

Koonwarra Village School



School No. 2082

Annual Report

2021

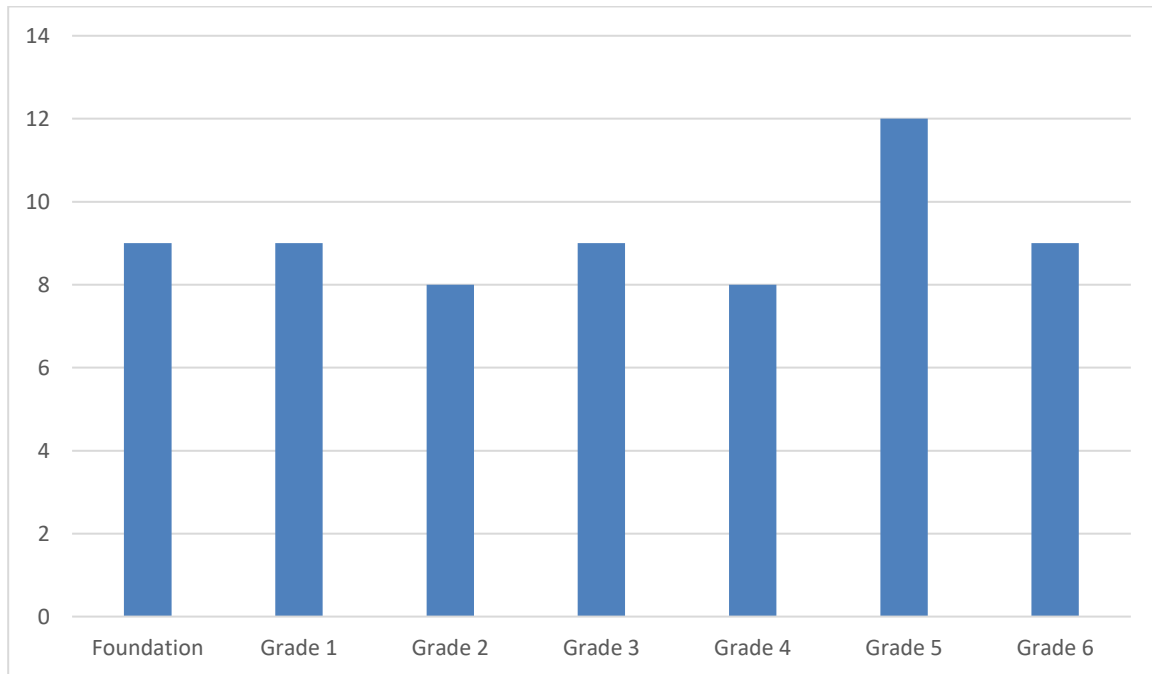


Contextual Information

Koonwarra Village School (KVS) opened its doors on 13th February 2012 in the former Koonwarra Primary School buildings – 20-26 Koala Drive, Koonwarra. The school is an Independent primary school offering enrolment for children in Foundation-Grade 6.

Profile of the Student Body

At the time of the 2021 Federal Government School Census, 64 students were enrolled at the school.



None of the 64 students had Language Backgrounds Other Than English, none were indigenous and 22 were recorded as having a disability.

In 2021, the school's funding was based on Direct Measure of Income school of 87. This was based on the income of student's guardians.



Koonwarra Village School Board



Once again, it is a pleasure to report on the work of the Koonwarra Village School Board for the 2021 Annual Report. During 2021, the KVS Board farewelled three long term Board members – Jamie Sutherland, Rebecca Cooke and Rachel Carruthers, who all made significant individual and collective contributions not only to the Board, but to the fabric of the school community. We welcomed new Board members Matt Stamm, Jared Osborne and Simon Helps who, along

with Fiona McKenzie and Alyson Skinner, comprise the membership of the current board.

Meeting eight times each year, much of the work of the Board is to ensure the school has robust policies and procedures that help guide and protect the sustainability of the school, a realistic and achievable strategic plan that identifies current and future opportunities and to provide financial oversight, whilst meeting all regulatory and compliance reporting. Keeping the Village School Philosophy, along with the Victorian Curriculum, as a balanced and lived experience for all at Koonwarra Village School underpins the work of the Board, as well as ensuring good governance procedures and processes are adhered to.

