WE WELCOME YOU

The students and staff extend an invitation to join us at St Mary’s Primary School. Our school philosophy reflects our attempts to bring to fullness the image of God in each person.

“The glory of God is the human person fully alive”.

(St Irenus)

Hence our School Motto – “God’s Glory”
Contents

1. History
2. Educational Mission
3. Location
4. Sacraments
5. Curriculum
6. Co-curricular activities
7. School Fees
8. Resource Fees
9. Canteen Facilities
10. Parental Involvement
11. After School Care
12. Bell Times
13. School Uniform
14. Enrolment Information
1. HISTORY

St Mary’s Parish has been offering Catholic Education in Grafton since 1868 when a Catholic Denominational School was established in a storeroom belonging to Mr Philip Sullivan in Victoria Street between Mary and Queen Streets. The teacher was Mr Benjamin Stokes and 36 pupils were enrolled.

In 1876 a new parish school opened on the corner of Oliver and Queen Streets which moved in 1881 when a building was erected near St Mary’s Church in Victoria Street. It was built to accommodate 200 students. The Sisters of Mercy arrived in 1884 following a request for assistance from Bishop Torregiani.

The first building on the Victoria Street site was opened, as an infants school, in 1931. In 1953 a new building to cater for Primary students was opened on the site, and a year later the old primary school was demolished to make way for the structure now containing McAuley Catholic College Hall.

The final extension was added in 1979. The Sisters of Mercy provided School Principals in an unbroken succession from 1884 until 1989.

Our Lady Help of Christians was opened by Bishop Farrelly in August 1968 as an Infants and Primary school to Year 5. The school buildings were also used as a church capable of accommodating 200 people. In 1971 the school was limited to infant’s classes only. The Sisters of Mercy maintained a staff presence until 1986. The first lay Principal was appointed in 1983.

At the end of 2002, St. Mary’s Primary School and Our Lady Help of Christians Infants School amalgamated forming St. Mary’s Primary School K – Yr 6 operating on two campuses until the end of 2005 when both campuses were merged onto the Victoria Street site. During 2007 an extensive program of refurbishment and construction was carried out on the existing facilities at Turf Street and the school relocated to 171 Turf Street at the beginning of 2008.

The school continues to uphold the same Christian traditions and values which began with the opening of the first Catholic School in Grafton.
2. EDUCATIONAL MISSION

St Mary’s Primary School seeks to build a community of caring people – children, parents, priests, teachers – committed to supporting one another in a Catholic educational setting.

We aim to achieve this through:
- Community celebrations
- Parent education activities
- Liturgical celebrations
- Regular newsletters
- Participation of the clergy in the life of the school
- Communication with parents about the ongoing development of their child
- Spiritual and professional development of staff
- Liaising with other school and parish groups.

St Mary’s Primary School endeavours to ensure that the children will be given the opportunities to experience the Gospel message of hope and love so as to develop a personal relationship with God.

We aim to achieve this by:
- Encouraging family development in faith
- Being open to, and accepting of, differences in faith development
- Encouraging family prayer
- Implementing a structured Religious Education Program
- Parents, children and teacher participation in school and parish celebrations
  - Masses
  - Sacramental programs
- Providing daily prayer opportunities
- Providing daily time for personal meditation
- Staff and parents supporting each other to create an environment of care and concern.

St Mary’s Primary School seeks to help children view themselves as having been created by God with special and unique talents.

We aim to achieve this by:
- Using positive discipline procedures and therefore the community of St Mary’s Primary School prohibits corporal punishment.
- Using praise and encouragement
- Exploring the gifts given us by God
- Giving children opportunities to exhibit these achievements in the wider community
- Allocating times for personal reflection
- Recognising and respecting the individuality of children
- Accepting children at their individual level of development, while helping them to build upon their achievements

St Mary’s Primary School endeavours to create an atmosphere in which respect for and wonder at the magnificence and beauty of God’s creation is enlivened and nurtured.

We aim to achieve this by:
- Excursions
- Nature walks
- Reflection periods
- Care of gardens and grounds
- Investigation and exploring in scientific activities
- Art activities reflecting elements of nature.
St Mary’s Primary School strives to develop the intellectual ability of each child as fully as possible.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Employing fully trained staff
- Ensuring that opportunities exist for staff to expand on knowledge, training and experience through inservice activities
- Providing a suitable program of instruction
- Using up-to-date and quality materials and techniques of instruction
- Wherever possible, structuring learning situations to cater for the individual needs of children
- Recognising that children differ in ability and will develop at different rates.

St Mary’s Primary School seeks to foster the growth of self-discipline in every child.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Allowing children opportunities to act responsibly
- Providing children with clear guidelines of acceptable behaviour
- Adults providing good models
- Allowing time for reflection
- Using reward and praise to encourage desirable behaviour
- Encouraging children to take responsibility for their actions.

