

# St Dominic Savio School



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# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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# THEME 1: CONTEXT

## A Message from the Principal

St Dominic Savio School is an Independent Catholic Primary School that caters for students from Kindergarten to Year 6. The children receive a high quality and solid education pursuing excellence within a traditional catholic ethos.

All at St Dominic Savio School are happy to share their achievements throughout 2024 with the community. This annual report reflects the efforts of the whole school and parish community, its directors, teachers, students, parents and collaborators in making this year a very successful one. What made this year particularly outstanding was the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our school.

All students performed well in the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy, with a majority of students achieving higher than average results. Our school curriculum continues to update and all students have progressed academically. Special emphasis has been placed on the study of the key learning areas of Mathematics and English, which has proven successful for teachers and students. Thanks to our highly competent and devoted teaching staff, the academic achievements of the children were most pleasing in all subjects.

This year we were able to undertake some major refurbishments and renovations in our classrooms, playground and staffroom. New bookshelves, classroom furniture, split-cycle air-conditioning units and many educational resources were added to our existing assets. The entire interior of the school was repainted, a new drinking fountain was installed, and garden beds were upgraded in the playground, while the staffroom kitchenette was completely transformed. Both teachers and students were very grateful for these improvements which were carried out in a very short space of time with no impact on classroom teaching time.

### School Activities

During the year, Kindergarten to Year 6 participated in an all-day excursion to Cockatoo Island. All of the teachers and students enjoyed learning about the First Settlers, the life of a convict and the shipyards during this enjoyable and educational experience.

Remembrance Day afforded all the students the opportunity to fulfil their duty as true Australian citizens by praying for the repose of the many soldiers who sacrificed their lives so bravely for their country during the years of war. Once again this year, the children had an excursion to Botany cemetery. This was an awakening experience for them, bringing true Christian values to light and their obligation to express their gratitude for what these worthy men did for our country – lest we forget.

The year finished with a memorable Prize-giving ceremony where the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school was commemorated in style. We welcomed Mr Mark Hanney, the founding principal, who visited the classrooms, and the next day delivered an inspiring speech to the whole school community. This was followed by the performance of a play, in which every student participated. The life of Saint Kateria Tekakwitha was portrayed for the parents and parish, displaying the young Indian girl's desire for Baptism, her love for Our Lord and her holy death at a young age. The quality of acting, reciting and singing is high, and the children demonstrate a great enthusiasm to express themselves in the performing arts.

### Fundraising Activities

Thanks to active and devoted parents and wider school community, the fundraising results for the year were again excellent. The annual Pentecost Sunday fundraiser was a great success, bringing together the whole community for a meal and an afternoon of enjoyable games, in a family-like spirit. We are very grateful to all those who supported the school in this major event and for the encouragement and satisfaction that was widely expressed by parents, friends and the wider community.

It is our great joy to see that a family atmosphere pervades the school community and promotes learning in a safe, secure environment. The students of 2024 demonstrate their diligence in the practice of the Christian virtues of charity for God and for neighbour, thoughtfulness, studiousness and respect; they show great promise of developing the necessary qualities to become responsible citizens of our country. Once again, I would like to thank the teachers, Sisters, parents and church community for their continual support and dedication in helping us make St Dominic Savio School what it is today.

**Sister Mary Leo - Principal**

## **A Message from the Staff**

The year was an exciting and fulfilling one for the Sisters, staff and students of Saint Dominic Savio School.

This was our first year under the care of Sister Mary Leo, who continued to build on the solid foundations of principals before her, while bringing her own unique gifts to the leadership of our school. She dedicated herself to working with the Fathers, Sisters and staff, and adding her vision under the guidance of Our Lord, to determine how she can best carry our school forward.

We had 42 students enrolled and 2 full-time teachers, who were assisted by the Sisters and support staff. We celebrated many feast days which included our school and families. These included St Dominic Savio Feast Day, our Feast of Pentecost school fundraiser and The Feast of Christ the King. For All Saints' Day, the students presented entertaining and informative saint speeches as always.

