At A Glance

St Patrick’s Primary School is a Catholic co-educational primary school in Gordon, a rural town on the Melbourne side of Ballarat. St Patrick’s offers a comprehensive education in the Catholic tradition.

St Patrick’s Gordon is open to all families within the Gordon community and welcomes families from Mt Egerton, Wallace, Springbank, Bungaree, Ballan and throughout the district. We welcome both Catholic and Non-Catholic families into our community. Currently approximately 30% of our families are Non-Catholic.

At St Patrick’s Gordon we offer every child:

- Excellent learning facilities and resources
- Highly motivated and skilled teachers and support staff
- Friendly and welcoming parent community
- Strong links to St Patrick’s Parish community and to our local community.
- A commitment to educate the ‘Whole Child’... socially, emotionally, academically and spiritually.
- A commitment to excellence in learning

Our School Vision

St Patrick’s is a Catholic Primary School that strives to educate the whole person. It is our faith and traditions that bind us, as we foster caring relationships between staff, students, school, home and the wider community.

Our School Mission

As a Christian centred educating community, St Patrick’s school;

- **CELEBRATES** Catholic beliefs, values, practices and traditions.
- **SHARES** In the mission of the church, modelled on the leadership of Jesus Christ
- **WORKS** In partnership with all stakeholders in the education of our students.
- **PROVIDES** A contemporary curriculum which is stimulating, creative and challenging.
- **NURTURES** Each individual's intellectual, emotional, spiritual,
physical and social development, in an environment that is safe for all.

- **RESPECTS**
  - The dignity and integrity of each person, promoting self-esteem, hope, and a positive vision for the future.

- **INSPIRES & EMPOWERS**
  - Our students to make a difference in the world.

- **EDUCATES**
  - And will support all, regardless of race, religion, social background or status.

*St Patrick’s school places a high priority on child safety and has implemented Child Safety Policies and Procedures covering all learning environments (within and outside the school), online and outside of school hours care.*

**Anticipated Enrolment in 2017: 48**

**Enrolment Trends:** St Patrick’s Gordon is a small rural Catholic school. The School Advisory Council is committed to building up our school enrolments to around 60 students over the next 3-5 years. Much work is taking place to encourage local families to visit and consider a Catholic Education for their children.

**Class Structure:**

Decisions are made annually about the most suitable structure to meet the needs of the students. 3 class groups currently operate in 2016 in the following configuration:

- Foundation- Year 2 Junior class
- Year 3/4 Middle class
- Year 5/6 Senior class

**Specialist Areas:**

Specialists operate in the areas of Visual Arts, Physical Education and LOTE (Japanese).

**Key Intervention and Other Programs:**

St Patrick’s operates Reading Recovery, Multi-Lit and ERIK (Enhancing Reading Intervention Knowledge)

In 2017 special needs coordination will need to be filled internally following the retirement at the end of this year of our special needs coordinator.

Student Well-being is supported through the whole school programs such as Friendly Schools and Families as well as our Pastoral Care Worker who attends one day per week as part of the Federal Chaplaincy Program.
Oral Language Supporting Early Learning (OLSEL) approaches are being implemented in all areas of the school. The school’s curriculum is based on an inquiry learning philosophy.

We have a wireless system throughout the school allowing us to run iPads and wireless laptops throughout all learning areas.

**Organisational Structures:**

The School Advisory Council works with the principal in developing long and short term goals for the school. An active Parents and Friends supports community growth and helps to build facilities.

The Staff Team operates as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) with all members of the staff considered part of the leadership of the school. We currently have staff roles as Deputy Principal and Religious Education Coordinator as well as a POL position as OLSEL coordinator.

**Physical Environment:**

St Patrick’s has a most beautiful school environment. We are active in our work in Environmental Education, being awarded a Mayoral Award for work in sustainability from the Moorabool Shire in 2015. Staff, students and parents take great pride in the school grounds and our indigenous gardens.