Sarah Maclean attended each meeting to provide operational information and updates from the Principal to ensure the Board is informed of matters affecting the school. Administration support was provided by Rachel Carruthers and financial reports were prepared and provided by Natasha Rhodes from Small School Business Services. Each Board member brings skills, expertise and interest to the volunteer role of serving on the school board. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Board members for their contribution.

During 2020 and 2021, the school was significantly impacted by COVID. There were many challenges both personally and professionally for staff, students and families; however, it was pleasing to note that our school community showed care, compassion and respect for each other as we all adapted to the ever-changing landscape of education in a pandemic.

The Board was pleased to be able to offer some financial support to families over the year with a fee reduction for part of the year. Despite the challenges of the last two years, the Board is pleased to note the school remains in a strong financial position.

Koonwarra Village School provides so much more than education for our young people. It fosters the spark for lifelong learning, personal agency and creating a true spirit of resilience within a respectful, caring and compassionate community that encourages each person to thrive. I'm pleased to be able to contribute to such a special place.

Alyson Skinner, Chairperson KVS Board

2021: Another Unusual Year, COVID-19

After 2020, came 2021 and in many ways this year was even more challenging. The sporadic, and often short lockdowns were more disruptive than the year before. It was difficult to develop flow and consistency, either remotely or on-site. Sometimes we were even doing both at once. There were also the added complications surrounding the COVID-19 vaccination and requirements around that for both staff and families. The introduction of the vaccine into the community and the divisiveness around this meant that we needed to stay focused, with our words and deeds, on community, connection and compassion.

For the second year in a row, many of our normal programs were impacted and our newest program, Passion Projects, which was due to start in 2020 had another tricky year. We needed to be creative around our whole school events, and many of these needed to be cancelled or postponed in 2021. We still managed to squeeze in quite a few camps, and Graduation was held off-site for the graduates and their families. The nature of the 2021 lockdowns made it more challenging to provide a comprehensive on-line platform, but students were provided with on-line lessons via zoom, as well as social sessions, such as kahootz and hide and seek. The versatility and commitment of our staff is to be commended, as we moved through the ever-changing, and often charged, educational and global landscape that was 2021.

Program Highlights

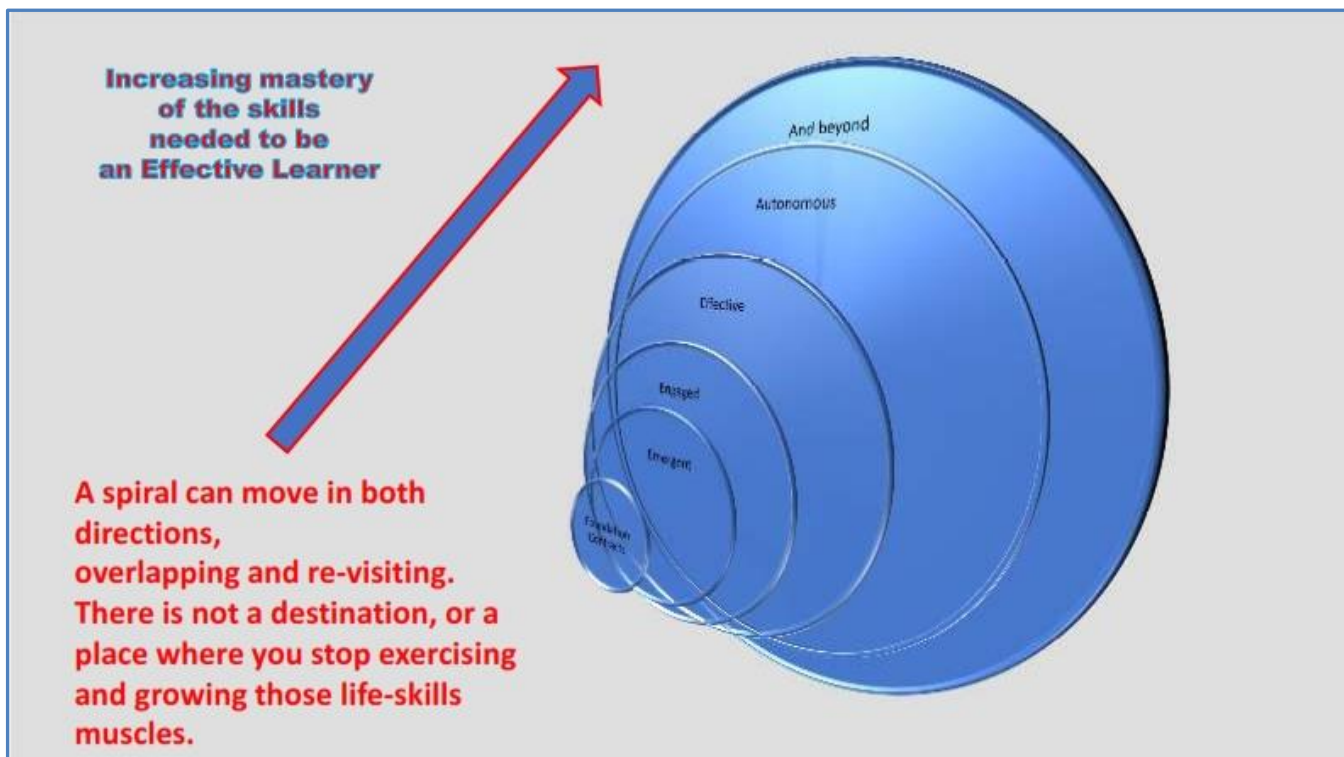
Koonwarra Village School uses the Victorian Curriculum as the basis of its academic program. The school's Philosophy and Guiding Principles outline the broader framework in which teaching and learning occurs.



