



Annual Report – 2021



1 Contextual information about the school

St Denis School is a Catholic school within the Joondanna Parish. It was originally opened in 1951 by the Servite Friars, together with the Sisters of Mercy. The school community seeks to foster an environment that integrates love, truth and learning, where each individual strives to become a model of Christian living and is nurtured toward his/her full potential. The school is coeducational with a current enrolment of 251 students from Pre-Kindergarten through Year 6. The school also offers an Outside School Hours Care program.

St Denis offers an educational philosophy based on developmental learning, inclusivity and Christian ethos. The integrated curriculum covers all learning areas. The school promotes literacy and numeracy as a key focus, and has adopted a literacy and numeracy program based on the RAISE Program philosophies. This also includes the provision of a Reading Recovery teacher.

St Denis School has an integrated technology plan, implementing tablet technology in the Kindergarten to Year Three classrooms and a 1:to:1 iPad/laptop program in the Year Four to Six classrooms.

Educational Assistants are also employed to assist teachers with students requiring support. Students are involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities that enrich their school experience, as well as a range of academic competitions such as Speak Up Awards.

The Making Jesus Real programme is central to our school and these values are incorporated into our school policies and teaching programmes and permeates all learning areas.

St Denis has put in place Sustainability practices and strategies endeavouring to care for the environment that has been entrusted to us.

At St Denis we take pride in the diversity of cultures, skills and talents of all students.

2 Teacher standards and qualifications

All teaching staff are registered with the Teachers Registration Board (TRB).

- 3 Masters of Education
- 9 Bachelor of Education
- 3 Graduate Diploma in Education

3 Workforce Composition

The composition of staff consisted of 27 females and 3 males.

Workforce Composition

Teaching Staff (full-time)	8
Teaching Staff (part-time)	8
Teacher Assistants (full-time)	3
Teacher Assistants (part-time)	7
Office Administration (part-time)	2
Bursar (0.8)	1
Social Worker (0.2)	1

4 Student Attendance at School

Average attendance rate for PP – Year 6 students is 94%

YEAR LEVEL	ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE
Kindy	89%
Pre-Primary	95%
Year One	93%
Year Two	96%
Year Three	93%
Year Four	96%
Year Five	95%
Year Six	97%

Parents are required to inform the school if their child is absent on a particular day. Student attendance is recorded in SEQTA. Unexplained absences are followed up by text messages and phone calls to parents from the office by 9.30am daily. Non-attendance is managed by staff who request parents to bring in a written absentee note.

5 | Students results in NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy & Numeracy) - 2021

NAPLAN Results Summary 2021

	Year 3	Year 5
Spelling	School Mean: 412 All Australian School Mean: 421	School Mean: 557 All Australian School Mean: 504
Grammar & Punctuation	School Mean: 441 All Australian School Mean: 433	School Mean: 542 All Australian School Mean: 503
Writing	School Mean: 436 All Australian School Mean: 413	School Mean: 543 All Australian School Mean: 425
Reading	School Mean: 460 All Australian School Mean: 438	School Mean: 554 All Australian School Mean: 511
Numeracy	School Mean: 403 All Australian School Mean: 403	School Mean: 546 All Australian School Mean: 403

6 | Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

During the 2021 school year parent satisfaction has been of a very high level. Parent feedback from P&F meetings, social events, parent teacher interviews and the parent climate survey is largely positive. Families have indicated satisfaction of pastoral care, educational and support programs offered by the school.

At parent sibling interviews for 2021 many parents mentioned that they are made to feel welcome and that all staff are very personable, going above and beyond.

Parent feedback indicates that they are appreciative of with the high number of extra-curricular activities offered by a single stream school. They are also impressed with the generosity of the staff giving of their own time to provide these activities for the students in their care.

In addition, P&F events are well attended which indicates evidence of the school having a strong sense of connectedness to the school community.

Student satisfaction is gauged on student attendance, engagement and participation in the school. The students are always positive and engaged in activities within the school.

7 Post-school destinations

- Servite Catholic College – 12
- Mercedes College – 1
- Newman College – 3
- John XXIII College – 2
- Bob Hawke College – 2
- Mount Lawley Senior High School – 1
- Trinity College – 1

8 School income broken down by funding source

Information on this aspect can be found on the My School Website: www.myschool.edu.au

9 Annual School Improvement Plan 2021 – Success Measures

Our Annual School Improvement Plan for 2021 had several smart goals across Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship. These goals together with our Strategic Plan provided great direction for us throughout the year.

