
ST BERNADETTE'S SCHOOL

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024



School Context

St Bernadette’s School, situated in the St Anne’s Catholic Parish in St Marys, SA, is a thriving community where members are active learners—confident, compassionate, and committed to excellence in faith, relationships, and learning. Rooted in Dominican spirituality, the school nurtures meaningful connections with God, self, and others. Learning programs are backed by science and are evidenced based, with a strong emphasis on quality, responsibility, and self-management.

Enrolments continue to grow steadily, a testament to the strength of the school’s values, culture, and educational outcomes. In response to this growth, St Bernadette’s is committed to capital development to ensure that our facilities meet the evolving needs of our learners and continue to support an evidenced based curriculum. This diverse and inclusive community embraces and celebrates the richness of many cultures. Guided by Catholic Education SA’s Living Learning Leading Framework, the school places strong emphasis on quality relationships across all stakeholders, creating an environment where students are deeply engaged in their learning. Students benefit from the guidance of expert educators, often supported by additional adult staff (ESOs). A positive and respectful school climate enables students to feel safe, valued, and supported in becoming independent, self-managed learners. Teachers are committed to ongoing professional learning and continuously adapt to meet the needs of students. ICTs are integrated purposefully, including a 1:1 laptop program for Years 3–6. The school also offers a rich specialist program with weekly lessons in STEM, Japanese, and Music, alongside a wide range of Physical Education and sports activities for all year levels.

Teacher Standards & Qualifications

The total teaching staff employed in 2024 was 14 which comprised 10 female and 4 male teachers. This includes full time, part time and replacement teachers and leaders. The length of service at St Bernadette’s of the teachers ranges as follows:

1-5 years: 1

6-10 years: 3

More than 10 years: 10

Non-teaching staff totaled 18 comprised of 15 females.

No staff, teaching or non-teaching identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

At St Bernadette’s many of our teachers have two or more qualifications in Education. 21% have Master’s Degrees, 100% have a Bachelor Degree and 14% have Graduate Diplomas in Education.

Student Attendance.

The average student attendance for 2024 was 90.5%.

Reception	88.24%
Year 1	90.40%
Year 2	90.07%
Year 3	92.15%
Year 4	90.91%
Year 5	90.06%
Year 6	91.69%

Student attendance is recorded by the class teacher. Parents and caregivers are required to inform the school of any absences prior to 9.00am via the school app or phone message system. The school tracks and follows up any instances of regular or excessive absence. Families are required to provide a written explanation of extended student absences including interstate and overseas holidays. Appropriate exemption forms are completed for such occasions.

Student learning Outcomes

Our students received the following results in the 2024 NAPLAN tests:
89% of our students participated, 85% participation is the national average.

Selected School

St Bernadette's School

Year

2024

Latest Year

Year Level	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
3	436	431	440	422	409
5	508	499	507	479	472

Compare To

National

Year

2024

Latest Year

Year Level	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
3	404	416	402	409	404
5	491	485	486	498	489

Nationally our students outperformed in all domains, except for Year 5 Grammar and Numeracy, with small margins below.