The Village School Curriculum is a series of additional programs and elements integrated across all the features of school life and overviewed on our [website](#).

Learning Planners

At the heart of our teaching and learning model is a comprehensive (KVS-created) framework that allows incremental development of the skills and attributes to become an Effective Learner.

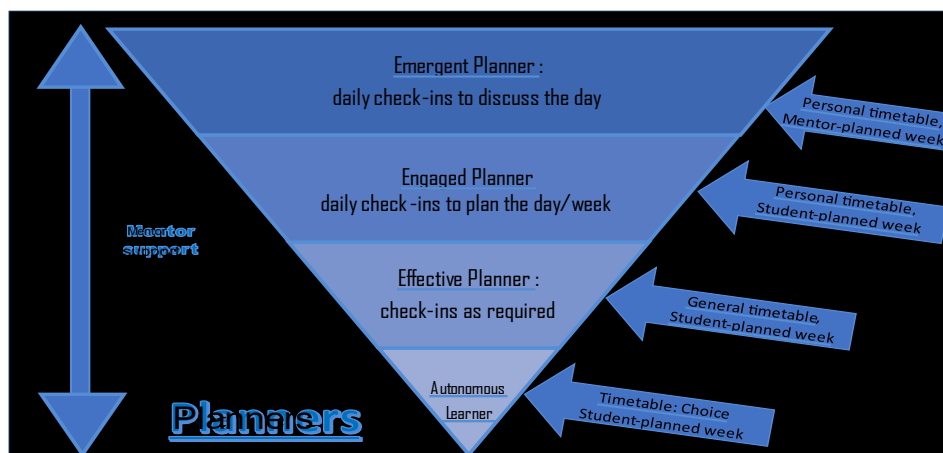


An effective learner understands the skills needed to work independently and collaboratively to achieve learning success. A growth mindset allows students to 'exercise' and develop these skills, which include the suite of eleven executive skills.

Engaged Planner
Cycle 2, Week 1, February 22nd – February 26th

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	TRISKEL SET -UP BLOCK	TRISKEL PARLIAMENT			
9:45		Cog/Con (KE)		Garden (AH)	
10:30					
11:00	Number (SE, NP)		Humanities (SM)	Writing (DB, LP)	Spelling (DB, LP)
11:45					Spec Maths (HM, NP)
12:30					
1:30		PE (KE)	Passion Projects (HM)		
2:15	Reading (DB, LP)	PE (KE)	Passion Projects (HM)		

Task	Done	Task	Done	Task	Done	Task	Done
Independent Reading		Spelling/Word Study		Speeding Cards		PE	
Writer's Notebook		Handwriting		TT Cards			