Goal 1: Investigating the use of timely and effective feedback in the teaching/learning cycle

Goal 2: Re-engaging parents in the Early Childhood teaching process

Goal 3: Measuring and analysing student growth in numeracy

Goal 4: MJR focus area in each classroom and the development of a whole school planner of vocabulary and concepts

Goal 5: Establish and implement a Mental Health and Wellness Plan.

10 School Community Report

Board Chair Report 2021

Chairman's Report delivered by Sean Daniel.

Good evening and welcome to St Denis' 2021 Annual Community Meeting.

My name is Sean Daniel and it is a privilege to present an overview of the activities of the Advisory Council during the 2021 year.

Firstly, I would like to introduce the 2021 Council members. They are:

- Jodie Denham (Secretary)
- Anne Paterson (Treasurer)
- Chris Gooch
- Maria Di Martino
- Angela Corbett (P&F rep)
- Kim McAullay
- Rebecca Rodgers (Vice Chair)
- Sean Daniel (Chair)

Ex-Officio members:

- Justin Tuohy (Principal)
- Parish Priest: Fr Anthony

Other invited members:

- Cordelia Nicholas (Assistant Principal)
- Eugene Potito (Assistant Principal)
- Laura Wheeler (Finance Officer)

I would like to personally thank all the 2021 council members for their time and dedication throughout the year. I know Mr Tuohy appreciates all the work and guidance you each provide him.

A special thank you to Jodie Denham, who over years has dedicated her time to the school in particular assisting at various school sporting events. She also leaves us with a high standard set for our council meeting minutes going forward and also has never missed a meeting.

{for those of you who are interested in joining the Advisory Council in future years, please feel free to chat with any of us after the formalities are finished}

CEWA Ltd – Governance Structure:

As you may or may not be aware, last year Catholic Education WA transitioned to CEWA Ltd. This triggered the redrafting of the Constitution of Catholic Boards to reflect the new governance arrangements.

The change in governance structure had minimal effect on the operations of St Denis school. However, some changes to note were:

- 2021 Budget process. This was guided by the June 2020 CECWA Delegations of Authority document.
- Update to the Terms of Reference in the School Constitution to align with CEWA Ltd's new governance structure.
- This year and onwards, the School Board is referred now to as "The School Advisory Council".

Throughout 2021, the transitional terms of reference were reviewed by a working party, consisting of principals, school improvement advisors and CECWA.

On 1 October 2021, CECWA (Catholic Education Commission of WA) endorsed the Catholic School Advisory Council Terms of Reference, effective 1 January 2022. Some changes to note:

- The School Board Constitution is replaced by the Terms of Reference.
- Membership duration has changed from 2 to 3 years (applies to members voted/appointed after 1/1/22).
- Minimum of 1 council meeting per term plus the Annual Community Meeting.

- Development of resources to support principals.

Role of the School Advisory Council?

The role of the council is what the name suggests, an Advisory role.

The principal is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school.

The council support the principal with various skills or knowledge and brings the voice of the community into the school. Although I know some parents are happy to raise their voice directly to Mr Tuohy, which also helps promote an open and honest community feeling, when done in a professional and courteous manner of course.

Key Highlights:

We have been extremely fortunate in WA in that the students, especially the year 6 graduating students were still able to participate in the traditional annual activities at St Denis, such as the school camps, excursions, concerts and sports carnivals.

