

ANNUAL REPORT – 2015

VISION STATEMENT

Geraldton Grammar School will provide outstanding education and a strong sense of community, cultivating people of integrity, independence of mind and a love of learning.

MISSION STATEMENT

At Geraldton Grammar School we are striving for excellence today by encouraging and challenging students to fulfil their potential in preparation for the changing world of tomorrow.

Descriptive Information

School Sector: Independent

School's Address: 134 George Road, Geraldton, Western Australia

Total Enrolments: 661 full-time equivalent including Kindergarten

Year Levels Offered: Kindergarten to Year 12

Co-educational or Single Sex: Co-educational

Day or Boarding School: Day school that caters for boarding students through our relationship with the Geraldton Residential College

Characteristics of the Student Body:

Students who attend Geraldton Grammar School come from a diverse range of ethnic and religious backgrounds. The majority of students are born in Australia, including a low percentage of aboriginal students, with the remaining coming from more than 20 other countries. The students born in other countries originate from the European, Asian, American and African continents.

The religious background of Grammar students is similarly diverse. Parents have nominated 25 different religious groups, predominantly of a Christian faith, with which they have affiliation.

Social Climate:

Geraldton Grammar School is a school with high expectations and high standards. Through emphasis on a holistic approach to education we make every endeavour to support and encourage students in a safe and caring environment with the tradition of

Anglican schooling. The pastoral care and protective behaviours curriculum are an integral part of our school with dedicated time being given to our INSPIRE program in Primary School and our Personal Development Program in Middle School.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings:

Geraldton Grammar School has a strong academic focus, offering a broad range of subjects. Approximately 70% of students go on to tertiary studies. For non-tertiary bound students, the school is a member of the consortium that utilised has access to the Geraldton Regional Trade Training Centre.

At Grammar, we offer two language subjects (Bahasa Indonesia and Chinese Mandarin) with Indonesian in Primary and Mandarin in Middle School. In 2016, Grammar will consolidate our language program to align with our sister schools' program and offer Chinese Mandarin from Kindy through to year 11.

In the Primary School in 2015 teachers incorporate Big Write and VCOP as a platform for the teaching of writing. This program helps to create a positive ethos towards writing and is based on the methodology of; *'if you can't say it, you can't write it'*. Talk and communication are imperative elements of the program, both at school and at home through 'Talk Homework'. Students are encouraged to 'uplevel', or enhance, their writing through focusing on the elements of; vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation (VCOP). Brightpath, an assessment program which uses a calibrated performance scale against which to judge student's writing, is used in collaboration

with this to allow teachers to develop a program that targets individual needs. 2016 will see the development of both these programs so as to continue to foster a love of writing and empower students to understand successful ways to improve their writing, at their level.

In the Middle School, Grammar is an iPad School and this technology transitions to laptops in the Senior School. In term 4, the teaching staff started our transition to becoming a Google Apps for Education School. In 2016, the Grammar will incorporate both Google Classroom into upper Primary and Google Apps for Education into Middle and Senior School.

In Middle School, we offer a large number of elective subjects in conjunction with a strong academic core. All students study English, Mathematics, Humanities, Science and HPE together with electives in the Languages, the Arts (Visual Arts, Music, Media Arts and Drama), and the Technologies (Computing, Technology Materials, Design Technology, and Food Technology). In Senior School, there are over 30 subject offerings together with 20 Vocational Education options including work placement arrangements. Tutorials/homework club is available 4 days per week for Middle and Senior students.

Academic Extension Programs:

In Primary School, there is a high level of learning support and a High Achieving and Talented Students (HATS) program. In 2015, these students excelled in the Readers Cup Competition and in the WA Criminology competition. Inquiry based learning is a feature of the primary school which follows a multi-aged class clinic grouping philosophy. Middle and Senior School offers curriculum extension programs through creative writing, essay competitions, mock trials and science and engineering challenges. Chess Club is also a popular extension activity. Language extension occurs through our signature Chinese Exchange Program with year 9 students. This involves students working online and face to face with students in China and in Geraldton. The inaugural exchange is in 2015.

Co-curricular Activities:

At Geraldton Grammar School, we offer a broad range of co-curricular opportunities.

