St Jerome’s Primary School Advisory Council

Treasurer’s Report 2026

Executive Summary

2026 has been another year of sound financial management for St Jerome’s Primary School, with the school maintaining a stable financial position while operating within the financial parameters established by CEWA. Student enrolments have remained steady, providing a solid foundation for the school’s ongoing financial sustainability. To support future growth, the school has launched the “Make Enrolments Great Again” initiative, aimed at increasing community awareness and highlighting the many strengths and opportunities available at St Jerome’s.

As at October 2026, the school’s financial position remains strong, with a closing cash balance of $1.942 million, compared to an opening balance of $1.271 million at the beginning of the year. Government funding and school fee income continue to be the school’s primary revenue sources and have enabled the school to meet its staffing, operational and capital commitments throughout the year.

Looking ahead to 2027, the School Advisory Council has endorsed a 7% increase in school fees, in line with the upper range of CEWA's recommended increase. While this increase will assist in offsetting rising costs, the school is currently forecasting a budget deficit of approximately $128,000 for 2027, due to increasing operational and staffing expenses.

The school's priorities for 2027 will be to maintain financial sustainability, closely monitor expenditure, support educational excellence and continue pursuing enrolment growth through increased community engagement and promotion of the school's strengths.

Overall, the financial outlook remains stable. While financial pressures continue to affect schools across the sector, St Jerome’s remains well positioned to manage these challenges through disciplined budget management.

Introduction

I am pleased to present the Treasurer’s Report for 2026.

Over the past several years, student enrolments at St Jerome’s Primary School have stabilised, providing a solid foundation for the school's ongoing operations and financial sustainability. Recognising that enrolments remain critical to the long-term financial health of the school, St Jerome’s has launched the “Make Enrolments Great Again” initiative to build awareness within the local community and promote the many programs and opportunities that make St Jerome’s a great place for students and families. Enrolments remain a key driver of the school's financial stability and future success.

The school has continued to maintain a balanced financial position while operating within the financial parameters established by CEWA. This disciplined approach will remain a key focus as we move into 2027.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the School Advisory Council, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Vicky Harvey and Dee Papadopoulos for their outstanding work managing the school's financial operations. Their commitment, diligence and stewardship of school resources ensure that funds are directed to areas that deliver the greatest benefit to our students and community.

Their comprehensive monthly reporting and prompt response to financial queries assist the School Advisory Council in fulfilling its governance responsibilities. We are grateful for their ongoing dedication and support.

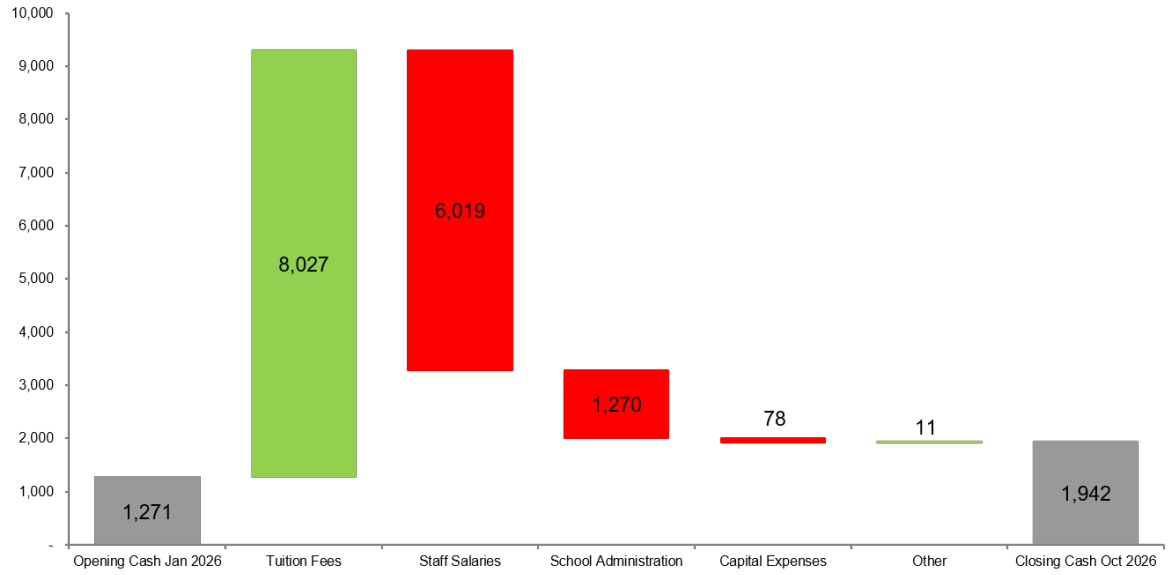
Financial Performance 2026 (Year-to-Date October)