Some of the key highlights supported by the Advisory Council in 2021 (are up on the slide)

Some highlights to note:

- Principal review survey at the beginning of the year.
- Ongoing development of the school maintenance plan. A key priority last year was the condition of the roof above the Pre-Primary, Yr. 1 and 2 classrooms and the Music/Dance Hall. The re-roofing was undertaken during the Dec/Jan holidays. This year, ongoing maintenance works was undertaken, and a key project will be to repair the undercover area during the upcoming holidays. Acknowledge the work of the building Committee, Chris Gooch and Maria Di Martino with their assistance with the capital works projects, thank you.
- The library upgrade and refurbishment. A significant P&F contribution has made the space look amazing.
- Upgrade to security – new CCTV cameras, locks and necessary update with the process of obtaining keys.
- Last year the teachers and the Council members developed the schools' 2021-2024 Strategic Plan. The Council will prioritise to undertake a review of the plan and goals during the 2022 year to ensure the school is on track to achieve its targets.
- In March an audit was undertaken of the school accounts. Acknowledge the great work by Laura Wheeler (School's finance officer). Her hard work and management of Mr Tuohy's expenditure ensures that the school maintains a sound financial position.
- Uniform Committee – busy throughout the year.
- The extension and improvement to the Kiss and drive area.

The Council would like to also acknowledge other Student achievements, these are:

- NAPLAN testing (Yr3 & Yr5) – great results.
- Sporting events.
- Performing Arts/Choir festival
- Sacramental programs
(special thanks to the teachers and St Denis Parish and Fr Anthony).

I would like to share some key takeaways from the Chairperson's Conference held in June this year:

- Changes to the funding from the Commonwealth and State.
- CEWA is the 4th highest employer in WA (behind Wesfarmers/RIO/BHP) Around 78,000 students and approximately 160 Schools.
- Catholic Schools have been in WA for 200 years.
- Vision of Catholic Schools referred to as QCE (Quality Catholic Education) has 4 pillars (Catholic identity, Education, Community & Stewardship).
- Parents matter: it is important to have Parents engaged in a school and important for the role of parents in promoting good decision making for their children.

For those contemplating high school options and timing the transition to go to high schools prior to Year 7. I would like to reinforce Mr Tuohy's letter to Yr. 2, Yr. 3 & Yr. 4 parents and guardians (21 July 2021), and the unique opportunities for students at St Denis in Years 5 and Year 6:

- Be role models to the younger students,
- Given responsibility and trust,
- Experience community events beyond the classroom,
- Develop skills in communication,
- Connect with all students, staff and wider community,
- Learn what leadership entails,
- Continue in the 'buddy' program.

In the formative years of Year Five and Six, St Denis offers a variety of experiences, challenges, programs and prospects for your child that will give them inspiration before moving into high school and beyond.

I encourage those contemplating transitioning their child to a high school prior to Year 5 or Year 6 to discuss the move with Mr Tuohy or class teachers. From personal experience every high school we contacted had ALL said how they love students from St Denis, which was a positive experience to hear. It made me think that the school must be doing something right, or that all parents of the school are just fantastic in raising children! The opportunities provided in Year 5 and Year 6 are distinct points which enable the positive growth opportunities for the students and help make them stand out from the crowd.

On behalf of the St Denis Advisory Council, we would like to acknowledge the continued leadership, and visible presence within the community of Mr Tuohy, Assistant Principals and the St Denis teaching staff (including EA's and Admin staff). The St Denis staff continues to provide each year a high level of quality teaching to the students. We thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the school!

The Board would like to extend our gratitude and acknowledge the staff that are leaving the school this year. We thank you for your dedication and passion in helping to make St Denis what is today and wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

A special mention for the significant years of service goes out to Ms Cordelia Nicholas (9 years AP + teacher). We wish you all the best in your new role!

Sarah Hamilton – 2 years Dance and Drama

Deanna – 1 year music

Elizabeth – 1-year social worker

We would also like to thank...

- P&F Committee & Class representatives: for your significant role you have at St Denis in bringing together the School Community.
- Parents: for supporting classroom teachers, the school and P&F events.
- All the families leaving St Denis: we wish you all the very best and thank you for your contribution over the years to the St Denis community and we hope you leave the school with fond memories.
- And thank the St Denis Parish and Fr Anthony for providing support to develop and nurture the students in the Catholic faith and Sacramental programs.

The school going forward is in a strong position with Student numbers again up on previous years.

Finally, thank you to the P&F Committee for organising the drinks tonight, Anne Paterson and Rebecca Rodgers for organising the farewell gifts & Maria Di Martino for organising the food on behalf of the school.

On behalf of the Advisory Council members, we thank you for attending tonight and wish the school community a safe and happy Christmas break and look forward to the much-loved end of year Edu-dance concert.

Good luck for the Door prize.

Thank you.

Sean Daniel
Board Chair