St Mary’s Primary School seeks to develop in our children an appreciation of, and respect for, their bodies as a special creation of God.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Encouraging children to take care of their bodies through regular programs of:
  - Personal Development
  - Regular Exercise
  - Hygiene
  - Safety
  - Recreational Games
  - Dance
  - Sport
- Ensuring adequate and suitable equipment is available for maximum participation
- Developing an appreciation of differences in physical capabilities
- Encouraging use of physical abilities to help and support one another developing a positive attitude towards enjoying regular exercise through daily Physical Education programs.
3. LOCATION

St Mary’s Primary School is situated at 171 Turf Street and is able to offer students full library facilities, canteen and modern computer facilities as well as spacious playgrounds. All classrooms at St Mary’s Primary School contain interactive whiteboards and are air conditioned.
4. SACRAMENTS

The Religious Education Program provided to all students is based on the Lismore Diocesan Guidelines which have been developed locally and are used in all schools throughout the Diocese. In our Parish, preparation for and reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of Penance occurs in Year 2, with the Sacrament of Eucharist being received in Year 3. New arrivals who have not received this Sacrament are prepared at school each year and combine with other candidates for the ceremony.

During the year children attend Mass either at St Mary’s Church or . Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Classes engage in regular prayer times and combine for special prayer celebrations on important occasions.

5. CURRICULUM

Instruction is provided in the other six Key Learning Areas according to the NSW Board of Studies syllabuses:

1. English;
2. Mathematics;
3. Science and Technology;
4. Human Society and Its Environment;
5. Personal Development Health and Physical Education; and
6. CAPA (the Arts).

Computers
All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 participate in computer education lessons. A large number of computers are integrated within the classrooms, as well as a variety of devises including interactive whiteboards and iPads. All the ICT equipment is supported by a state-of-the-art Wireless Access Network.

Interactivity
Every member of staff at St Mary's Primary, Grafton is trained in interactivity and every classroom as well as the library has an Interactive Whiteboard to assist in engaging children in their learning.

Library
St Mary’s Primary recognises the importance of the written word and offers students the opportunity to borrow from our extensive library. We have made an ongoing financial commitment to this area. Regularly throughout the year children may purchase from the Book Club and also from St Mary’s annual Book Fair.

LOTE
The ‘Language other than English’ at St Mary’s is Indonesian. St Mary’s is one of a small number of Government and non-Government schools on the North Coast participating in the Access Asia Program, which encourages and actively supports the development of in depth studies of Asia across the curriculum. It aims to promote an understanding and appreciation of the various cultures of Australia’s near neighbours.

Learning Support
St Mary’s Primary strives to offer support for students with special requirements with one-on-one assistance, small group work and classroom aide given by trained Teacher Assistants.

Extension
Students displaying above average ability in scholastic areas are given every available opportunity to develop these talents more fully through appropriate Extension activities and designated group time in the classroom. Specialist teachers also provide extension classes regularly. Gifted and Talented camps are also offered by the Catholic Education Office. St Mary’s Primary has further supported the gifts of students by providing Enrichment classes and thinking skill programs.
Assessment Reporting
Teachers use a variety of strategies to monitor and assess student’s achievement of the learning outcomes and use the results to provide both the students and their parents with regular feedback. Formal reporting occurs twice a year in Terms 2 and 4, followed by the opportunity for parents and teachers to meet. An informal parent teacher meeting is offered in Term 1. This aim of this meeting is for parents to share information about their child.

6. CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sport
Generally, sports day at St Mary’s Primary will be Thursday although occasionally this may be varied due to alternative activities. There are many sporting opportunities available for children at St Mary’s. To augment our spacious grounds and multi-purpose court we utilise the many community facilities available in Grafton. Talented sports persons are able to compete in Diocesan teams to State level in such sports as Tennis, Cricket, Netball, AFL, Soccer, Rugby League, Hockey, Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country.

Performing Arts
Students are given the opportunity to engage in a variety of musical activities. Junior and Senior choirs and Verse speaking are prepared for performances at the annual Eisteddfod and represent the school at other community functions throughout the year. Music tutors visit regularly, allowing some students the opportunity to attend music lessons during school time. St Mary’s Primary supports visiting performers to enrich our students.

Road Safety Education
The school has in place a program whereby Road Safety – bike, car, bus and pedestrian – is integrated into the school curriculum.

Life Education
The children are visited regularly by the staff of Life Education and Happy Healthy Harold. These visits are supported by continuing classroom work.

Camp
Children in Year 5 and Year 6 are offered the opportunity to attend an annual camp.

Community Celebrations
St Mary’s Primary school supports many community charities with fundraising. Some of these include the Missions, Project Compassion, Red Cross, Cancer Council and Jump Rope for Heart. We also participate in NAIDOC, ANZAC and the Jacaranda celebrations.

7. SCHOOL FEES
Accounts for school fees are sent out three times per year from the Parish Office. Payment can be made at School or at the Parish Office which is located on the corner of Clarence and Victoria St.