Over 20 sports and associated clubs are available for students to participate in each year. Sports currently on offer include: Touch Rugby, Rugby 7s, AFL Football, Tennis, Surfing, Badminton, Table Tennis, Football (Soccer), Hockey, Swimming, Netball, Basketball, Cross Country, and Athletics.

The Instrumental Music Program offered within the school includes Concert Band (year 5 to 12), Primary School Choir, Middle and Senior School Choir, various Ensembles, and Rock Band. Individual and small group music lessons are provided on campus. In 2016, the Instrumental Music Program will expand to include a Marching Band.

Outdoor Education/Camps Programs:

All students in year 4 to year 11 are involved in our successful camps program.

Year 4 – Geraldton Camps School

Year 5 – Perth

Year 6 – Geraldton Leadership Camp

Year 6 - Canberra Study Tour

Year 7 – Nukara Outdoor Camp

Year 8 – Moresby Range Outdoor Camp

Year 9 - Galena Outdoor Camp

Year 9 – Outward Bound Camp (12 days)

Year 10 – Perth Careers Convention and Universities Tour

Year 11 – Outward Bound Camp (12 days)

From 2016, all compulsory school camps will be inclusive of the school fees.

International School Focus:

Geraldton Grammar School has an international focus with our involvement in the Round Square Program. The 6 Ideals of Round Square Schools' are Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership and Service. Geraldton Grammar School has a year 8 exchange program with other Australian Round Square Schools. Students in year 9 and year 11 have the option of attending national and international conferences. In 2015, our year 9 students attended the national student conference in Adelaide. Our year 9 students can be involved in the Chinese Exchange Program.

Geraldton Grammar School will continue to develop an Asian focus in our education through the Australian-Indian Bridge Program. This involved a teacher exchange in 2015 and will evolve to include a student ICT focus in 2016 with students working on shared assessment tasks using Skype and the Google Apps for Education suite.

Staff:

Academic Teaching Staff Attendance: 98.75%
 Academic Teaching Staff Retention Rate: 89.33%
 The Workforce Composition for 2015 (as of August Census) was as follow:
 Teaching Staff:
 Primary School
 21.8 FTE with 3 male; 18.8 female
 Middle and Senior School
 34.7 FTE 15 male; 19.7 female
 Support Staff:
 31.7 FTE 8 male; 23.7 female

Staff Professional Learning:

Staff members were engaged in whole school, sub-school, learning area, pastoral and personal professional learning. The focus areas in 2015 was ATAR courses, Early Years Education, New Australian Curriculum units, Pastoral Care, First Aid, and ICT (Google Docs).
 The cost was averaged over the equivalent of 1.0 FTE. Professional learning across the year was \$1,500 per person of which \$120 per person was spent on teacher relief.
 Teachers' qualifications all met the requirements of the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia (TRBWA).

Student Attendance:

In 2015, the school implemented SEQTA to support student attendance recording. The student attendance rate is 91.76% based on attendance records from Pre-Primary to Year 12.

Year level	Percentage Attendance
Kindy 3 year olds	92.23
Kindy 4 year olds	86.72
Pre-Primary	87.55
1	92.59
2	89.66
3	93.04
4	93.25
5	93.78
6	93.79
7	94.03
8	91.1
9	91.48
10	91.14
11	90.79
12	90.76

Student Absences

Attendance is marked twice daily in Primary and on a period by period basis in Middle and Senior School. Any extended absence is referred to the school attendance officer or the participation team at Mid-West District Office.

Student Retention

The student retention rates from Year 8 to Year 12 are outlined below:

Year	Year 12	Year 8	Apparent Retention Rate
2013	34	89	38%
2014	22	51	43%
2015	46	64	71.8%

The 2014 Year 12 class was part of the half cohort group across the state. An increase in subject offerings and vocational education options in 2015, together with a higher year 8 intake, has in increased numbers and an improved student retention rate.

OLNA Performance

The Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment was carried out for year 10 and year 11 students as required in 2015. The middle column is year 10 and the right hand column is year 11.

