

John Calvin School

Annual School Report



2024

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1. Introduction

This is the annual public report for John Calvin School Albany (JCSA). It summarises key details of the school for the 2024 academic year. The information is provided in accordance with the Australian Education Regulations 2013 Subdivision H Section 60. It also serves as a measure of accountability for the receipt of Commonwealth and State funding, which supports the provision of a sound education for our students.

It is a privilege and pleasure to present this Annual School Report. This report celebrates the joys of Reformed education and records the significant events and developments in the life and operations of the school throughout 2024.

As we reflect on John Calvin School—*our* school—we can only marvel in thankfulness at the many ways the Lord has richly blessed us: a full complement of teachers and education assistants, dedicated students, a supportive community, and all the resources needed to operate the school effectively.

JCSA is a K–10 school. We are registered to deliver the curriculum as prescribed by the government, and we are thankful that we may do so from a Christian worldview. In keeping with this, it is an inherent requirement that all staff share and practice the faith of our school community. In addition to the eight learning areas of the Australian Curriculum, the school includes an additional learning area: Religious Studies.

Our nearly 200 students enjoyed a safe and pleasant learning environment throughout the year. God’s providential care was evident in many ways and clearly visible in the daily commitment of both staff and students.

At the graduation ceremony held in December 2024, the Principal’s address was tied to the school’s vision: *to prepare students for a life of love and service to God and their neighbour*. The graduates were encouraged to remain faithful to God’s Word as they face the crossroads of life. The Scripture passage for the occasion was Jeremiah 6:16:

*“Stand in the ways and see,
And ask for the old paths, where the good way is,
And walk in it;
Then you will find rest for your souls.
But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”*

The students were urged to *stand, see, ask, and walk*—to pause and reflect, examine their choices, seek wisdom from God and His people, and faithfully follow the good and ancient paths laid out in Scripture. Acknowledging the pressures of a changing world, they were reminded that lasting peace is found only in obedience to God’s way, and that through Christ—who perfectly fulfilled His mission—they too can live out their life’s calling.

May the Lord continue to guide the learning and life pathways of each of these graduates.

This report tells the story of how the staff of John Calvin School, in partnership with the parents of our students, have worked together to optimally equip our covenant children for service to God and their neighbour.

I humbly submit this report to the School Committee and parents of John Calvin School.

Mr. Andrew van der Heide
May 1 2025

2. School Context

Description:	A school of the Albany Free Reformed Church Education Association Incorporated. Established in 1962.
Gender Composition:	COED
Enrolment Group:	Primary School K-6 Secondary School Years 7-10
Affiliation:	Free Reformed Churches of Australia
Boarders:	No
Overseas students:	No
Address:	9 Beaufort Road Albany WA 6330 Australia
Phone:	08 98 41 3840
Principal:	Mr. Andrew van der Heide

The Bible

Our Reformed school is built on the foundation of the Bible, the Word of God, which is authoritative in all areas of life.

Vision Statement

The John Calvin School is a godly institution of learning for covenant children, to be educated for a life of love and service to God and their neighbour.

Explanation of Vision Statement

The mandate for the education provided at the John Calvin School is derived from the divine mandate given to parents to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

Mission Statement

Our school extends high nurture to the children of the covenant: as God nurtures in the covenant, so the school is an institution where high nurture is first and foremost a platform from which to launch its teaching.

Our school provides expert teaching to children of the covenant: God extends teaching to His people, and He calls parents of His covenant children to teach them in the best manner possible.

Our school calls for a faithful response from children of the covenant: the covenant is about promise and obligation. Promises are fulfilled in nurture, teaching and discipline. Obligation embodies a call to love and to serve God and the neighbour.

Explanation of Mission Statement

The education at the John Calvin School must, as an integral part of the instruction of the covenant children and in subjection to the Word of God, help to optimally equip children for their service to God and to their neighbor.

