charter for Catholic Schools which calls us to:

- > Give witness to their distinctive educational, spiritual, moral and social purposes within the evangelising mission of the Church, founded on faith in Jesus Christ, and express this in a Mission Statement that identifies their traditions and charisms
- > Nurture students' love of learning through a Catholic pedagogy that fosters the development of the intellect, moral knowledge, understanding and reasoning in a relational, social and cultural context
- > Assist students to know, understand and celebrate their Catholic faith through the implementation of the Religious Education Curriculum of the Archdiocese
- > Encourage students' participation in and commitment to the Catholic life of the school through prayer, meditation and involvement in the life of the parish including Sunday Eucharist
- > Teach students to know, understand and act on Catholic social teaching, in particular the 'preferential option for the poor', the obligation to be good stewards of God's creation, the recognition of universal human rights, and the responsibility of fostering peaceful relations among peoples
- > Care for students through an inclusive curriculum, pastoral care and student wellbeing policies and practices that are consistent with the mission of the Catholic school
- > Give priority to the enrolment of Catholic students
- > Work in partnership with and support parents as the primary educators of their children
- > Provide a range of evangelising, catechising, and faith formation opportunities to enhance the witness and Catholic practice of staff, students and families
- > Employ staff who have the capacity and commitment to give Christian witness and contribute to the mission of the Church
- > Work with parish priests in nurturing communities where the celebration of the Eucharist, Sacraments, Sacred Scripture, prayer and Catholic symbols support students in developing a personal relationship with Jesus





FAITH IN ACTION

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry programs at Sydney Catholic Schools inspire students to grow in faith and live out the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Strong partnerships provide students with a wide range of opportunities for service, leadership development, prayer, and worship. Our programs including retreats and immersion experiences foster a vibrant faith life and a strong sense of belonging within parishes and the broader community. The Pope Francis Award is an annual program that invites students in Years 6, 7, and 9 to actively live their faith by volunteering within their school and parish communities. Participants dedicate their time before and after school to community service projects that align with their personal strengths and passions.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

Sydney Catholic Schools is committed to Religious Education as a scholastic discipline with the same rigour and expectations as other subjects within the curriculum. Our team of K-12 Religious Education Coordinators drive the curriculum and ensure the highest standard in contemporary teaching practices across our schools. Sydney Catholic Schools actively supports teachers and staff to lead responsibly and compassionately. Our 'Head, Heart, Hands' approach to staff faith formation engages them in prayer, dialogue and reflection, and active community service that supports those in need.



FAITH IN ART

CLANCY PRIZE

The Clancy Prize for Religious Art is a celebration of Catholic faith and tradition and artistic talent, open to all secondary students in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

In 2024, the theme '*Saints of Hope*' saw students highlight the work and legacies of some of the Church's most influential figures.

Entries ranged from sculptures and paintings to mixed media, and were exhibited at the Australian Catholic University's McGlade Gallery in Strathfield and the Crypt at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.

CHRISTMAS STORY RELIGIOUS ART EXHIBITION AND COMPETITION

This is an annual competition and exhibition for Year 5 and Year 6 students in the Archdiocese of Sydney, and dioceses of Wollongong and Bathurst.

Students draw, paint, create, and write a short reflection on the Sacred Scripture of Advent and Christmas that connects them with the significance of the birth of Jesus to their own lives.

In 2024, students submitted more than 400 Christmas story artworks. There were **92** works selected for exhibition and **23** prize winners.



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

COMPREHENSIVE AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FROM K-12

- > Comprehensive and inclusive education
- > Diverse learning options for students of all abilities
- > Inspired, high-quality teaching

Sydney Catholic Schools is committed to delivering world-class education, grounded in strong literacy and numeracy skills. Through collaboration, shared expertise, and high expectations, we create an environment that encourages students to excel.

Our educational approach focuses on holistic development, offering personalised learning, extension programs, and co-curricular activities to inspire students of all abilities.

At the core of our philosophy are values of excellence, curiosity, empathy, truth, and collaboration. This values-based education underpins continuous improvement and a respectful, inclusive culture.

SCS's collaborative network enhances the learning experience for both students and teachers, leveraging innovative strategies and data to maximise growth. This approach has led to significant achievements in standardised assessments like NAPLAN and the HSC.



EXCELLENCE IN ACTION FRAMEWORK

The 2024 “*Excellence in Action*” framework aligns with our vision of fostering thriving Catholic communities through high-quality teaching and learning. It promotes a unified language and consistent, evidence-based teaching practices across 147 schools.