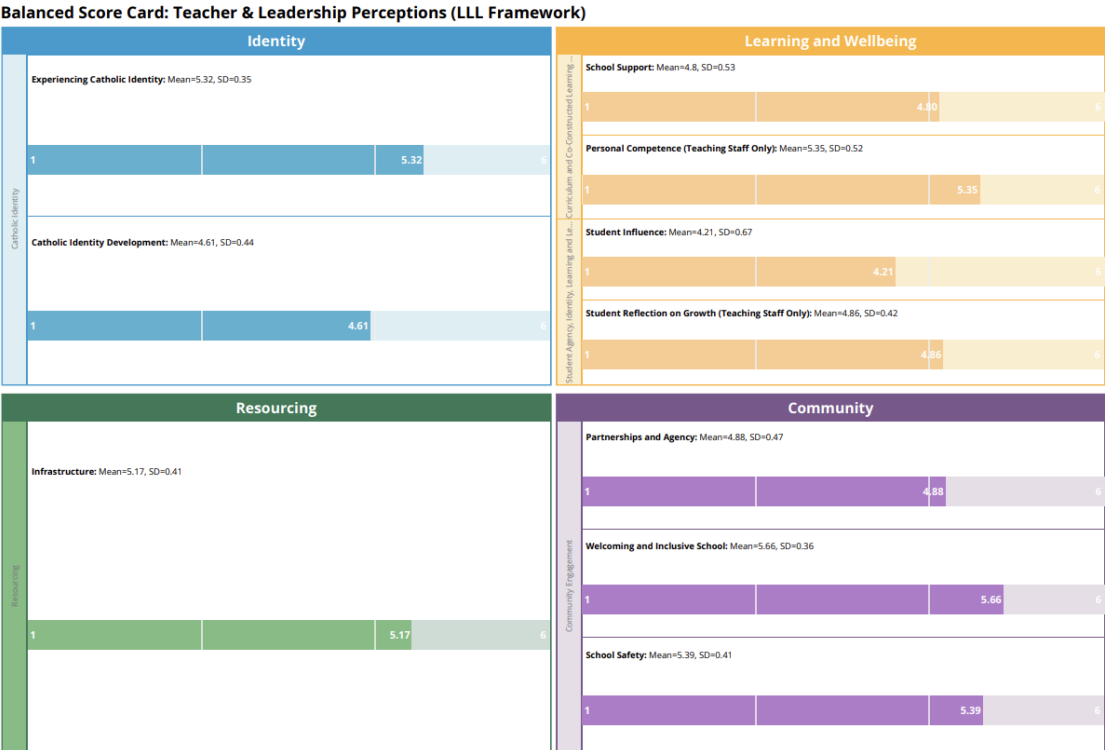
There are, of course, many ways through which we assess learning and then communicate student performance to parents. During 2023 our students participated in PAT-R (Progressive Achievement Tests in Reading) and PAT-M (Progressive Achievement Tests in Mathematics) which provide teachers with instant feedback on Reading and Mathematics. Other forms of assessment and reporting include parent teacher interviews, written semester reports and review meetings when required. At St Bernadette’s School we use this data along with our internal whole school testing and ongoing assessment to review how each child is progressing. We expect to see growth in each child’s learning. The school is committed to ongoing academic improvement.

Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

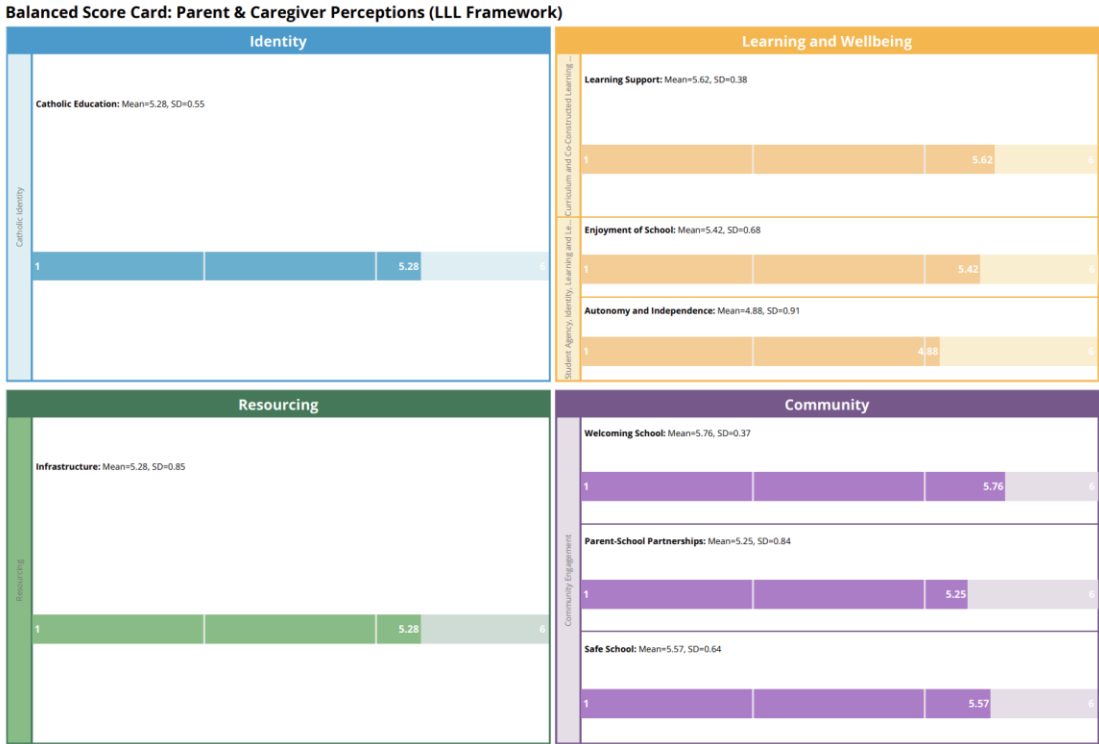
Parents, students and staff all participated in the Living Learning, leading survey in Term 3. Student wellbeing and satisfaction was also monitored through Classroom Pulse Check-Ins completed each term.