John Calvin

The heritage of our school can be traced to the time of the Reformation, and it owes its name and emblem to a man used by God to lead the people back to Biblical truth, John Calvin (1509-1564), a man who sought to highlight the preeminence of God in all of life.

Curriculum Statement

The John Calvin School adheres to learning programs prescribed and outlined within the Australian Curriculum and defined by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority of Western Australia. It has as its primary cross curriculum priority the Word of God. The entire curriculum of the school is taught in obedience to the Holy Scriptures.

3. Staff

In 2024, the school enjoyed the teaching services of 25 registered teachers. These teachers were supported by the principal, deputy principal, education assistants, IT staff, receptionists, librarian, administrator, bursar and school cleaner. The FTE breakdown of school staff is as follows:

Area	Number	Total FTE
Teaching Staff	25	16.69
Education Assistants	12	6.69
Management	2	2.0
Reception/ICT/Library	4	2.06
Bursar/Administrator	2	1.3
Cleaner	1	(Contractor)
Male	12	11.20
Female	34	17.57
Aboriginal/Torres Straight Islander	0	0

Notes:

All teaching staff are registered with the Teachers Registration Board of Western Australia. All staff have a current Working with Children Check (WA).

4. Staff Goal

Our Reformed school is a godly place for our covenant children, which aims to educate them for a life of love and service to God and their neighbour. At our Reformed school we seek to extend high levels of nurture to the student body and provide expert teaching. With that in mind we do aim for excellence, and this is also our focus goal: Striving for Excellence. To that end, many of our professional learning activities are dedicated to helping achieve this goal.

In 2022 attention was on the AITSL Standards. In 2023 the focus shifted to further developing the teacher appraisal process. In 2024 attention moved to the third component of the focus goal - programing (specifically using the Transformation by Design model) - ensuring all lessons are taught from the perspective of a Christian Worldview.

5. Staff Qualifications

Qualification	Number of Teachers	%
Masters	2	9%
Bachelor	17	74%
Diploma	4	17%
Total number of teachers	23	100%

6. Staff Professional Learning

As part of their official teacher registration status (TRBWA), each year the staff at school engage in professional development. This professional development is frequently organised through the work of the Association of Independent School in Western Australia (AISWA) and Christian Schools Australia (CSA). Professional learning is linked to the AITSL standards (Australian Institute for Teachers and School Leaders). A total of \$41,370 was spent on various professional learning programs.

7. Staff Review

As part of the 'Striving for Excellence' goal, the teacher appraisal process in 2023 was carried out thoroughly and thoughtfully. It began with a self-appraisal by each teacher, followed by multiple rounds of peer appraisal. The process concluded with appraisals conducted by school management, providing well-rounded feedback and opportunities for reflection.

In 2024, the appraisal process was integrated into the *Diploma of Reformed Education* course, which the teaching staff undertook as part of their professional development. This added a rich, theological dimension to the growth process, further strengthening staff understanding of Reformed pedagogy and practice.

Classroom visits by parents and School Committee members also contributed to a positive and supportive culture of professional growth.

Teachers and education assistants were encouraged to build on their strengths and address areas for development. A positive and proactive attitude toward school improvement continues to be a hallmark of the staff at John Calvin School.

8. Student Attendance

The school enjoyed a very good student attendance rate, at 93.76%.



Non-attendance management:

The only acceptable reasons for absence are temporary physical or mental incapacity or any other reasonable cause such as religious or cultural practices. All other absences are recorded as non-approved absences.

Parents are requested to notify the school each day of a student’s absence via email or by calling the school. If no notification is received regarding an absence by 9:00am each day, administration is notified and then a phone call is made to the parent or carers to ascertain the location of the student.

9. Student Numbers

Student enrolment for 2024 stood at 196 students, 91 boys and 105 girls.

