



**DARLING DOWNS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2016**

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## SCHOOL OVERVIEW

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Darling Downs Christian School is a co-educational independent school providing a balanced academic, physical, social, emotional and spiritual program from Preparatory to Year 12. Established in 1942, the school is operated by Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Limited.

The school provides a Christian community dedicated to God and His word, serving the entire Toowoomba community irrespective of ethnic or religious background.

All Seventh-day Adventist Schools in the South Queensland area form a single system, with each school being constitutionally tied to the central body. The central organisation controls the employment of teaching staff and is involved in financial matters and curriculum development. The school is governed at the local level by the Darling Downs Christian School Council.

## Mission:

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The mission of Darling Downs Christian School is to promote a redemptive relationship between each student and Jesus Christ while facilitating academic excellence and pleasure in learning, in a caring, disciplined environment.

## Motto:

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“Nothing without God.”

## Values:

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Discernment  
Responsibility  
Respect  
Justice  
Integrity  
Compassion  
Excellence  
Humility  
Hope

## Principal:

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Mr Adrian Fitzpatrick

## School Address:

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451 McDougall Street,  
Toowoomba QLD 4350.

Telephone: 07 4659 1111

Fax: 07 4659 1199

Email: [admin@ddcs.qld.edu.au](mailto:admin@ddcs.qld.edu.au)

Website: [www.ddcs.qld.edu.au](http://www.ddcs.qld.edu.au)

## Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

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Darling Downs Christian School seeks to offer holistic education through programs which develop the academic, physical, social, emotional and spiritual dimensions of each student. The curriculum therefore includes practical activities and opportunities for service learning, including: literacy and numeracy learning support; Kitchen Garden Program for Years 3-7; Agricultural Science Program for Years 8-12; HOPE (Health, Outdoor and Physical Education) for Years 9 and 10; Social and Emotional Learning Program for Years Prep to 11; Speech and Drama; interschool-sport teams; creative arts; TAFE and school-based apprenticeships.

## Arrowsmith Program

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Darling Downs Christian School is proud to provide The Arrowsmith Program for students with learning difficulties. The school was one of the first in Queensland, and the first Adventist school in the world, to offer this groundbreaking neuroplasticity program.

The school runs a school-age program for students from Years 3-12 and an adult program for post school-age students.

## Extra-Curricular Activities:

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As with the distinctive curriculum offerings the school seeks to develop academic, physical, social and spiritual dimensions of each student, therefore extra-curricular activities aim to offer opportunities for similar aspects of development.

Camps and outdoor activities at local and national sites are available for students from Years 4 to 12 to enhance physical, social, emotional and spiritual development.

Student leadership training and mentoring is offered throughout the year. Sport competitions are conducted with other schools within the Toowoomba region and with Adventist Schools South Queensland network schools in Brisbane.

Trips to the Solomon Islands and a STORMCO (Service To Others Really Matters Company) visits to the community of Duaringa (now in the seventh year), and connections with the local BUPA Nursing Home are the highlights of the service learning program.

Spiritual development of students is enhanced through the school's biblical studies curriculum "Encounter", the annual Week of Worship, visiting speakers for the weekly Chapel program.

## Social Climate:

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Pastoral Care at Darling Downs Christian School includes a range of programs and approaches.

### **“You Can Do It” – Program Achieve**

The school implements this social/emotional program from Prep to Year 11. The program addresses the five foundations for success and wellbeing: confidence, organisation, getting-along, persistence and resilience.



### **“No Apologies Program” for Year 9**

No Apologies is a character-based health curriculum and was created to help young people safely navigate the most critical decade of their lives - those years between the ages of 12 and 22.

This curriculum is designed to educate and empower teenagers to make good choices and to develop positive character traits. These traits include respect, responsibility, integrity, courage, self-control and honesty. The No Apologies program includes effective, age-appropriate and culturally relevant activities

tested in classrooms, youth groups and health departments all over the world

## Satisfaction Survey:

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Feedback on the culture and performance of the school is used to help create measurable outcomes in our School Improvement Plan.

Student surveys provide feedback to staff and have been utilised for planning, celebrating and reflection. Surveys are conducted biennially.

## Parental Involvement:

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The school encourages parental involvement in many aspects of the school including: working party groups; the Parents and Friends Association; Tuckshop; Uniform Shop; working bees; Open Day – Pink Fig Mother’s Day Market; Open Classroom; Bush Dance; Chapel programs; Kitchen Garden lessons, assisting with gardening and grounds maintenance; excursions, fundraising projects and assisting with library.



