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Hunter: Fastest growing school in region, St Bede's Catholic College in Chisholm

An analysis of federal government data has revealed every Hunter region school's student enrolment trajectory over the past five years. See where your child's school ranks.



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St Bede's Catholic College in Chisholm us the fastest growing school in the Hunter region between 2018-2022. Generic

Hunter's fastest growing schools - and the ones going backwards - have been revealed.

An analysis of federal government data has revealed every Hunter region school's student enrolment trajectory over the past five years - exposing where student numbers have risen and declined the most.

St Bede's Catholic College in Chisholm is Hunter's fastest growing school, with enrolments increasing by 506 per cent in the five years from 2018 to 2022.

Opening its doors in 2018, the school has grown from just year seven now through to its first year 12 students this year.

"I'm incredibly proud. It's a proud moment to have the year seven students who started back in 2018 to see them graduate, it's the proudest moment of my career," Principal John Murphy said.



Principal John Murphy of St Bede's Catholic College in Chisholm which was identified as the fastest growing school in the Hunter from 2018-2022. Supplied.



Sisters Georgia and Colby McDonald who attend St Bede's Catholic College in Chisholm. Supplied.

“I think parents like what we stand by and also the contemporary learning spaces provided.”

He said the first few years they had to work to get enrolment numbers up as they set-up the school, now things have drastically changed.

“Now is the opposite problem. Demand for places now exceed the number of positions offered and that’s what is happening,” Mr Murphy explained.

“Enrolment pressures are now where we can’t accommodate everyone.”

Parent representative Michelle McDonald has been with the school from the start, seeing the first sod turned on the project.

She has two daughters who attend, Georgia who just graduated from year 12 and Colby in year 9, and said the school has come very far.

“Things are changing, it is much bigger now and I experienced it from a lump of dirt so to see it now, the care and concern for the kids is still there,” she said.

“I’m glad I took my children here as they are blossoming and many other students that I have known, I see them blossoming as well.

“Parents have great confidence in sending their kids to this school.”



Michelle McDonald - Parent representative - St Bede's Catholic College in Chisholm which was identified as the fastest growing school in the Hunter from 2018-2022. Supplied.

The second fastest growing school was Pacific Brook Christian School in Muswellbrook with a 324 per cent change while All Saints College in Maitland recorded the third biggest change with a 136 per cent increase.

Meanwhile, the analysis also highlighted the Hunter region's schools in decline with Belltrees Public School in Belltrees recording a 76 per cent drop over five years.

Blandford Public School in Blandford was the second school going backwards for enrolment with a 71 per cent drop and Martins Creek Public School in Martins Creek was the third with a 50 per cent decline.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority figures are the most up to date enrolment numbers that include all state and private schools nationally.

Schools with fastest growth between 2018 and 2022:

St Bede's Catholic College: 506 per cent

Pacific Brook Christian School: 324 per cent

All Saints College: 136 per cent

Fern Bay Public School: 106 per cent

Brightwaters Christian College: 96 per cent

Mitchells Island Public School: 88 per cent

Gillieston Public School: 80 per cent

Heritage College Lake Macquarie: 79 per cent

Manning Valley Anglican College: 79 per cent

Australian Christian College - Singleton: 77 per cent

Schools in decline 2018-2022:

Belltrees Public School: 76 per cent

Blandford Public School: 71 per cent

Martins Creek Public School: 50 per cent

Broke Public School: 50 per cent

Martindale Public School: 47 per cent

Congewai Public School: 44 per cent

St Joseph's Primary School: 41 per cent

Stratford Public School: 38 per cent

Upper Lansdowne Public School: 35 per cent

Mount Kanwarly Public School: 34 per cent

[Article can be accessed online here.](#)