The school commenced 2026 with a cash balance of $1.271 million and has maintained a strong financial position throughout the year. Revenue continues to be primarily driven by government funding, with $6.549 million received from State and Federal Government sources, supplemented by $1.478 million in school fee income from families. These revenue streams have enabled the school to fund its educational programs and operational requirements.

Employee costs remain the school's largest area of expenditure, reflecting the school's commitment to delivering quality educational outcomes through appropriately resourced teaching and support staff. During the period, $6.019 million was invested in staff salaries, representing the most significant component of the school's operating costs. School administration and operational costs totalled $1.270 million, while a further $78,000 was invested in capital expenditure to support school facilities and infrastructure.

The school's financial performance to October 2026 has resulted in a closing cash balance of $1.942 million, an increase of approximately $671,000 since the beginning of the year. This outcome reflects disciplined financial management, careful control of expenditure and the ongoing focus on maintaining the financial sustainability of the school.

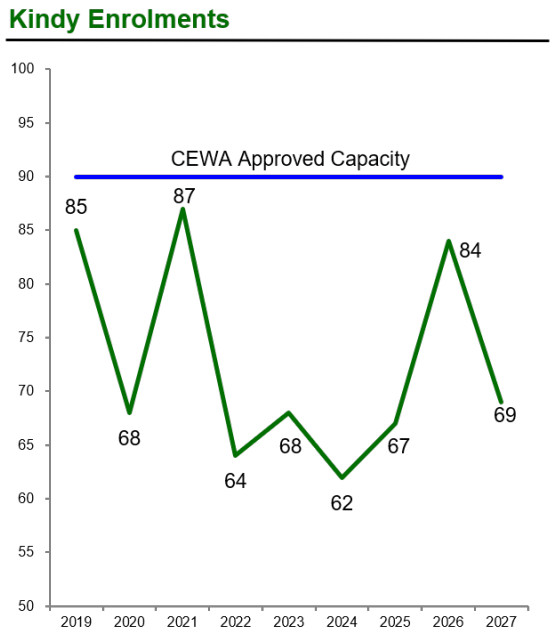
Year to Date October 2026 Cashflow ($,000)

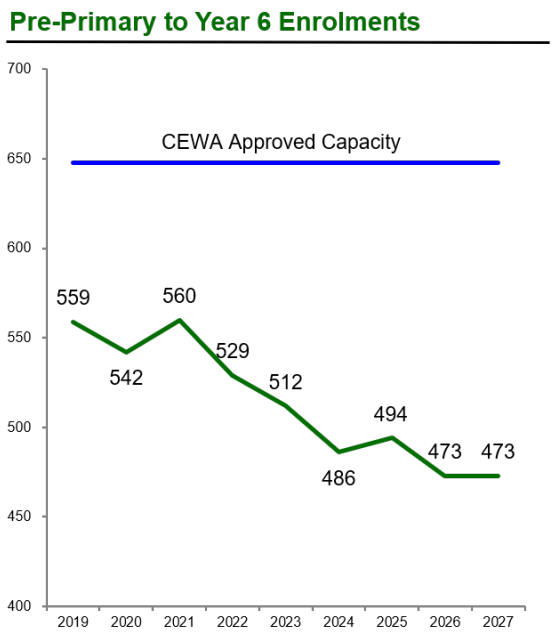


Student Enrolments

Student enrolments have remained stable throughout 2026. Stable enrolments provide certainty around both operational planning and government funding, while also supporting the school's long-term financial sustainability.