Grounded in contemporary research, the framework supports school improvement, student wellbeing, and inclusion, particularly for students with diverse learning needs.

SCS educators possess a deep understanding of the curriculum and best teaching practices, supported by professional development and a data-driven approach. This collective effort ensures that every student receives the necessary challenge and support.

TEACHING TO THRIVE

A deep understanding of the curriculum and best-practice in education allows Sydney Catholic Schools’ dedicated teachers to provide every student with the appropriate level of challenge and support.

This is paired with a deep knowledge of their subject areas and enhanced by a unified, system-wide approach to professional development. Combined with a data-driven approach, our staff work together to deliver exceptional educational outcomes for their students.



CURRICULUM AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Sydney Catholic Schools follows the NSW Education Standards Authority curriculum, with an additional Religious Education component.

Strong literacy and numeracy foundations are essential for academic success across subjects.

As a Registered Training Organisation, SCS offers more than 40 VET qualifications, including Certificate I, II, and III courses, as well as school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

In 2024, over 2,600 students engaged in VET courses, acquiring industry-specific skills while earning dual accreditation towards the Record of School Achievement and Higher School Certificate.

SCS supports VET through Trade Training/Skills Centres and partnerships with TAFE, helping students develop technical skills and career readiness.

Through VET options at SCS, students can:

- > Kickstart their career
- > Explore industry areas and job roles
- > Develop their technical skills and knowledge
- > Develop key skills and attributes for greater employability





33

Sites
offering VET



2,216

Enrolments in a VET
course in 2024



412

School-based apprenticeships
and traineeships in 2024





DIVERSE LEARNING

We promote an inclusive approach to student learning. Recognising that students learn differently, we provide tailored learning opportunities with high expectations for learning growth. Our teachers collaborate with students, parents, carers and specialist staff to develop personalised plans for specific educational goals.

We also cater to the needs of gifted and high potential students, ensuring educational equity is achieved for all students across all stages of their schooling. Our Newman Selective Gifted Education Program is an international award-winning program. Participating schools offer a wide range of opportunities to meet the needs of gifted learners and support students' social and emotional needs. The program is currently delivered at 88 primary and secondary schools.

89

Sydney Catholic Schools
offer the Newman Selective
Gifted Education Program



4,488

Teachers trained in gifted
education in the past 5 years





FACILITIES

INNOVATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Sydney Catholic Schools invests in high-quality school facilities to enhance learning outcomes.

Modern classrooms are designed with flexible, collaborative spaces that support various teaching methods and foster creativity and teamwork. Outside the classroom, well-equipped laboratories, libraries, and recreational areas promote critical thinking, physical wellbeing, and community spirit.

The groundbreaking Sophia Program, developed with the University of Melbourne, empowers educators to optimise their use of learning spaces.

In 2024, four additional schools joined the program, enhancing teaching practices through professional development.