Learning Planners provide the framework for teaching and learning at KVS. The intention is to support children to become effective and autonomous learners, with an understanding that these skills continue to develop over a lifetime and there is no 'fixed' endpoint. Planners include a range of core numeracy and literacy tasks that can be undertaken by each child independently, as well as tasks that are set by mentors in small group presentations each week that build and extend the student's learning. The Foundation level planners are simple in nature and aim to develop children's awareness of their ability to make choices which lead to success. As the children's skills develop, the complexity of the planner increases, and they begin to share the decision making with their mentor about the order and timing of their work tasks. Over time, the level of support provided by the mentor reduces until children are working as Autonomous Learners.

Learning Planners are used in conjunction with a structured daily timetable, which includes periods of small group direct instruction and whole group activities. The Learning Planners and timetables are coupled with detailed Learning Task Cards that show clear Learning Intentions and Success Criteria, curriculum links and instructions on how to complete the task.

Curriculum: VCS2356 Cog/Con: Level 4 + 5

Why are we here?

Cycle 1, Week 2

<p><u>Learning Intention</u></p> <p>WALT identify singularity and unity</p> <p><u>Task</u> 45 - 60 minutes, independent</p> <p>* Design your own personal flower for remembering the concept of singularity and unity. Medium: black and coloured fineliners</p> <p>* Include your three intention words for the year</p> <p>* Use your Cog/Con Book</p>	<p><u>Success Criteria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can discuss the way of looking at things from the point of view of singularity and of unity <p><u>Due:</u> Friday 8th Mar</p>
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Playgroup & Foundation Transition Group

Our Bush Playgroup was able to run sporadically in 2021, due to the global pandemic. Usually held each Friday morning, the KVS Bush Playgroup allows families who are planning on joining the KVS community to become familiar with each other and the school's philosophy and routines. In 2021 the program was facilitated by Nicole Grigg. The playgroup meets at Nirvana Park, Koonwarra and then the group joins the KVS community for morning tea.





Sun Room Programs (Foundation + Level 1)

Nature Journaling

Nature Journaling is the regular recording of observations, perception, and feelings about the natural world from first-hand experience. The intention for including regular nature journaling sessions in our program is to expose children to the value of the connection between people and their environment. We have found that it also helps to develop stillness in the children as they tune in to the sounds, sights and smells of nature. In 2021, when opportunities arose, the Sun Room students have weekly Nature Journaling sessions, exploring our beautiful local environment.

Sparks

Each cycle the Sun Room is treated to a new Spark or provocation. These are elaborate but open-ended creative exploration spaces that allow the students endless opportunities to create, collaborate and communicate. In 2021, Sparks



were a consistent part of the children's experience when they were at school. One of the most popular Sparks was a post office,

which exploded across the school and soon everyone was sending and receiving mail.

Out n About

Often bouncing off the Sparks theme, the Sun Room children get out and about in the local community at least once per cycle. This year, between lockdowns, they visited the supermarket, the post office and the vet to name a few. All mirrored with a corresponding Sparks back at the Sun Room. The intention behind the out and abouts is not an excursion as such, but for the children to



interact with local community members as they go about their day-to-day lives, so they feel an active participant in their local community.

Triskel Programs (Level 2 – Level 6)

Personal Learning Projects (PLPs)



PLPs are a series of sign-up classes where students have the opportunity to learn and practise skills beyond those offered through regular curriculum activities. The concept builds on Sparks, in that it



provides opportunities to explore and create and/or expand and extend skills in far-ranging spread of offerings. Generally, two PLPs are offered to Triskel students each cycle. In 2021, we managed to run a smattering of PLPs during the year.

Passion Projects

Passion projects are a student-generated project designed around their sparks. Again, this builds from our foundational sparks program. The concept is an 'applied spark', how do you take something you are passionate about and build/expand/investigate/create with it. This program is about developing entrepreneurial skills. It was challenging to get a new programme off the ground when the possibilities of being on site were so inconsistent in 2021. There was head-way made in the structure of the program and a number of student Passion Projects got completed.