Numeracy

Pre-Achieved	53	66
Achieved in 2015	36	26
Not yet Achieved	11	8

Reading

Pre-Achieved	43	56
Achieved in 2015	51	40
Not yet Achieved	6	4

Writing

Pre-Achieved	40	44
Achieved in 2015	53	52
Not yet Achieved	7	4

Year 12 Performance

The following table outlines the Year 12 Performance data.

Performance Parameter	Number
Year 12 Students	46
Overseas full fee paying students	2
Sitting WACE Examination	19
Re-entering year 12 in 2015	0
Studying VET	10
Graduating with WACE	41
Students with 1+ A grade in a COS	10
Applied for University admission	26
ATAR and applied for University	25
Median ATAR for applicants	63
Students offered first preference	16
Students offered place at University	20
Students enrolled at University	15
Students who deferred University	6

Geraldton Grammar School had a 91% success rate with year 12 students gaining a Western Australian Certificate of Education with 77% of the year 12 population that applied for university being offered a

place. The community is proud of this impressive achievement.

NAPLAN Performance

	R	PW	S	G&P	N
3	453	429	418	458	412
5	506	479	489	496	494
7	558	523	558	559	562
9	602	553	585	585	617

R – Reading; PW – Persuasive Writing; S – Spelling; G&P – Grammar and Punctuation; N – Numeracy

Geraldton Grammar School is proud of their academic record regarding NAPLAN testing. In 2015, students performed at the national mean or above in 19 of the 20 testing parameters. These results are also above the state mean in all areas. These are the top results for a K-12 school in the Midwest.

Parental Involvement

At Geraldton Grammar School, we value the relationship with the home, and the shared responsibility of educating our students. Parent, students and their teachers are involved in three-way interviews to support clear communication and expectations. Parents are in regular attendance at school chapel services and assemblies. Parents also actively attend information evenings and meet and greet days. In 2015, communication is carried out through a fortnightly electronic newsletter, email communication, an electronic calendar, the school Facebook site and the school's website. The school also introduce a school app. Grammar's Parents' and Friends' Association is an active body that supports community social events and fundraising for educational projects. Two new events that were instituted in 2015 were the Dads and Kids Camping weekend at Nukara and the Commando Challenge (a mud run for our Primary School students and staff).



Satisfaction Levels

A larger scale Parent Survey was carried out in 2015 that yielded a 12% response rate.

Geraldton Grammar School Exceeding Expectations in the following key areas:

Outdoor Education, Performing Arts Facilities (Batavia Hall), Christian Values, Chapel Services, Student Achievement Expectations, Pastoral Care Programs, Valuing Academic Achievement, Valuing Sporting Achievement, Valuing Visual and Performing Arts, Achievement, Appropriateness of Homework Level

Grammar faired strongly in the following areas:

Language Programs, Visual Arts Facilities
Performing Arts Skill Development, Efficiency of Support Staff, Courteous and Helpful Staff

Our parent community has recognised 3 areas for future growth: Flexibility of subject choice, Sporting Facilities and Counselling Services

School Income Sources

Geraldton Grammar School sources funding from a variety of sources in 2015:

Funding Source	Percentage
Commonwealth Government	42
Tuition Fees	41
State Government	15
Other Sources	2

Final Comments

Mr Nick Johnstone was commissioned as the 4th Principal of Geraldton Grammar School at the beginning of 2015. Mr Johnstone's primary role in term one was the conduct a re-registration process with the Department of Education Services as part of the regular schools review process. This was successfully achieved with registration being extended to 2019. The establishment of a School Improvement Plan process to complement the School Board of Governors' Strategic Plan was then put in class with community input being sort from parents, students, staff and the Board. This process will form part of the annual school planning program from 2015. Local and international partnerships was a focus area for the school in 2015. Partnerships were improved or created with the Geraldton Universities Centre, and Australia-China Business Council (MidWest branch). MOUs were signed with the University of Western Australia, Durack Institute, and Google. A greater internal team dynamic was also a focus in 2015 with an increased level of communication between our Primary and Middle/Senior Schools with respect to curriculum planning, professional learning opportunities and whole school event planning and communication. Geraldton Grammar School is celebrating 20 years of service to the community in 2016. The community is very excited to recognise this very significant milestone in the City of Greater Geraldton.

Nick Johnstone
Principal
15 June, 2016