Annual Report
St Columba’s Primary School, Berrigan

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EMAIL: info@scww.catholic.edu.au
The School
Berrigan is one of four towns within the Berrigan Shire. We have 2 primary schools which feed into Finley High School for the student’s secondary education. The main employers within the town are the Berrigan Shire Council, Local Hospital and Aged Care Facility.

The farming community which surrounds the town conduct cropping and rearing of livestock. The town has a very active community which despite several drought years is able to support several sporting clubs and numerous other recreational activities.

Catholic Identity
St Columba’s, as a Catholic School, strives to mould people who, being self-directed and optimistic, will take a role in renewing both the church and society.

In moving towards this renewal mission this school will strive:-

- To be a place where a shared commitment to a faith based on Christ as a model, guides all our efforts towards the total development of each student.
- To recognise the dignity of each person.
- Within its community, working to create a climate characterised by trust, openness, encouragement, mutual support, tolerance, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- To show special concern to those who are disadvantaged.
- To challenge students in order to enhance their personal achievement and spiritual growth.
- To be a Christian educational community, where human knowledge, enlightened and enlivened by faith, is shared by teachers, students and parents, in a spirit of freedom and love.

A Message from key School Bodies
St. Columba’s School Council meets once a month to discuss what has been happening in the School with the Principal, Parish Priest and School Executive.

Parents are invited to these meetings which gives them an opportunity to hear first hand about their child/children’s education and fundraising ideas.

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing
We were above the selected school’s average in Year 3 Reading and Numeracy. We were below the selected school’s average in Year 3 Writing. We were equal to or above the selected school’s average in Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation.

The Year 5 results showed that we were similar to the selected school average in Writing and Numeracy. We were below the selected school’s average in Reading, Grammar and Punctuation.

Professional Learning
Teachers have undertaken further Professional Learning to be able to program using First Steps Writing and using the Map of Development as a guide to having more impact on the students writing performance. They have also continued to develop their Leadership skills. Staff have all participated in the unpacking of NAPLAN data using Smart2 tools. Attended a Conference re Visual Learning presented by Professor Hatty helping to maximize impact on learning. Staff have also attended seminars on Autism and the Thrass program. As part of the CAP Cluster initiative teachers have attended a Drama workshop conducted by Colin Schumack.

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.

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Workforce Composition**
The workforce our School is made up of two full time teachers, one .5 teacher, clerical assistant 20 hours per week and 3 hours cleaner.

**Student Attendance**
Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
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**Student Non-Attendance**
If our School feels that the absence has not been appropriate i.e. truancy, the school at this time will make an appointment for the parent/carer to meet with the Principal to put procedures in place for the student to be able to meet legislative requirements in their attendance at school.

**Enrolment Policy**
Applications for enrolment are encouraged at any time and forms are available from the school office to commence the enrolment process for your child. We use Diocesan Enrolment Policy. The school follows the CSO policy which is available at www.csoww.catholic.edu.au for full details please contact the school.

**Characteristics of the Student Body**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig'</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
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*Language background Other Than English

**School Policies Discipline**
In a Catholic school we aim at promoting self discipline in all children. We have developed a discipline policy which covers all aspects of behaviour at school. Parents are kept well informed of any disciplinary problems with their child. As per Diocesan policy, corporal punishment is not permitted. The school follows the CSO policy which is available at www.csoww.catholic.edu.au

**Student Welfare**
When a child is enrolled at St Columba’s Primary School, Berrigan, we undertake the total care of the student:

- The spiritual
- The emotional
- The social
- The physical, and
- The academic

The term Pastoral Care is used to describe an attitude and a process, and it is based upon the belief in the dignity of the person. In a school, it is expressed through:

- The development of quality relationships
- The provision of satisfying learning experiences
- The establishment of an effective network
- The provision of a stable environment where learning can occur
- The development of self discipline and growing into responsible members of the community.

The staff aim to support, assist and consult with parents and advise them of their child’s progress and attainment in the above areas. It is part of the staff’s duty to endeavour to address any areas that appear during the child’s schooling.

The school follows the CSO policy which is available at www.csoww.catholic.edu.au

**Complaints and Grievances**
**Classroom or Playground Concern** - Please discuss with
1. Class teacher or teacher on duty
2. The Principal

**School Policy** - Please discuss with
1. The Principal
2. School Council or Parish Priest

If a dissatisfaction remains – Contact the Catholic Schools Office, where your concerns will be heard, then the Principal’s account will be obtained and an attempt made at resolving the matter to the satisfaction of all parties. The school follows the CSO policy which is available at www.csoww.catholic.edu.au
If the issue is important enough for you to follow it up, please make an appointment with teacher/Principal so they can ensure you have their full attention.

Issues taken to the School Council need to be in writing so that all members have the benefit of the same information. Issues taken to the School Council are considered confidential, but, as all families are members, it may be necessary to hold a special confidential meeting of the Executive of the School Council. Speak to a member of the School Council Executive, and they will make the arrangements.

If you would like to be more involved in the decisions made, participation in the School Council would be a way to achieve this.

**Improvement Targets**
During 2011 we became part of a National Partnerships program. As part of this program teachers have undertaken the First Steps Writing program and a Leadership program. The aim of the National Partnerships program is to enhance teachers Professional Learning. We have continued to implement First Steps Writing in 2012

**Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility**
As part of the strand, Self and Relationships in PD/H/PE students continue to learn respect for themselves and others as well as their responsibility to become good citizens. Also our Leadership program for all Year 6 students has added greatly to the student’s self-esteem.

**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, St Columba’s Primary School Berrigan.

**Parents**
My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St Columba’s Primary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>%</td>
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**Students**
I am usually happy at St Columba’s Primary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>%</td>
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**Staff**
I am usually happy at St Columba’s Primary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>%</td>
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**Financial Statement Summary**

**About This Report**
This report was put together by the Principal together with the Staff and President of School Council.