Camps + Specialist Outdoor Activities

Camps and outdoor activities are a key program at Koonwarra Village School. This program encapsulates the philosophy and guiding principles, working with children from a perspective of awe and wonder as we get out and explore our world. The camp program deliberately allows time and space for slowing down and pausing, as well as challenging and exploratory activities. Each camp has a maximum of 10 students attending. Our outdoor education day program was in its earlier stages in 2021, and it dovetails in with both the PLP program and the earlier years Out n About program. In 2021, we actually managed a large number of camps! Some needed to be cut short because of lockdowns starting whilst on camp and a few needed to be cancelled (not listed). We needed to modify our second semester program quite significantly, and completed more sign up camps rather than specific level camps. This allowed the children to make their own choice about attending, as we acknowledge that all of them responded to the COVID challenges differently and many children just wanted to stay at home over this period. This year the annual Level 2 Sleepover Challenge ended up having to be modified at the last minute and became a glamorous evening out for dinner and gelati.

In 2021 we invested in two shipping containers to store our ever-expanding gear, between the containers is a roof that allows us to store our fully equipped camping trailer underneath it. The trailer

was also purchased in 2021 and has been decked out with solar panels, shelving and a fridge. It allows us to have a fully mobile camping set-up available at all times.

Level 5-6 Camp Program

This was this first year of the Level 5-6 Camp program. Three camps designed to meet varying challenge levels, and the level 5 and 6 students needing to attend one of these. It is worth noting that we ran our first ever 10-day camp in 2021. What an achievement! 8 students travelled on a road trip to the incredible Kangaroo Island. Such a long time for these young people to be away from home! This structure will be what we use moving forward, any spare spots on these camps are offered to Level 4 students.

1) Gippsland Lakes Boat 3 Day Camp

- Hired a boat and explored the Gippsland Lakes waterways

2) Horse Riding + Rafting 4 Day Camp

- Off to Gelantipy, learning to ride horses and white-water rafting on the mighty Snowy River

3) Kangaroo Island Road Trip 10 Day Camp

- A ten-day trip, camping our way to Kangaroo Island and back again!

Sign Up Camp Program

Our Sign-Up Program involved a range of diverse activities including a 19km day hike, surfing, waterfall climbing and plenty of campfire time! Whittling is a big part of our sign-up program, as well as lots of bush exploring and hiking. All of these camps had the maximum number of students attending from Levels 3 to 6.

1) Sealers Cove Challenge Camp

2) Tarra Bulga 3 Day Camp

3) Walkerville 3 Day Camp

4) Bear Gully 3 Day Camp

5) Cape Conron 4 Day Camp

Other Camps

1) Level 6 Health 3 Day Camp

- A three-day camp staying in a lodge at Wilsons Prom, allowing students time and space to discuss and explore the appropriate elements of growth and change that occurs as they enter their teenage years. This year we did a lot of work on personal boundaries and consent, as well as identity and emotional regulation.

2) Graduate Camp 4 Day Camp

- A four-day adventure for our Graduate students. This camp is now a KVS tradition and the location and activities are planned by the graduates. This year involved a rental house in Lakes Entrance, a boat cruise, a choice between a fishing charter or a resin workshop and lots of delicious food!

One Act Play

Each year, KVS participates in the One Act Play Festival in Foster. In 2021, the festival was cancelled



but at the last minute! This was even more disappointing than 2020, as the students had worked so hard to learn their lines and stage craft only to be thwarted for the second year running!

Whole School Programs

Kitchen/Garden

Kitchen/Garden involves garden and kitchen activities for all the year levels and builds on the skills and knowledge acquired in the previous year. Many activities are related to growing, harvesting and cooking as well as delving into the world of food production and processing, including looking after our own beehive. In 2021, the program happened when the children were learning on-site, and there



was planning undertaken to increase the 'kitchen' element of the program in 2022.



Cognition/Connection

A key whole school programs, which runs from Foundation to Level 6, is our social and emotional literacy program, known as Cognition + Connection. It is developed around the brain (executive function, growth mindset and brain plasticity) and the heart (connection to self, to other and the world). In the Sun Room the program uses Kimochis to the children identify and articulate their feelings and needs. As the students move up through the school the content shifts to match their increasing maturity.