The following graphs show the results of the surveys.

Teachers and Leaders

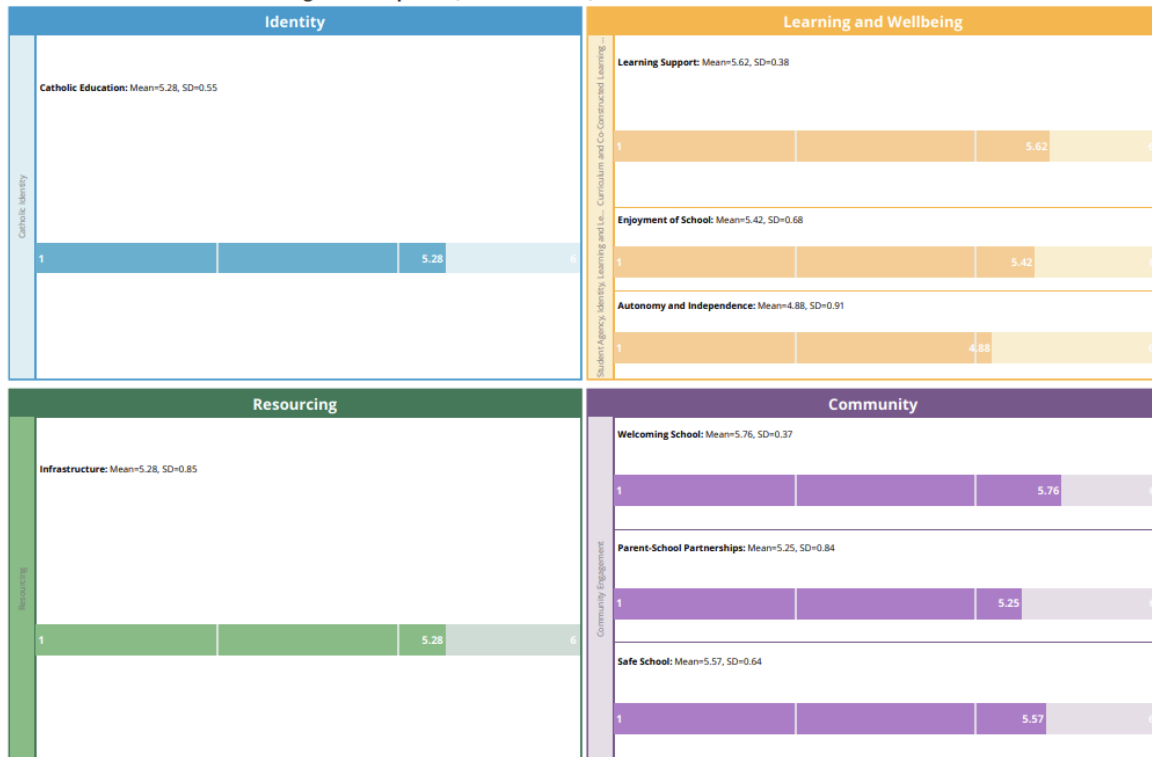


Education Support Officers



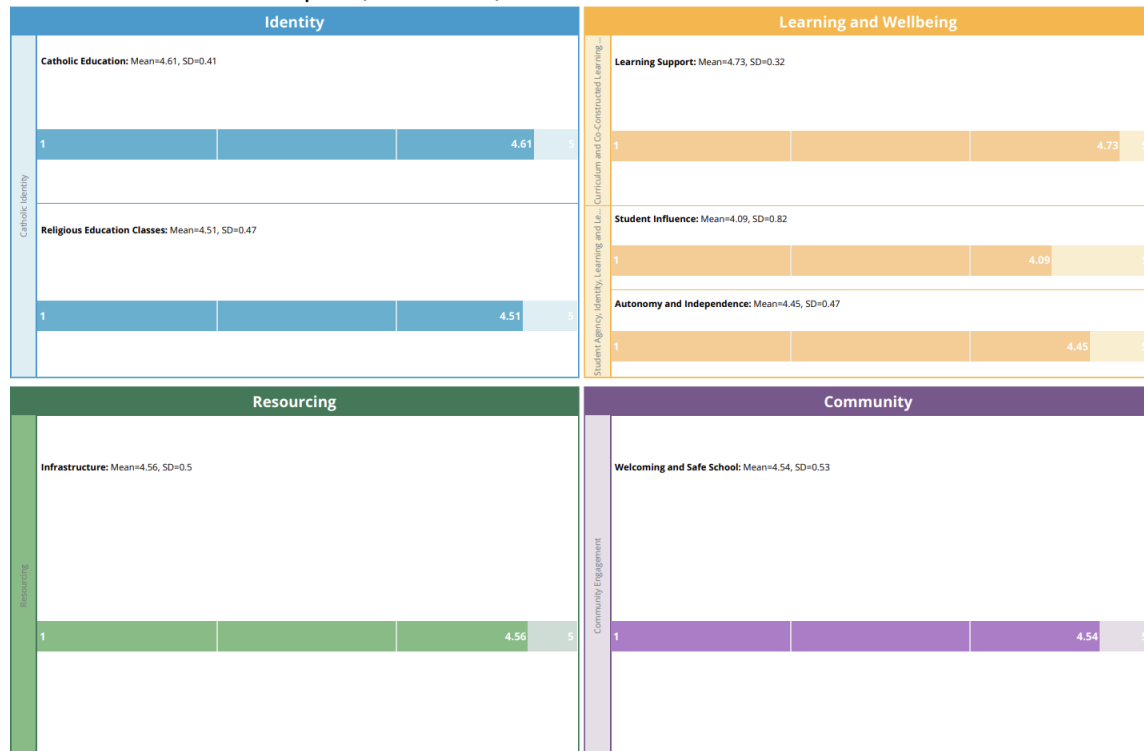
Parents

Balanced Score Card: Parent & Caregiver Perceptions (LLL Framework)