The school's enrolment growth strategy aims to strengthen St Jerome's presence within the community and generate future enrolment growth opportunities.





2027 School Fees

In determining school fees for 2027, the School Advisory Council reviewed historical fee increases and considered CEWA's recommendation that schools increase fees between 5% and 7%.

Historical School Fee Increases

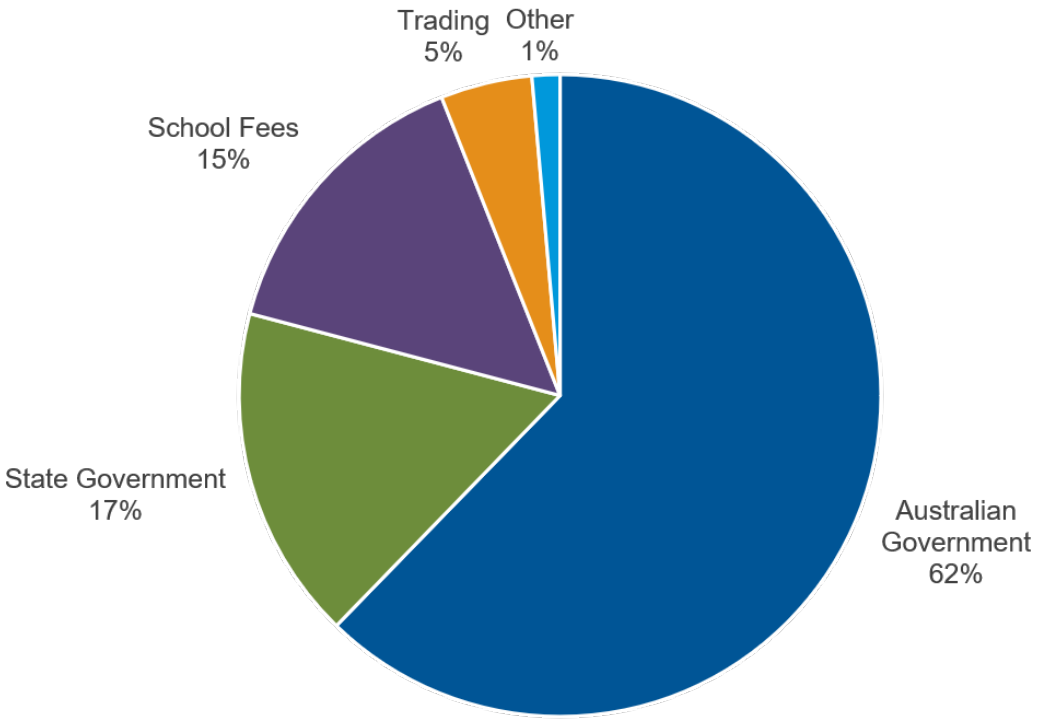
Year	Increase
2023	2.0%
2024	0.0%
2025	5.5%
2026	4.5%

Following careful consideration of the school's financial position and the increasing cost pressures facing the education sector, the School Advisory Council endorsed a 7% increase in school fees for 2027. This decision was made to help ensure the school remains financially sustainable while continuing to provide high-quality educational outcomes.