The year group divisions are as follows:

Class Summary 2024			
Class	Boys	Girls	Total
Kindergarten	3	5	8
Pre Primary	10	7	17
Year 1	9	8	17
Year 2	10	15	25
Year 3	10	14	24
Year 4	3	2	5
Year 5	3	8	11
Year 6	8	5	13
Year 7	12	8	20
Year 8	10	13	23
Year 9	6	12	18
Year 10	8	15	23
School Total			
	91	105	196

10. Learning Support Coordinator

In 2022, the school introduced the role of Learning Support Coordinator (LSC), a position that continued to develop throughout 2023 and 2024. The LSC is responsible for overseeing programs that support students experiencing a range of learning, developmental, behavioural, psychological, and/or other challenges—including diagnosed disabilities as well as emerging needs that may not yet be formally identified. Working closely with teachers and Education Assistants, the LSC plays a key role in ensuring that inclusive education remains a central priority at John Calvin School.

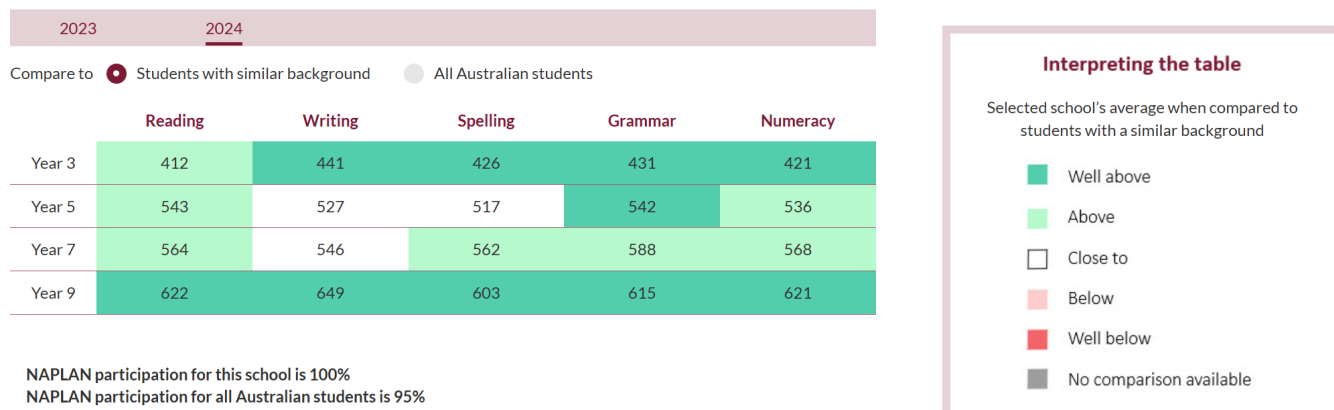
In 2024, attention was given to refining the school’s support structures. A key development was the planned phasing out of the Learning Assistance Teaching (LAT) role. This decision was made to streamline support processes and to more fully integrate them under the leadership of the LSC. The LAT role, originally established to provide targeted assistance across key learning areas, will be gradually discontinued, with 2025 designated as its final year of operation.

From 2026 onwards, the intention is that the LSC will continue to coordinate support for students requiring Documented Plans and will oversee the integration of previously LAT-managed responsibilities into the broader learning support framework.

Excellent results were again achieved in the school’s regular testing program, reflecting the effectiveness of the school’s academic and support strategies.

11. NAPLAN

The confidence in student learning outcomes at school is strong, with no students falling below the NAPLAN’s lower benchmark level. What follows are the year 3,5,7 and 9 2024 NAPLAN results.



NAPLAN results can be viewed online via www.myschool.edu.au . The school community was again invited to review the school’s NAPLAN results as posted via the www.myschool.edu.au website. Making effective use of NAPLAN results has created new learning opportunities for students needing extra support. In addition, attention is also directed to those students considered to be gifted or talented.

12. Student Reports

Student Reports were issued during the months of April, July and December. Parents were given the opportunity to meet with staff at arranged parent-teacher interviews, but in addition, whenever the need arose. The school remains very thankful for excellent parental support.