In the third quarter, the years 5 and 6 students supplemented their learning with an interesting excursion to NSW Parliament. The students participated well and gained a great insight to government through roleplay. A whole school outing to Cockatoo Island occurred in the fourth quarter. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and our history was brought to life for the students.

As the school year progressed, Sister Mary Leo put plans into motion for some exciting changes. Most notably, the hiring of two new teachers, Mrs Vrkic and Mrs Azzi, to facilitate the creation of a year 2/3 class. They will be a wonderful addition to our school and will undoubtedly be a tremendous benefit to both staff and students. Plans were also implemented for the purchase of numerous school resources, and the upgrade of others.

As usual, to conclude our year, the students entertained us with the end of year play and were more impressive than ever. Thanks to the tireless work of the Sisters in preparing the students, stage and costumes, the show was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

After a successful first year with sister Mary Leo, and the plans for some exciting transformations, we conclude the year with immense gratitude and are all looking forward to an exciting 2025 at Saint Dominic Savio School

**Miss Valentine Bousattout and Mrs Dora Tulissio  
Class Teachers**

## **Contextual Information about our School**

St Dominic Savio School is an Independent Catholic Primary School that caters for boys and girls from Kindergarten to Year 6. It was established in 1984 by the Society of St Pius X.

The school aims to provide a high-quality education, as well as a traditional Catholic education providing for the spiritual, moral, social, intellectual and physical development of the child. St Dominic Savio School is committed to the achievement of the highest standards of education in which the security, protection and comfort of the students is a high priority. Families from a wide area of Sydney select our school because of its strong focus on respect for the theological and moral virtues. St Dominic Savio School is a multicultural school as the students come from different ethnic backgrounds.

In 2024, there were 42 children enrolled in the school and the children were divided into two composite classes. The teaching staff was comprised of two full time teachers.

### **THEME 2: OUTCOMES AND RESULTS**

#### **Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing**

St Dominic Savio School uses the NAPLAN Test to assess student competency in reading, writing, grammar, spelling, and numeracy. Our school is proud of its continual success in these exams. The school's performance in NAPLAN is documented on the My School website: <http://www.myschool.edu.au>.

### **THEME 3: STAFFING**

#### **Teacher Accreditation**

<b>Level of Accreditation</b>	<b>Number of Teachers</b>
Proficient Teacher	2

#### **Workforce Composition**

<b>School Staff 2024</b>	
Teaching staff	2
Full time equivalent teaching staff	2
Non-teaching staff	4
Full time equivalent non-teaching staff	2.9

In 2024, no staff members identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Further information can be found on the My School website: <http://www.myschool.edu.au>.

## THEME 4: ATTENDANCE

### Student Attendance Rates

	Average attendance rate per student (%)
Kindergarten	98
Year 1	92
Year 2	96
Year 3	96
Year 4	99
Year 5	97
Year 6	93
Whole School	<b>96</b>

In 2024, an average of 96% of students attended school each day. This was similar to the daily attendance in 2023.

### Management of Non-Attendance

The school monitors the daily attendance and absence of students in the school by maintaining a daily attendance register for each class.

Student absences from classes or from the school will be identified and recorded in a consistent manner by the staff member responsible for the class, using the codes approved by the Minister of Education. If a student is expected to be absent for the day or is sick, parents are asked to ring or email the school before 9:00am. A dated, written explanation of absence must be given to the class teacher before the student resumes the following day or within 7 days of the absence. For absences of more than 3 days, a doctor's medical certificate is required.

Unexplained absences from classes of the school are followed up in an appropriate manner with the student and/or their parent or guardian by the class teacher and/or the principal.

Any student arriving at school after 8:40am must collect a 'Late Notice' ticket at the principal's office. The 'Late Notice' ticket is passed on to the classroom teacher and remains on file as part of the attendance register.