2027 Financial Outlook

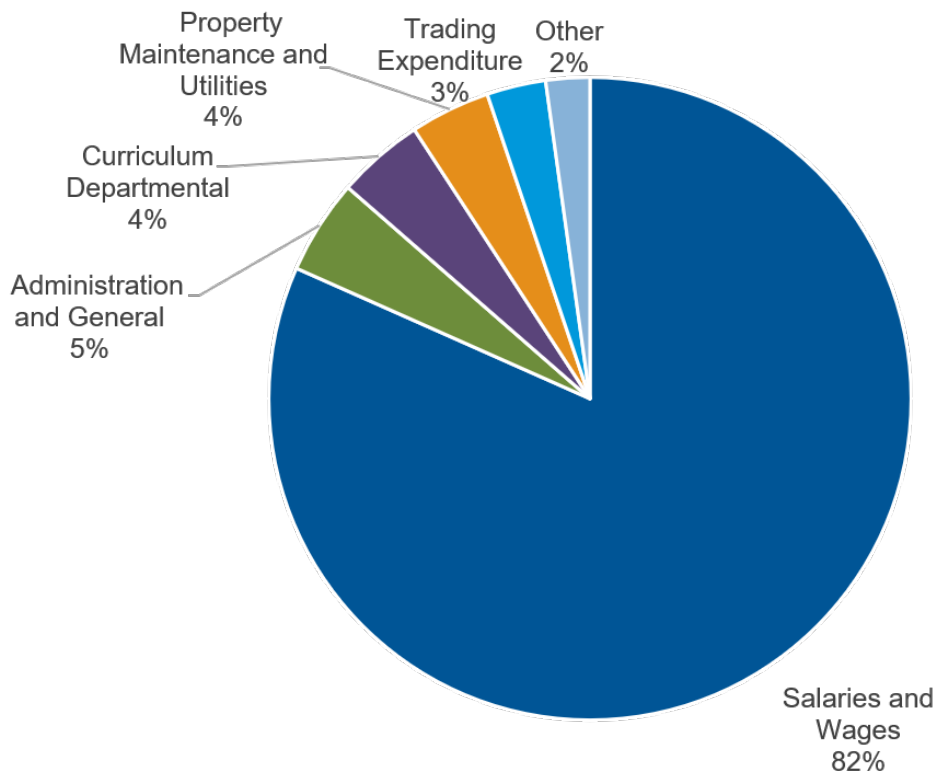
The school remains committed to maintaining a balanced financial position while operating within the financial framework established by CEWA. The 2027 budget has been developed with a focus on financial sustainability while ensuring continued investment in educational outcomes, student support services and the maintenance of school facilities.

Total revenue for 2027 is forecast at $8.689 million, with government funding continuing to be the school's primary source of income at $6.874 million, representing approximately 79% of total revenue. School fee income is budgeted at $1.292 million, with additional revenue generated through trading activities, including the canteen, three-year-old kindergarten and OSHC programs, together with building and capital levies. This revenue mix highlights the school's ongoing reliance on both government funding and stable enrolment numbers to maintain financial viability.



Budgeted expenditure for 2027 is forecast at $8.817 million, reflecting the increasing cost of delivering quality education within a challenging economic environment. Consistent with most schools, employee-related expenses remain the largest area of expenditure, with staff salaries budgeted at $7.199 million, accounting for approximately 82% of total expenditure. This investment reflects the school's commitment to maintaining appropriate staffing levels and delivering quality learning outcomes for students.

In addition to staffing costs, the budget includes funding for curriculum resources, administration costs, insurance and statutory levies, building and grounds maintenance, trading activities and financing costs. Continued investment in these areas is necessary to ensure the school can maintain a safe, supportive and engaging learning environment while meeting its operational obligations.



The 2027 budget is forecasting a deficit of approximately $128,000. While a deficit outcome is not desirable, it reflects the financial pressures currently being experienced across the education sector, including increasing employment costs, inflationary pressures on goods and services, rising insurance premiums and increased maintenance requirements. The School Advisory Council recognises that these cost increases are outpacing growth in many traditional revenue sources.

Conclusion

St Jerome's remains in a sound financial position, supported by stable enrolments, disciplined financial management and strong governance oversight. While rising operating costs continue to place pressure on school finances, the school has taken proactive steps through the 2027 fee structure and ongoing budget management processes.

The School Advisory Council remains committed to ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the school while supporting the educational needs of students and families. Through careful expenditure management and a continued focus on enrolment growth, St Jerome's is well placed to meet the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Alison Franchina
Treasurer
St Jerome's Primary School Advisory Council