13. Curriculum Officer

Ensuring all Learning Areas are taught from a Christian worldview, in addition to all staff sharing and practicing the faith of the school’s church community, the school also employs a Curriculum Officer. The Curriculum Officer seeks to support the staff in implementing the State and Federal government’s curriculum, but from a Christian worldview.

14. National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Services

In 2024 the school’s Student Support Services continued to operate through the work of the Student Support Officer.

15. Wellbeing Project

The school is part of a “Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools” pilot project (2022-2024). The project is funded through the Australian Government Choice and Affordability Fund (CAF) to address the priority of student wellbeing and support. The coordinator of the project is the school’s Student Support Officer.

The expected outcomes of the project are:

- Increased awareness in schools of evidenced-based best practice approaches and interventions to support student wellbeing and mental health, including the development of a whole-school Wellbeing Plan.
- Evidence-based wellbeing strategies to address student wellbeing and mental health.
- Increased capacity of school staff in implementing the explicit teaching of social and emotional skills utilising appropriate curricula.

16. Student Tracking – Graduates 2024



2024 Student Tracking – 22 Students Graduated Year 10 at JCSA

9 Students went to NASHS

1 Student to North Albany Secondary Support

4 Students to Apprenticeships

1 Student to full-time Employment

4 Students to full time TAFE

2 Students to Open University

1 student unknown

17. Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

In 2023 a formal Parent Survey was conducted, in part, to gauge satisfaction levels. In 2024 a formal Student Survey was conducted.

The close relationship that exists between the school and the church community is something that we are very thankful for. Staff, parents and students are all encouraged to maintain high levels of communication with the school.

Through emails and newsletters, the staff, parents and students are frequently reminded of the various ways in which comments, suggestions or complaints can be shared.

18.School Governance

The school’s governing body, the School Committee, held twelve meetings during the 2024 calendar year.

The composition of the School Committee in 2024 was as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Andrew Van Burgel
 Vice-Chairman/Secretary: Mr. Scott Reitsema
 Treasurer: Mr. John Witten
 Property Manager: Mr. Glenn van der Schaaf
 Future Needs: Mr. Drew Ryder
 Building & Grounds Committee: Mr. Burke Roth
 Safety Committee: Mr. Ryan ‘t Hart

19.School Finances

In 2024, the management of school finances continued to be the cooperative work of Mr. Charlie Brearley (Administrator), Mr. John Witten (School Committee Treasurer), Mrs. Gloria Terpstra (School Bursar) and School Staff (Principal & Deputy Principal).

Once again, the school was well resourced and enjoyed a generous revenue position. The school’s Income and Expense are highlighted as follows:

My School Finance report - 2024		
Full-Time equivalent enrolments relating to recurrent income and capital expenditure: 200		
Net Recurrent Income 2024	Total	Per student
Australian Government recurrent funding	\$ 3,234,399	\$ 16,172
State/territory government recurring funding	\$ 534,195	\$ 2,671
Fees, charges, and parent contributions	\$ 569,898	\$ 2,849
Other private sources	\$ 314,258	\$ 1,571
Total gross income	\$ 4,652,750	\$ 23,264
less deductions	\$ 50,024	\$ 250
Total net recurrent income	\$4,602,725	\$ 23,014
Capital expenditure		
Income allocated to current capital projects	\$ 50,024	\$ 250
other	\$ 134,462	\$ 672
Total Capital expenditure	\$ 184,487	\$ 922

20. Conclusion

I would like to acknowledge the faithful commitment of all who contributed to making John Calvin School Albany a godly and nurturing environment for our covenant children in 2024. It has been a true joy to work together in the shared task of educating our students for a life of love and service to God and their neighbour.

The School Board served with diligence, the parental support was strong and encouraging, and the staff demonstrated consistent dedication to their calling. Above all, we give thanks to God for His abundant blessing and gracious protection throughout the year.

We are also thankful for the financial and educational support we receive from our government at both the state and federal levels. This support helps make it possible for us to carry out our work faithfully and effectively.

It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to bless us all as we serve Him in the task of Reformed education.

Mr. Andrew van der Heide (Principal)