## OUR STAFF:

### Staff Composition

		Part-time	Full-time
Teaching	Male	2	5
	Female	3	10
Non Teaching	Male	1	1
	Female	6	1
Indigenous Staff		0	0

Qualification	% of Classroom Teachers and School Leaders
Doctorate	5%
Masters	0%
Bachelor Degree	85%
Diploma	10%
Certificate	15% (post grad)
Years of Teaching	% of Classroom Teachers and School Leaders
Less than 5 yrs	25%
5 to 9 yrs	10%
10 to 14 yrs	15%
15 to 19 yrs	5%
20 + yrs	45%

The total funds expended on teacher development in 2016 was \$31687.51, an average per teaching staff member of \$1584.40.

Professional development priorities for 2016 included:

Child Protection Training;

WHS Compliance Training (child protection, ladder training, fire safety);

The Art and Science of Teaching (Mazarno Institute);

Australian Curriculum;

ISQ Briefings;

Formative Assessment Project;

Student Support;

Neuroplasticity;

Assessment and Reporting;

ICT applications to teacher administrative tasks and learning management;

Literacy development;

Visual Arts and

Annual CPR training for all staff and upgrading of Senior First Aid certification as required.

100% of the teaching staff participated in professional learning activities during 2016. All teaching staff participated in professional learning at some time during the year.

Many of the professional development activities for 2016 were provided through, and subsidised by, South QLD Adventist Schools Ltd, The Association of Independent Schools QLD and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

Number of permanent teaching staff at end of previous year	Number of these retained in the program year	Retention rate
13	12	92%

Average Staff Attendance for Teachers at School, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave periods of up to 5 days: 98.07 %

## Characteristics of the student body:

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Students	219
Girls	109
Boys	110
Indigenous students	6%

### Average student attendance rate:

The average student attendance rate as a % in 2016 was 90%.

Class rolls are taken electronically in the morning. Office staff are given a daily attendance report. Parents/Guardians are requested to phone the school in the event that a student will not be in attendance for that day. When the student returns to school a note is to be given to the class or roll teacher. When a child is absent for a period of days the class or roll teacher will contact the parent/guardian to follow up.

## BENCHMARK DATA

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Darling Downs Adventist School views testing such as that carried out in the Years 3, 5 and 7 National Benchmarking tests as providing just one snapshot of a child's achievement. Parents are encouraged to view the results of these tests in the context of their child's total learning.

2016 NAPLAN results for Years 3, 5 7 and 9

READING			
Year	Average Score (School)	Average Score (State)	% above National minimum standard
Year 3	394	420	88
Year 5	476	500	73
Year 7	531	539	59
Year 9	594	576	75
WRITING			
Year 3	402	409	63
Year 5	451	466	64
Year 7	470	502	55
Year 9	534	534	58
SPELLING			
Year 3	413	411	75
Year 5	469	486	83
Year 7	508	540	77
Year 9	591	574	75
GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION			
Year 3	430	433	69
Year 5	472	506	73
Year 7	539	538	68
Year 9	592	569	75
NUMERACY			
Year 3	398	397	75
Year 5	476	488	82
Year 7	520	546	82
Year 9	567	582	58

## Apparent Retention Rate:

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The Year **10** to **12** Apparent Retention Rate is defined as the number of full-time students in Year 12 in any given year expressed as the percentage of those students who were in Year 10, two years previously.

	Year 10 Base	Year 12	Retention rate %
Number of Students	22	24	109%



## YEAR 12 OUTCOMES:

<b><i>Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort 2016</i></b>	
Number of students awarded a Senior Education Profile	23
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement	1
Number of students who received an Overall Position (OP)	13
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)	3
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications	6
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12	19
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD)	0
Percentage of Year 12 students who received an OP1-15 or an IBD	77%
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification	91.3%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer	100%

## VALUE ADDED

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Darling Downs Christian School has value-added programs including but not limited to the following:

- Enhanced Learning providing remediation and extension for students with learning needs
- Arrowsmith Program
- Duke of Edinburgh Program
- School and inter-school sporting opportunities
- The school House system
- Involvement in community and external student leadership programs and events (such as Young Leaders' Day, GRIP Leadership Day)
- Leadership Summit, Mayor's Morning Tea for Student Leaders, Mayoral Prayer Breakfast
- Guest speakers
- Chapel Band
- Service Trips to the Solomon Islands
- Year 10 Canberra/Snow Tour
- Excursions to various educational destinations
- Maths, Science, English, Spelling, Computing and Geography competitions
- Science and Engineering Challenge at USQ
- 'StormCo' tours to assist inland QLD community of Duaranga
- Opportunities to attend Brisbane Metropolitan and local cultural events

## Contact Details:

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Further information regarding Darling Downs Christian School and its policies can be obtained from the Principal as follows:

Phone: (07) 4659 1111  
Email: [admin@ddcs.qld.edu.au](mailto:admin@ddcs.qld.edu.au)  
Website: [www.ddcs.qld.edu.au](http://www.ddcs.qld.edu.au)