In the case of poor school attendance of a student, the teacher will notify the principal. The principal will then notify the parents and/or guardians in an appropriate manner. If the poor attendance is irregular, the principal will inform the parents by phone. Where the poor attendance is frequent, the principal will inform the parents by letter. A meeting will also be arranged between the parents and the principal. Where unsatisfactory class or school attendance is identified, the attendance issue and any action taken will be recorded, as appropriate, on the student file.

## THEME 5: SCHOOL POLICIES

The following school policies and procedures are publicly available on the school's website:

- Anti-bullying - <https://www.stdominicsavio.nsw.edu.au/anti-bullying>
- Child Protection - <https://www.stdominicsavio.nsw.edu.au/child-protection-policy-procedures>
- Complaints and Grievances - <https://www.stdominicsavio.nsw.edu.au/complaints-grievances>
- Discipline - <https://www.stdominicsavio.nsw.edu.au/discipline-1>
- Enrolment - <https://www.stdominicsavio.nsw.edu.au/enrolment-1>

## THEME 6: STAKEHOLDER SATISFACTION

Based on the school's Kindergarten to Year Six student and staff retention rates, it is evident that the majority have received satisfaction from St Dominic Savio School, in their respective capacity as students, parents or staff. The student feedback to teachers and parents indicated a high level of satisfaction and enjoyment in being students at the school.

The school consciously requests feedback from all parties during the course of each year through the following methods:

1. Once a year compulsory parent teacher interviews for Kindergarten to Year Six are held.
2. Quarterly written School Reports are sent to the parents to be signed.
3. Parents are interviewed or communicated with on a regular basis via the Student Diary which must be signed daily by the parents to ensure completion of the homework.
4. Parents are also communicated with by the classroom teachers, Sisters, coordinators, and the Vice Principal for positive or negative feedback. In special circumstances and after processes have been undertaken, the principal will also communicate with parents on relevant issues.
5. All parents applying for or taking up enrolment for their child/children at the school must be interviewed by the principal. This central point, therefore, allows a consistent outline towards all incoming parents on what expectations they should receive and what expectation is required of them.

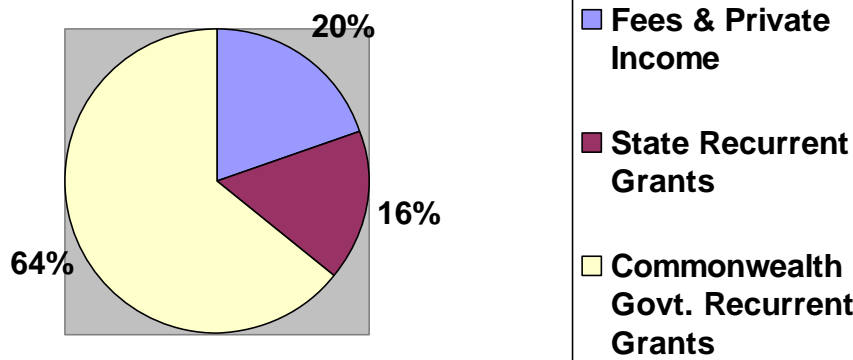
By undertaking this approach, it also allows for a continuation of the personal, yet community-based approach across the school, maintaining the ethos across Kindergarten to Year Six.

- All staff are invited to meet with the principal on a regular basis to discuss aspects of their position, likes, dislikes, future prospects and possible improvements within the school environment – basically anything that may be of interest to either party. These meetings are welcomed by the staff and result in contentment and satisfaction for all concerned.

## THEME 7: SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

<u>Recurrent/Capital Income</u>	<u>\$</u>
Fees and Private Income	187,550
State Recurrent Grants	151,886
Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants	607,546
Government Capital Grants	-
Other Capital Income	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>946,982</b>

### Recurrent/Capital Income (%)





**Recurrent/Capital Expenditure**

**\$**

Salary, allowances and related expenses	486,710
Non-salary expenses	308,654
Capital expenditure	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>795,364</b>

**Recurrent/Capital Expenditure (%)**