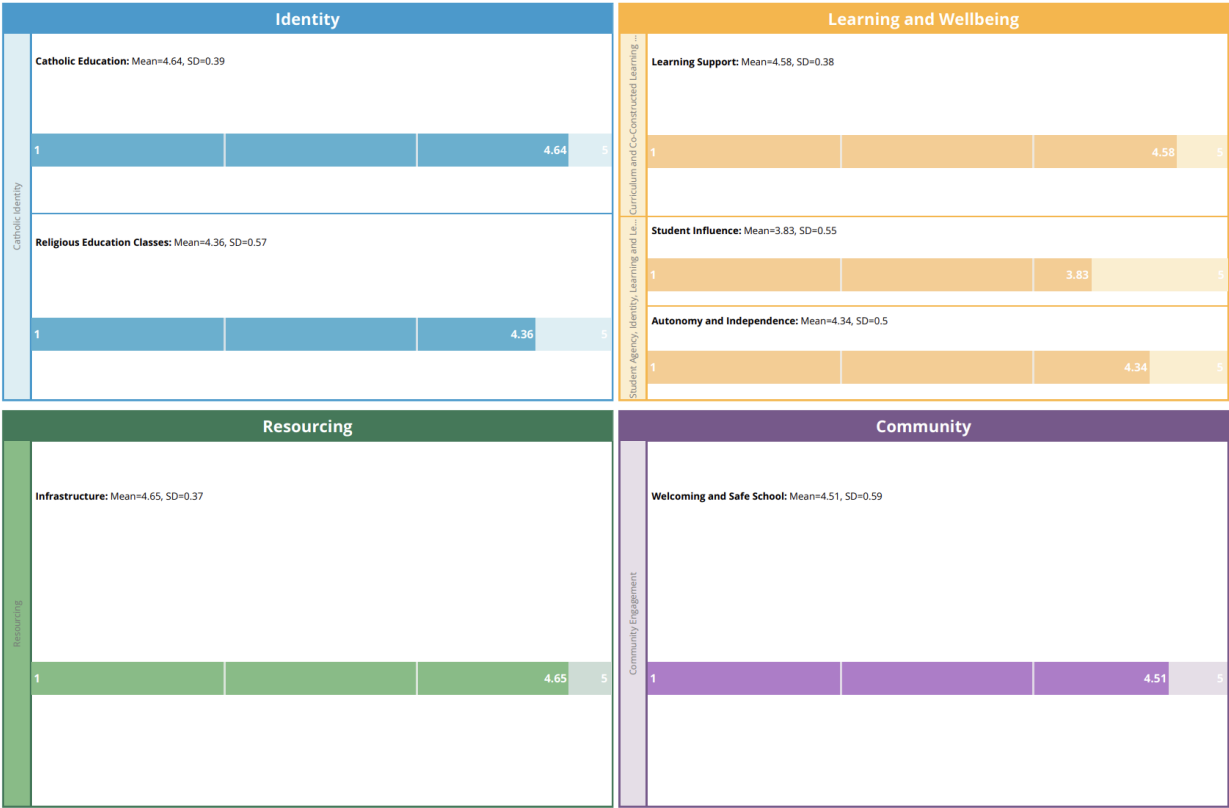
Students: Year 2-4

Balanced Score Card: Student Perceptions (LLL Framework)



Students: Year 5-6

Balanced Score Card: Student Perceptions (LLL Framework)



All of these surveys provide overwhelmingly positive data from all stakeholders, yet we continue to monitor results closely and respond accordingly to constructive feedback.