8. RESOURCE FEES
A resource fee is charged for text books, exercise books and other materials supplied by the school. The Resource Fee can be paid at the end of the preceding year or very early in the new year. In 2015 the fees are:
Kindergarten to Year 6 $100-00 per child
Families with 3 children attending St Mary’s Primary $250-00

9. CANTEEN FACILITIES
The school canteen operates on Monday and Friday each week. The operation of the Canteen is co-ordinated by the Canteen committee which is comprised of a number of parents.
I0. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We have an active P & F group which meets the second Tuesday of each month. Areas addressed by the P & F include Canteen, Fundraising, Grounds and Maintenance, Social, Hospitality and Stage Parents. This gives every parent the chance to use their talents and interests to assist their child’s school.

Programs, including Seasons for Growth and ‘How to Drug proof your Kids’, are made available regularly to parents.

St Mary’s Primary is very proud of its close association to the Parent Assembly which offers a support network for parents. St Mary’s Primary supports our children in their celebrations of Mothers Day and Fathers Day.

II. AFTER SCHOOL CARE - OOSH

After school care is available for students of St Mary’s Primary by contacting David on 0437033143.

I2. SCHOOL BELL TIMES

Bell times are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Bell</td>
<td>- 8:45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munch Crunch time</td>
<td>- 9:55am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First lunch break</td>
<td>- 10:45am – 11:25am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second lunch break</td>
<td>- 12:55pm – 1:35pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissal</td>
<td>- 3:05pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCHOOL UNIFORM

The purpose of wearing a uniform is to unite us as a school publicly, as well as being practical. Students are required to wear full school uniform, including hat and shoes, at all times. If on occasions this is not possible, a note of explanation from parents is expected. It is essential that all items of clothing and lunch containers are clearly marked with the student’s name. Jewellery is not part of the school uniform and for safety reasons and to guard against breakage or loss, the wearing of anything other than a wrist watch, a signet ring and a single pair of plain ear studs or sleepers is not permitted. Long hair should be tied back or plaited. Extremes of hair styles are not permitted.

Uniforms may be purchased from the Uniform Shop at Gate 4, 179 North Street, Grafton

HOURS OF TRADING
Monday 10:00am – 2:00pm
Thursday 3:30pm – 7:00pm
Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm

BOYS
# Khaki shorts
# Blue shirt with school crest
# Navy school socks
  Black school shoes (polishable)
  Brown sandals may be worn in summer only
  Navy school jumper or plain navy jumper with school crest

GIRLS
# Blue frock with white collar and tab
# White school socks
  Black school shoes (polishable)
  Brown sandals may be worn in summer only

SPORT
# Royal blue with red stripe shorts
# School sport shirt
# White school socks
  White sandshoes or white joggers

Cold Weather
Girls - navy stockings (tights) ‘St Marks’ available from Big W
# Navy cardigan, jumper or plain navy jumper with school crest
In all cases it is advisable that girls bring to school a pair of white school socks in case the weather turns warm and they wish to change.
A Zip Jacket (navy with red piping) is available from the Uniform Shop. It is non-compulsory.
Neat, navy tracksuit pants are to be worn only in extreme weather conditions.

School Bags
Optional navy school bags and are available to purchase from the School Office as well as library and swimming bags.

Children wearing out of uniform attire are required to have a note of explanation.

St Mary’s strongly encourages all students to Slip, Slop, Slap at all times and therefore we enforce the policy of No Hat, No Play.

Please Note:-
Sports uniform is worn every sports day.
Broad-rimmed school hats are to worn for all outside activities.
13. **ENROLMENT INFORMATION**

*Enrolments at St Mary’s Primary School are based on the following:*

1. Parents being aware and accepting the Catholic character of the school.
2. Parents being aware of and accepting the principles upon which decisions within the school are made.
3. Parents understanding and accepting that they have a commitment to the payment of school fees, with allowances being made for those who may face genuine hardship.
4. Preference for enrolment will be given to children who are baptised Catholics. Any non-Catholic child enrolling at the school will be expected to participate fully in all class religion lessons and activities, including prayer and attendance at class and school Masses.

Enrolment age into Kindergarten, as stated by the Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Lismore:

*Children who turn 5 years of age on or before 31st July during the year of enrolment may be admitted. However as with all Kindergarten enrolments, individual circumstances will need to taken into account at the time of the enrolment process.*

The school will use the surname on the birth certificate of the child unless a Court Order or Parenting Plan is in place. Please speak to the Principal if this is a concern.

The School will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the particular learning and access needs of every child.

---

**This information is provided to you to assist in the School enrolment process.**

1. The Application for Enrolment is to be completed and returned to the School Secretary with the application fee of $20-00.

2. Following receipt of the Application for Enrolment an interview with the Principal (for both the student and parents) will be arranged through the School Secretary.

   *Please bring copies of 2 recent School reports if appropriate.*

3. A Placement Offer will be confirmed by the Principal.

   Formal open/orientation days are arranged throughout the year.