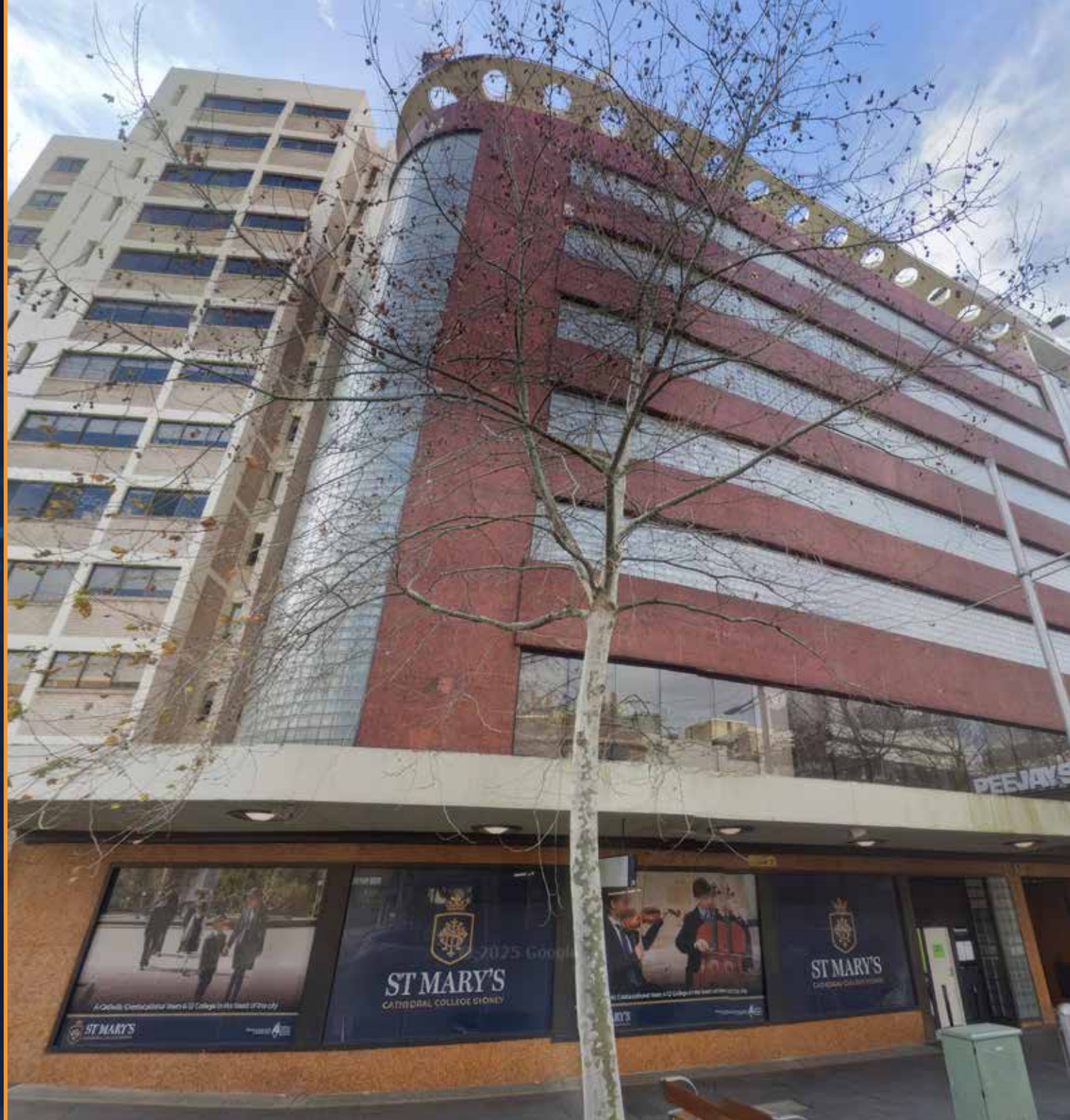


SCS' FIRST VERTICAL SCHOOL

The transformation of St Mary's Cathedral College into a dual-campus co-educational facility will bring Sydney Catholic Schools' first vertical school to life.

Located in Woolloomooloo, the nine-storey refurbished heritage-listed building will include contemporary secondary spaces, seminar areas and facilities for the performing arts.

With the completion of the William Street site, St Mary's Cathedral College will grow to accommodate 1400 students, enabling students from across the Archdiocese to take advantage of the high-quality education the College provides.



WELLBEING AND SUPPORT

Sydney Catholic Schools prioritises student wellbeing, recognising that positive wellbeing is fundamental to learning.

The 2024 Student Wellbeing Policy, based on the Australian Student Wellbeing Framework, emphasises leadership, inclusion, student voice, partnerships, and support. This approach ensures a safe, nurturing environment for students to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.

In line with the Be You Framework, SCS takes a systematic approach to wellbeing, including whole-school programs, anti-bullying policies, counselling services, and targeted interventions.

In 2024, we also launched a parent wellbeing page on school websites to support families with practical resources.

Dedicated Family Support pages were also introduced on school websites to provide parents and carers with accessible, practical resources and links to community services and 24-hour helplines.







CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Catholic Education Foundation (CEF), our charitable arm, supports families in financial hardship to access quality Catholic education.

Since 2011, CEF has assisted nearly 42,000 students through bursaries and scholarships and now supports 8.5% of students attending Sydney Catholic Schools. In 2024, the CEF continued offering scholarships for high school graduates pursuing teaching careers at the Australian Catholic University and the University of Notre Dame, providing financial support, mentoring, and teaching opportunities.

Sydney Catholic Schools remains dedicated to fostering academic excellence and personal growth while maintaining a supportive and inclusive community for students and families.

In 2024, the City Link Mentor Program continued to change lives by pairing students from disadvantaged backgrounds with dedicated mentors who provide financial support, guidance, and real-world exposure.