Significant enrolment growth would indicate the school has an excellent reputation in the wider community.

School Finances

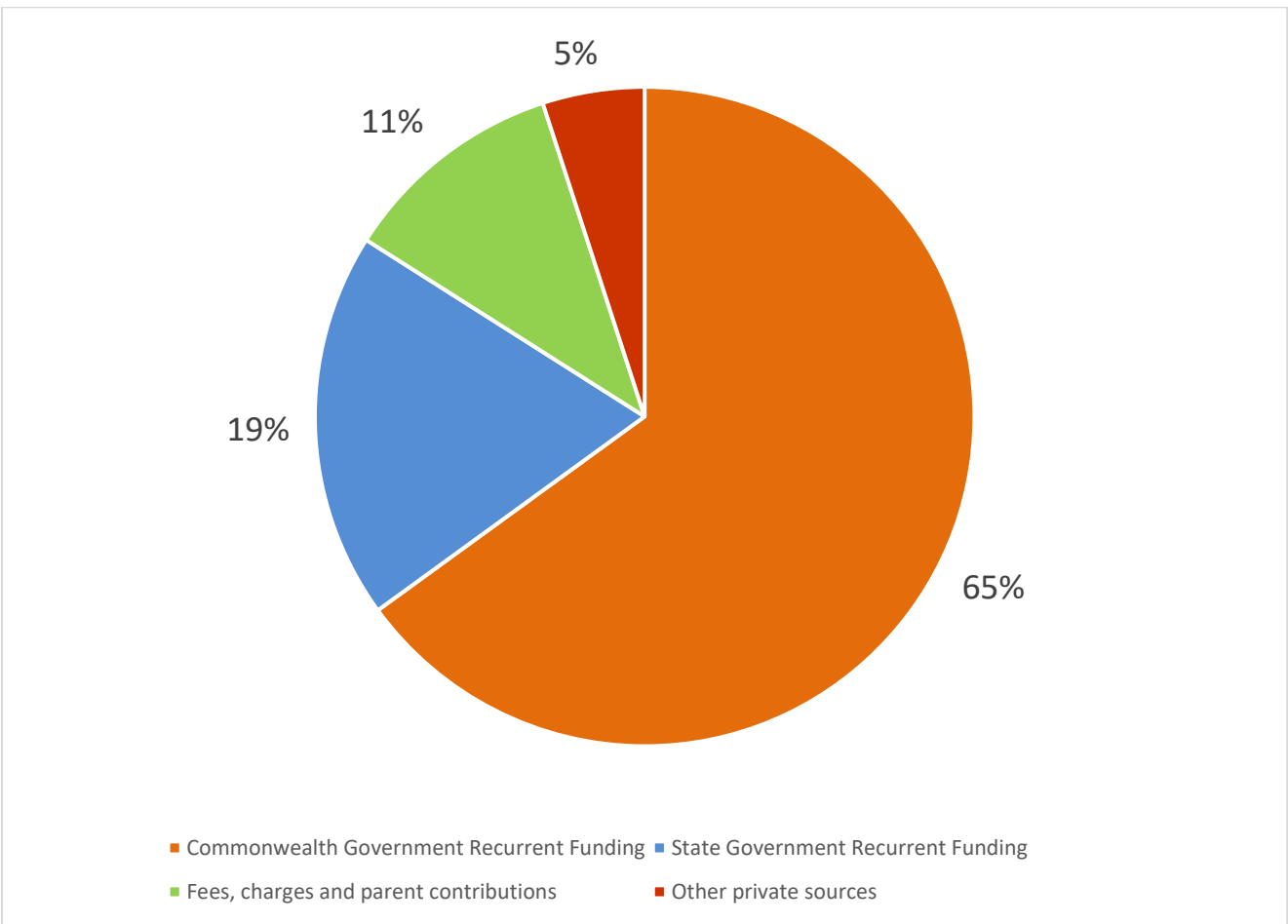
The School Board Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the finances of the school and maintaining the fine balance between providing a diverse and rich learning experience for our children within our financial resources.