Parliament

Parliament is a decision and discussion forum in which the students and mentors come together to discuss ideas or issues that are relevant to the school. The Sun Room run a smaller version of Parliament. In 2021, Parliament was held sporadically because of the oscillations between on- and off-site learning.

Community Events



FAMP

An annual event that kicks-off each year is the Family Camp (FAMP). All students, their parents and siblings get together over three days for a mix of structured activities and connection as a community. In 2021, FAMP was held at the Cape Paterson Caravan Park, we were required to postpone FAMP in cycle one and were lucky the caravan park could accommodate us in cycle two.

Winter Gathering

In 2021, we needed to cancel our annual Winter Gathering, which usually takes place in cycle 5.

End of Year Celebration + Graduation

Unfortunately, we needed to cancel our End of Year Celebration in 2021. We had a modified Graduation Event off-site for the graduates and their immediate families.

2021 Graduates

Nine students graduated in 2021. Many of these students had completed their entire primary school journey at KVS! Each graduate received a beautiful quilt created with lino cut designs by the students and staff of KVS, and an original artwork crafted around a word and sentence selected for each student. Two of the nine students are attending Village High School.

2021 Staff

Our teachers are known as mentors, to reflect the partnership that we consider is involved in a holistic approach to academic learning and personal development. Students have the opportunity to work with several mentors during the week which allows them to experience a variety of relationships. Eight teachers were employed in a part-time capacity for classroom duties in 2021.

Sarah Maclean (B.Sci, Grad. Dip. Ed. (Primary)) is the Principal and works across the school in a range of Village Curriculum areas.

Lizzie Price (Graduate Diploma (Primary Ed.)), worked with our Foundation students and Kelly Hunter (B. Ed, B. Teach), worked in the Sun Room with children in Foundation-Grade 1 as well as across Literacy and Numeracy for our Level 2s. Angus Henderson (Grad Dip Ed, BA, M Soc Sc) worked as a Key Mentor and specialist teacher, working across the school for Kitchen Garden and Literacy for our older students. Scott Egan (B.Ed (Primary)) held the role of Key mentor working with the Level 2-6 students for Humanities and Science and Level 3-6 students with Numbers. Daylene Bolch (B.Ed EC, B Ed. Primary) worked with Levels 3 & 4 Literacy and Literacy Support for the older students. Hafis



Matthews (B. Ed Primary) was a Key Mentor and worked with Level 3-6 students in Specialist Maths and delivered the Passion Projects program. Henry Rushford (B.Sport & Recreation/B.Ed) specializes in camps and PLPs, and worked across all three Village Schools. Kristen Eddy (B.Ed EC) worked with Level 4-6 PE, ILP Co-ordinator and the Cognition/Connection Mentor for Level 2-6.

Children in both classes were supported during the year by classroom assistants – Lisa Piercy, Jacqui Haysom, Shannon Letcher and Trace Fraser. The administration and facilities activities were supported by Rachel Carruthers, Lauren Jacovou and Donna Clark. The kitchen was managed by Jacqui Haysom and our Bush Playgroup was coordinated by Lucy Pearce. Lucy Pearce also worked in the kitchen and later in the year was replaced by Leah Stamm. At the end of 2021 we had a number of staff changes, for various reasons. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Kristen, Shannon, Lisa, Lucy, Henry and Hafis for all their hard-work and dedication to KVS over the time they were employed.



Back L-R: Angus Henderson, Hafis Matthews, Trace Fraser, Rachel Carruthers, Jacqui Haysom, Leah Stamm, Henry Rushford

Front L-R: Scott Egan, Lizzie Price, Kelly Hunter, Daylene Bolch, Sarah Maclean

Absent from photo: Lucy Pearce, Shannon Letcher, Donna Clark

Staff Composition & Qualifications

In 2021, Koonwarra Village School employed staff in the capacities below. The total teacher FTE was 6.3

Principal	Full Time x 1
Classroom Teacher	Part Time x 8
Classroom Assistant	Part Time x 2
Administrative Staff	Part Time x 2
Support Staff	Part Time x 2

In 2021, all Teaching staff held a Bachelor's Degree, none held a Masters or Doctorate and none identified as having an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background.