Since 2015, nearly 200 students have benefitted from this unique combination of academic encouragement and personal connection, with many graduates now pursuing careers in fields such as medicine, law, education, and finance.



CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Sydney Catholic Schools offers unparalleled creative arts opportunities that enrich student development, fostering confidence, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills.

The vibrant arts program encompasses Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts through school-based activities, cross-curricular initiatives, and broader community collaborations. Key programs include the SCS Eisteddfod, Network Festival, Portrait Prize, and Songwriting Workshops, which enhance student engagement and showcase talent.

BENEFITS OF AN ARTS EDUCATION

The creative arts help students develop their confidence, self esteem and resilience, skills that will serve them well in all areas of their lives contributing to positive well being.

A quality arts education plays a crucial role in the holistic development of a student. It provides students with opportunities to express themselves and develop their creativity, imagination, and emotional intelligence. Studies have shown that participation in these activities can lead to improved academic performance, enhanced critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and better interpersonal skills.





CELEBRATING STUDENT TALENT

The 2024 SCS Eisteddfod saw significant growth, with 125 schools participating and more than 8,500 students performing across 22 days.

New performance sections included gospel choir and infants dance. The inclusion of Eileen O'Connor Catholic College students highlighted SCS's commitment to inclusivity.

2024 also saw significant growth in solo and ensemble performances, fostering both individual and group artistic expression.

EISTEDDFOD BY THE NUMBERS

125

Schools



8,500+

Students



22

Days



6

Venues



51

Staff Volunteers



76

VET Student Volunteers



ARTS HQ 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from 2024:

- > Annual eisteddfod, HSC Performing Arts Showcase, and Imagination Ball featured performances alongside industry and artists in residence like professionals like Rachael Beck.
- > The Artists' Evolution program students participated in the Sydney Festival's Nightsongs at Coney Island - Exquisite, directed by Opera Australia's Troy Honeysett and Matthew Barclay.
- > An expanded Visual Arts programs included a live exhibition at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) McGlade Gallery and workshops for elective and senior students.
- > Sculpture by the Schools won the *People's Choice Litterarty Award* at the Bondi Ocean Lover's Festival for the second consecutive year.
- > The Regional Arts Exchange showcased collaborative sculptures from dioceses across Sydney, Lismore, and Maitland Newcastle.

CELEBRATIONS OF CREATIVITY

The inaugural Network Festival brought together talent from 90 schools with over 2,165 performers across five days, celebrating Drama, Music, Dance, and Visual Arts. The festival emphasized community-building and accessibility, giving many students their first opportunity to perform on stage.

The Murrawadeen Goodjarga program empowers First Nations students by connecting them to their cultural heritage through storytelling, Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts. In 2024, the dance ensemble performed a contemporary piece at the Network Festival, showcasing Indigenous culture through creative expression.





144 students have accessed HSC performing arts subjects through the VIVA program since it began in 2017. **132** nominations for prestigious showcases of the best student HSC Music, Drama and Dance, performances in 2024, 56 more than the previous year.





AMADEUS PROGRAM

In 2024, Sydney Catholic Schools proudly completed the three-year rollout of the Amadeus Music Education Program, reaffirming our commitment to innovative and equitable education for all students.

The program integrates music education into the curriculum for Years 3 to 8, offering small group tuition and ensemble participation. Students gain hands-on experience with string, woodwind, and brass instruments, guided by professional tutors from prestigious musical backgrounds.

PROGRAM IMPACT IN 2024

270

professional music tutors employed



147

participating schools



35,700

instruments provided to students







AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO SPORT

- > Competitive pathways for primary, secondary and all-abilities athletes
- > Weekly interschool sport program
- > Exposure to more than 38 different sports from Kindergarten to Year 12
- > Championship, gala and 'try a sport' days

SPORT FOR ALL: NURTURING GROWTH THROUGH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

At Sydney Catholic Schools, we believe that sport and physical activity are essential for every student, playing a vital role in their development and well-being. Through sport, students not only enhance their social and cognitive skills but also build resilience and positive mental health, contributing to improved academic performance and personal growth.

Our approach to co-curricular sport is guided by a commitment to inclusivity and excellence. Our dedicated teachers work closely with industry experts and sporting associations to offer diverse opportunities, from elite athletic pathways to non-competitive, fun-filled events. One of our most celebrated initiatives is the Unified All Abilities Interschool Sports Program, which marked its third year in 2024. Unique within Australian school networks, this program brings together students with and without disabilities to participate in sports such as goalball and sitting volleyball. By fostering inclusivity, we create spaces where every student can experience the joy of sport and feel valued as part of a team.