As a Catholic school we rely on the prompt payment of school fees to assist with the operation of the school.

The school receives its income from three main sources:

- Australian Government funding;
- State Government funding.
- Private income from school fees and levies;
- Other private sources

The graph below shows that approximately 84% of our funding comes from the State and Australian government funding and the balance is from private income.



Without the payment of School Fees, the school would be unable to provide many of the resources that are currently offered. Fees were reduced for the 2021 school year and were capped for 2022-2024 as part of CESA’s initiative to make Catholic schooling more affordable.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2024 2024 Summary and 2025 Budget			
	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Income			
Fees	\$347,150	\$393,198	\$484,100
Government Grants	\$2,916,247	\$3,117,516	\$3,227,841
Other	\$98,713	\$181,225	\$114,825
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,362,110	\$3,691,939	\$3,826,766
Expenditure			
Staff Salaries	-\$1,951,163	-\$2,377,036	-\$2,619,597
Teaching resource and Levies	-\$402,521	-\$408,564	-\$401,024
Facilities and Utilities	-\$464,390	-\$383,928	-\$474,800
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-\$2,818,074	-\$3,169,528	-\$3,495,421
OPERATING RESULT	\$544,036	\$522,411	\$331,345
Loan Drawdown	\$0	\$0	\$2,100,000
GRANT			\$3,500,000
Capital works and equipment (Including Roof \$300,000 2024, & New Build \$700,000 2025)	-\$340,000	-\$696,497	-\$1,040,000
Trading Account – Uniform, OSHC	-\$72,270	-130,052	-10,000
Building works and Furniture – funded by Grants and CDF Loan	-\$0	-\$0	-\$5,600,000
NET OVERALL POSITION	\$131,766	-\$304,138	-\$718,655

In 2024 the school finished with a budget deficit mainly due to the replacement of the roof above the Veritas building at a cost of \$300,000 which had not been budgeted for. Despite this, we continue to have a healthy cash balance, which has put us in a good position as we move to our next building project which is to commence in 2025. This is a pleasing result and I'm sure you would agree the refurbished classrooms and courtyard area look amazing and we are very excited about the new learning areas which will be completed in 2026. We continue to have a steady increase in enrolments, which in turn increases the funding we receive from Government grants and fee income. The 2024 school year closed with a very healthy cash balance, well in excess of the reserve expected of us by Catholic Education SA. This year we intend to continue to improve our facilities and have budgeted to spend \$6,300,000 on a land purchase and building program. Additionally, we will upgrade many of the laptops and some furniture and equipment in the school at a cost of around \$85,000.

The proposed 2025 budget estimates that the school will have a deficit of \$718,655 because of the building program which has now commenced.

We thank families for their commitment to paying fees, without which the quality educational program we have at St Bernadette's school would be compromised.

Crystal Naidoo, Chairperson School Board 2024

Ray Higgins, Principal (Michelle Starr)

Karen Thomas, Finance Manager