Staff Feedback

In 2021, the Leadership teams across all three schools developed a staff satisfaction survey, allowing anonymous reflection on the school philosophy, school leadership and staff remuneration. From this

was borne a cross-school Wage Banding Team, who worked together over many weeks to create a shared document around remuneration

In September, a Staffing Questionnaire was distributed which enabled staff to directly state their preferred teaching levels, learning areas and days of work for the following year. This information was used to prepare the timetable and spread of teaching responsibilities in 2022.

Professional Conversations were modified again in 2021, with ongoing discussions with all staff as we responded to the COVID pandemic. Staff were offered the opportunity to take up counselling service if they needed further support over the year.

Community Feedback

Parents and students have various forums in which to feedback their level of satisfaction on the programs and operations of the school. In June and December, parents were involved in formal meetings (20 minutes) with a panel of staff members to discuss their child's academic performance. This is also an opportunity for staff to receive parents' response to the semester's activities. In 2021, we were able to run one Celebration Night (usually two) and interviews were offered via Zoom.

Teachers maintain regular contact with parents via email, phone calls or direct contact after school throughout the school year to ensure the flow of information between home and school is timely and frequent.

Student Outcomes

Written reports relating to student academic progress were provided to parents in June and December, covering all learning areas, as well as including a personal letter written to each child from a mentor. These reports were accompanied by a parent/teacher/student meeting, scheduled for all families. Foundation students receive a Portfolio rather than a written report, it contains work samples, photographs and provides a fantastic reflective record of student growth during their first year of school. In 2021, the reports were modified to reflect the learning areas covered during the pandemic.

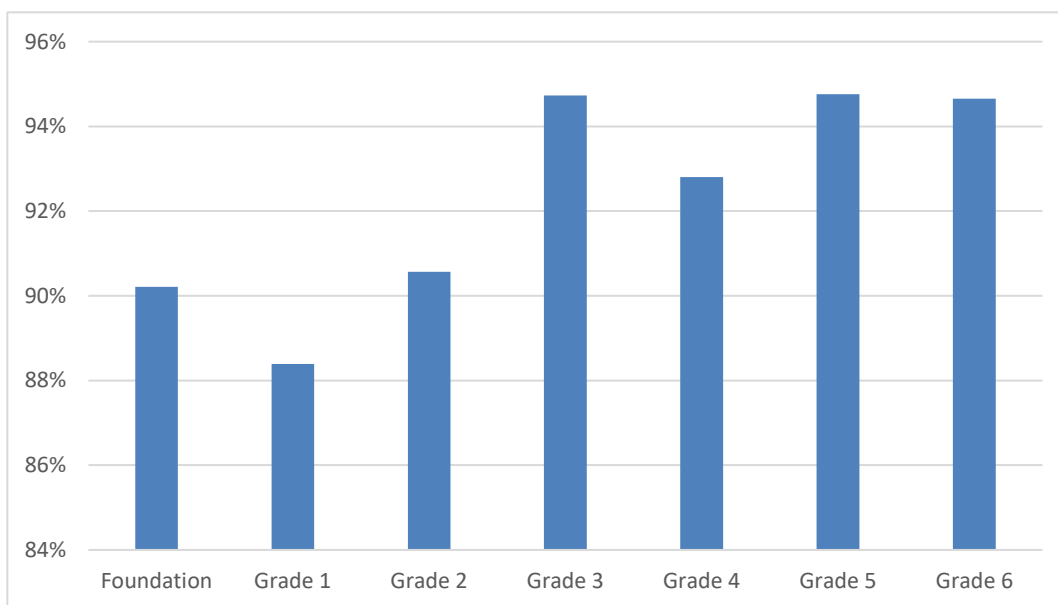
NAPLAN Testing

All students in eligible grade levels were prepared for the testing in the weeks prior to NAPLAN which was held in May 2021.

The small number of participants means that results fall below the reporting threshold therefore no data is available for comparison with previous years testing. KVS will continue to support NAPLAN and other types of outcomes testing to ensure student achievement in all areas of the curriculum.

Student Attendance

The average attendance rate of all students who were enrolled at Koonwarra Village School for 2021 was 92.41%.



When a student is absent, parents are expected to notify a staff member by phone call, email, text message or direct contact on the day of absence. If no contact has been received from parents, the School makes contact to determine the cause of the absence.

Income by Funding Source

