

# St Dominic Savio School



19 William St  
Rockdale NSW 2216  
Ph: 9597 6956  
Fax: 9599 0800  
[stdominicsavio@isp.net.au](mailto:stdominicsavio@isp.net.au)



## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

# Table of Contents

## Theme 1: Context

A Message from Key School Bodies.....	3
- A Message from the Principal	
- A Message from the Staff	
Contextual Information about our School .....	5

## Theme 2: Outcomes and Results

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing.....	5
--	---

## Theme 3: Staffing

Teacher Accreditation.....	5
Workforce Composition.....	5

## Theme 4: Attendance

Student Attendance Rates .....	6
Management of Student Non-Attendance .....	6

## Theme 5: School Policies..... 7

## Theme 6: Stakeholder Satisfaction..... 7

## Theme 7: Summary Financial Information..... 8

# THEME 1: CONTEXT

## A Message from the Principal

At the end of 2023, we look back and reflect as another school year comes to an end, with its achievements, opportunities, and progress. The quality of work accomplished, both by students and staff, as well as the spirit with which it is done is a beautiful reflection of the vision which animates Saint Dominic Savio School: a supernatural vision. As a Traditional Catholic school, we are dedicated to this supernatural vision, which reaches far beyond the dreams of secular education and worldly success. As Catholic Educators, we know that the final success of work is not sought here below. We seek here no lasting city, but one that is to come. Thus, the Sisters, staff and students of Saint Dominic Savio School spend themselves in the pursuit of the highest possible good: God Himself. How happy it must make our Heavenly Father to see our little ones, working towards their heavenly goal with such joy and enthusiasm. This year we had 42 students enrolled in the school from Kindergarten through to Year 6. The littlest ones settled in quickly to the daily routine, eagerly following instructions and reciting their lessons in chorus. Our older students show progress in maturity, self-control, and hard work, demonstrating the building of a strong character and good study habits, a firm foundation for their future.

### School activities

The chapel is the heart of our school. The whole school community meets here for prayers in common to begin and end each week. The boys learn to serve at the altar where the priest offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; the dignity required for such a privilege is a wonderful way to develop reverence, respect and self-control. The girls and younger children participate actively in the singing of chant and church music, an art which forms the both the ear and voice. Healthy outdoor exercise is included in the weekly program; a wide variety of individual and team sports are learned and practiced, culminating in the traditional sports afternoon in August, where healthy competition and good sportsmanship are encouraged.

A visit to Hambleton Cottage in Parramatta was an educational experience from which the whole school profited. In many hands-on activities, we experienced the way that our forefathers lived and worked and compared ourselves to them. "How did they do this or that? There was no electricity and no phones!" The children were impressed by the experience and were quick to recognise the efficiency and ease of our modern, technological world.

The end of year production on prize-giving day is a highlight of the year. Many hours of hard work pay off when we see the talents of our students presented on stage, to the parents and friends of Saint Dominic Savio School and members of the wider community. The quality of acting, reciting and singing is high, and the children demonstrate a great enthusiasm to express themselves in the performing arts.

### In the classroom

It is a great joy to see the children engaged and enthusiastic in the classroom. The study of the Catholic catechism begins the day, followed by a varied and complete study of the various subjects: composition, handwriting, reading appreciation, comprehension, numeracy, and the social studies. Extracurricular activities are also offered, which broaden the skill base of the children; these include sewing, cooking and basic health and first aid classes.

Looking forward, the future of Saint Dominic Savio School is bright. A family atmosphere pervades the school community and promotes learning in a safe, secure environment. Practicing the Christian virtues of charity for God and for neighbour, thoughtfulness, diligence and respect, the cohort of 2023 show great promise of developing the necessary qualities to become responsible citizens of our country, living for and loving God and their fellow men.

**Sister Mary Leo - Principal**

## **A Message from the Staff**

Another year under the care of Our Lady has concluded, and we would like to share some of the memories from 2023.

Our school year began under the continued guidance of Sister Mary Theophane as principal. Our teaching staff remained the same, and we welcomed Miss Lily Khoury, as she joined us in the role of teacher's aide.

The main teaching role we have at our small school is to form the students to behave and think like children of God. As part of their Catholic formation, the students engaged in many activities across the curriculum, in and outside the classroom, to know, love and serve God.

Throughout the year, we celebrated many important feast days, the highlight being our annual fundraiser on the feast of Pentecost. Parents also attended our annual sports day, as well as one of our best All Saints Parades to date.

With mixed emotions, we farewelled Sister Mary Theophane as she moves on to fulfill God's plan for her and welcomed Sister Mary Leo with open arms. The seamless transition was due to the dedication and hard work of both principals, and we look forward to continuing our work with Sister Mary Leo.

As a school, we were fortunate enough to visit Hambleton Cottage at Parramatta. The students had the opportunity to experience how people used to live without electricity and running water. A great day was had by all.

Drama lessons were a focus in term four, culminating in a production of a collection of 'Aesop's Fables'. The parents and parishioners were entertained watching the young actors on stage.

On behalf of the staff, we would like to thank the Fathers, Sisters, parents and students for all their support, enthusiasm and generosity throughout the year. Above all we thank God for keeping us safe and together during another joyful year of teaching and learning. We ask Him to bless us as we journey through the next.

**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 2023, 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	2

#### **Workforce Composition**

<b>School Staff 2023</b>	
Teaching staff	2
Full time equivalent teaching staff	2
Non-teaching staff	4
Full time equivalent non-teaching staff	2.9

In 2023, 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	93
Year 1	94
Year 2	95
Year 3	94
Year 4	96
Year 5	94
Year 6	96
Whole School	<b>95</b>

In 2023, an average of 95% of students attended school each day. This was similar to the daily attendance in 2022.

### 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>

## SECTION 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.

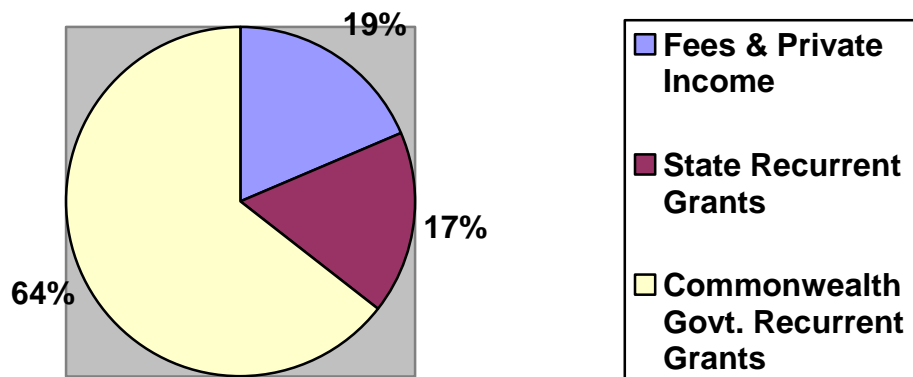
By undertaking this approach, it also allows for a continuation of the personal, yet community-based approach across the school, maintaining the ethos across Kindergarten to Year Six.

- 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	168,421
State Recurrent Grants	162,369
Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants	615,530
Government Capital Grants	-
Other Capital Income	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>946,320</b>

### Recurrent/Capital Income (%)





**Recurrent/Capital Expenditure**

**\$**

Salary, allowances and related expenses

448,248

Non-salary expenses

145,242

Capital expenditure

-

**Total Expenditure**

**593,490**

**Recurrent/Capital Expenditure (%)**