A COMPREHENSIVE SPORT STRUCTURE

Students at SCS can participate in a wide range of competitive sports, both within the Archdiocese of Sydney and across New South Wales. For those with exceptional talent, there are opportunities to trial for higher-level representation, opening pathways to development camps, further training, and state and national competitions. We also encourage broader participation through our School Holiday Sports Program, offering students a chance to experience the physical, mental, and social benefits of sport during term breaks.

COMMUNITY AND CELEBRATION

In 2024, our commitment to sharing the excitement of sport with families and the community was brought to life through five live-streamed events: the Summer, Autumn, and Winter Championships, as well as the Swimming and Athletics Championships. These events not only showcased the skills and spirit of our students but also allowed parents and carers to share in the thrill of competition. For the first time in 2024, a team of 20 First Nations students from SCS secondary schools played in the seventh annual Bennelong Cup and progressed to the grand final. The team competed under the name Warrane, the local Indigenous word for Sydney Cove, and attended an Indigenous careers workshop and luncheon after the day's play. At Sydney Catholic Schools, sport is more than just physical activity. It's a pathway to personal growth, teamwork, and lifelong health. We are proud to offer inclusive and enriching experiences that help students thrive both on and off the field.





PRIMARY & SECONDARY SPORTS

- P S AFL
- P S Athletics
- S Badminton
- S Baseball
- P S Basketball
- S Chess
- P S Cricket
- P S Cross Country
- S Dance
- P S Football
- S Goalball
- S Gymnastics
- P S Hockey
- P S League
- S Mountain Biking
- P S Netball
- S Oztag
- S Rugby 7s
- P Rugby
- S Seated Volleyball
- P S Softball
- S Surfing
- P S Swimming
- S Table Tennis
- S Tee ball
- P S Tennis
- P S Touch
- S Volleyball
- S Waterpolo



FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

SCS has recognised an underlying trading surplus of \$8.8 million for the year ended 31 December. SCS continues to pursue a growth strategy so that high quality, Catholic education is available to families across the Archdiocese of Sydney.

For more information please refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission website.

REVENUE	2024 \$'000
Government grants	1,147,236
Fees and charges	284,830
Finance and other charges	46,287
TOTAL INCOME	1,478,353

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2024 \$'000
Employee related expenses	1,103,096
Operating expenses	221,112
Depreciation and amortisation	108,454
Finance and other expenses	36,876
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,469,538
UNDERLYING TRADING SURPLUS	8,815

PLANNING & FACILITIES

CAPITAL PROJECTS	2024 \$'000
St Anthony of Padua College, AUSTRAL	49,930
Marist College North Shore, NORTH SYDNEY	44,326
St Mary's Cathedral College, SYDNEY	22,459
Corpus Christi College, MAROUBRA	19,241
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, MATRAVILLE	10,703
St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary, LURNEA	8,197
Trinity College, AUBURN	7,388
St Joseph's Catholic Primary, ROSEBERY	6,818
St Ambrose Catholic Primary, CONCORD WEST	6,729
Regina Coeli Primary, BEVERLY HILLS	5,361
St Patrick's Catholic Primary, MORTLAKE	4,065
Holy Spirit Catholic College, LAKEMBA	3,986
St John's Primary, AUBURN	3,260
Holy Cross Catholic Primary, WOOLLAHRA	2,788
St Andrew's Catholic Primary, MALABAR	2,049
St Michael's Catholic Primary, MEADOWBANK	1,905
St Aloysius College, CRONULLA	1,875
St Declan's Catholic Primary, PENSHURST	1,804
Other Major Works	2,619
Minor Works/Refurbishments of School Facilities	34,531
Land and Building Purchases	5,298
Other Capital Expenditure	25,465
TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENTS DURING THE YEAR	270,799

WORKFORCE

13,475
Total Headcount



20.51%
Male



79.49%
Female



69 Identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

39.37%
Full Time



29.17%
Part Time

31.46%
Casual

EMPLOYEE AGE



FULL TIME

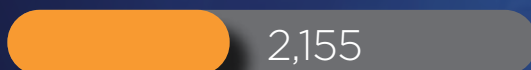


PART TIME



CASUAL

< 34 Years



2,155

835

2,404

35-54 Years



2,182

1,815

969

> 55 Years



968

1,281

866

