



St Mary's Catholic Primary School North Rockhampton

2019 Annual School Report



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

System

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

Principal

Jennifer Harris

Address

135 Nobbs St
Berserker
Rockhampton QLD 4701

Total enrolments

352

Year levels offered

Prep to Year 6

Type of School:

Co-educational

Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Our underlying belief is that learning experiences will be child-centred and relevant. We strive to create a rich environment in which each child will develop a love of learning, be challenged to improve his/her academic outcome and have a positive growth mindset.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School has fourteen classes from Prep to Year 6. Classes average 25 students. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1900, St Mary's Catholic Primary School maintains a connection with our founding order and highlights the Mercy charism as our religious character. Our school motto "To Love and Serve" is based on the work of the Mercy foundress Catherine McAuley. The school is organised so that classes of each year level are located together and closely work with each other. Non-contact time is scheduled so that year level teachers can plan and provide consistency across the year level. Specialist teachers are employed for the areas of Health & Physical Education and Languages Other Than English.

Extra Curricula Activities

All children participate weekly in the Junior (Prep – Year 2), Intermediate (Year 3 & 4) or Senior (Year 5 & 6) choir depending on their year level. Instrumental music tuition in guitar, woodwind, percussion, strings, brass, voice, keyboard and piano is available for children from Prep to Year 6.

Children from our Prep through to Year 6 represent our school in the local weekend touch football fixtures. Years 5 and 6 students participate in local interschool sports fixtures - soccer, hockey, rugby league, netball, AFL and basketball. Year 3 and 4 students participate in our intra-school sports fixtures Newcombe Ball, T Ball, Basketball, Diamond Cricket and Netball. Our older students are involved in the annual Challenge Cup Netball and Rugby League competition with other Catholic schools in our Diocese. The Year 6 class participates in the Annual Catholic Schools Touch Football Challenge hosted by St Mary's.

The Year 6 children attend an annual overnight Leadership Camp in Term 1 and a week-long camp in early Term 4.

Students also have opportunities to participate in school and community life: school chess competitions interschool Math Team Challenge, Optiminds competition, interschool debating competition, University of New South Wales competitions in Mathematics, Science, Spelling, Writing and English.

Throughout the year, the children are involved in a variety of cultural programs including Youth Touring Cultural performances, Life Education, the NAIDOC Week Mass and the Anzac Day Ceremonies, Grandparent's Day, Mission fundraising for Caritas and the Catholic Missions and other various community charities. Each year, we Adopt-A-Family through 'Vinnies' and provide Christmas hampers for them as well as supporting the 'Adopt a Student' program. During Catholic Education week, families donate a school item to help disadvantaged children to succeed at school. Our Year 1 classes have a partnership with Leinster Place Aged Care and visit annually.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

Teachers throughout our school use technology to enhance learning in different ways according to the age group of children with whom they are working. All classes have access to either interactive whiteboards or Vivi's, laptop computers, chromebooks, iPad, iPod and digital cameras that are used across key learning areas. Classes access on-line learning sites such as Reading Eggs, RAZ Reading, Sound Waves, iMaths, Maths Seeds, Study Ladder and See Saw from school and at home. Probots and Beebots are used in basic coding. Teachers and students access digital libraries.

Social Climate

Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

While academic development is central to our core business, we also place importance on the development of emotional wellbeing and a positive mindset of our students. A school counsellor is on-site weekly offering a free service for all school families. Our behaviour management policy is based on three basic tenets: Be Responsible, Be Respectful and Be Safe.

Prayer and reflection are important aspects of our daily life with the whole school beginning the day with prayer, before each break and at the end of the day. All classes take a short 'prayer break' at midday each day. Students are encouraged to pray before school on a weekly basis in the church. Students attend weekly Mass on a regular basis.

Families are supported when preparing their child for the celebration of the sacraments. When enrolling a student at St Mary's, it is hoped that the whole family feels a sense of belonging to this special community from the first day.

Our community focuses weekly on a virtue based on the gospel for the week. This virtue helps us reflect daily on how we make Jesus present to others by our actions. The virtue of the week is also linked to relevant 'Making Jesus Real' concepts.

Buddy programs between younger and older students and peer groups across all year levels are integrated into the life of the school promoting positive relationships between older and younger students and creating a family-like atmosphere.

Weekly awards, recognising the many positive attributes of students, are presented at weekly assemblies.

Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Our school has implemented Diocesan Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff. The school regularly communicates to parents and the school community about cyber safety issues and invites educators from organisations such as Cybersmart to present to parents, children and teachers. We also have appropriate policies in place to deal with the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices. Our school has a number of social/emotional learning programs in place to assist students in guarding against bullying at school. The school community is kept up to date about developments in this area. Our school board has reviewed our Behaviour Management program and written guidelines to match the Diocesan Anti-Bullying policy. The Child Safety Curriculum is implemented in all year levels during Term 2.

Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

St Mary's has a reputation as a school community which is open, welcoming, encouraging and accepting. Parents/carers experience a sense of belonging and welcome. Parents are invited to become involved in their child's education through the following groups/activities: School Board and P&F, social gatherings such as our school discos, movie nights, P&F Welcome BBQ, Year One Nativity Play and Christmas Concert, Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day events, weekly liturgies and assemblies, sporting carnivals and coaching, classroom and excursion help, helpers and convenors for tuckshop, the parish fair, participation in parent education sessions offered by the school. Each class has a parent liaison representative who works with the class teacher to maximise parent engagement in classes.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

St Mary's has registered as an Earthsmart School and completes a waste audit annually with the assistance of the LGAQ Earthsmart representatives. As a result of these audits, a number of initiatives have been sustained over the last two years including: default print settings to optimize paper usage, recycling paper, paperless agendas and reports for as many meetings as possible, electronic distribution of the school newsletter and accounts, increased recycling in the staff room, classrooms and offices. We ask parents to find more environmentally friendly ways to package lunches. Over 300 solar panels help reduce our carbon footprint and improve our sustainable practices.

Characteristics of the Student Body

St Mary's is a school community of 352 students from 219 families who come from all around the Rockhampton area. Located close to the business district of Rockhampton's Northside, St Mary's has a great reputation in the Rockhampton community, mostly from the word-of-mouth recommendations of parents and staff members. Many people comment on the positive caring community feel of the school and the strong family atmosphere. We have many second and even third generation family members in our community. Our second Prep class commenced in 2009. In 2015, we became a full two-stream school from Prep to Year 6.

St Mary's has students from a range of cultural and language backgrounds. Countries represented are: the Philippines, New Zealand, Russia, Ireland, France, Sweden and Vietnam. Students who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders comprise almost 9% of our student population.

In recent years, the annual turnover in our student population has remained below 5%. We have a waiting list for most classes. Our families come from most areas of North Rockhampton, Gracemere, along the Emu Park Road and Cawarral and from suburbs on the highway to the north.

Average student attendance rate (%)

94.25 %

Management of non-attendance

Parents are asked to contact the school providing reasons for non-attendance. An electronic roll is marked twice daily and a text sent to families if unexplained absences are detected. Catholic Education 'Procedures for Managing School Attendance and Absenteeism' provide guidance in addressing instances where non-attendance becomes a concern.

Staffing Information

Workforce Composition

| Workforce Composition | Teaching Staff | Non-Teaching Staff | Indigenous Staff |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Headcounts | 24.00 | 18.00 | 0.00 |
| Full-time equivalents | 21.00 | 10.07 | 0.00 |

Qualifications of all teachers

| Qualification – highest level of attainment | Percentage of staff with this Qualification |
|---|---|
| Doctoral / Post-doctoral | |
| Masters | 4.17 % |
| Bachelor Degree | 87.50 % |
| Diploma | 8.33 % |
| Certificate | |

Major Professional Development Initiatives

All our staff participate in induction and PD for Student Protection and Workplace Health & Safety. Our teaching staff also participate in PD for Religious Education, Bishop's In-service Day and Curriculum. School-supported PD has included: Anaphylaxis training, The Writing Project, 6+1 Traits of Writing, Profiling Training, Social Justice & Scripture, Three Worlds of the Text, Prioritising the Mathematics Curriculum, Prioritising the Technology Curriculum, NCCD Training, NAPLAN Online Training and the Teaching & Learning Framework. Teacher assistants have attended two days of PD at a regional level and

several school based PD sessions. Learning support teachers and some teachers attend an annual Curriculum Conference.

The percentage of teacher participation in professional development was
100 %

Total funds expended on Professional Development

The total of funds expended on teacher professional development was
\$ 119,000

Average Staff Attendance and Retention

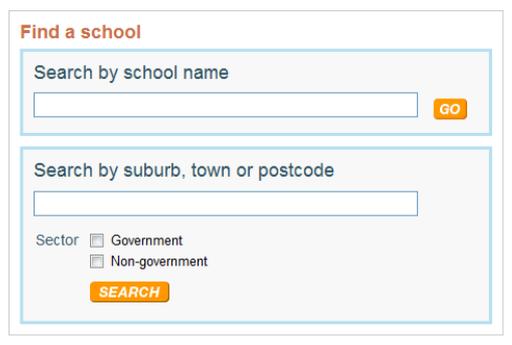
94.38 %

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was
77.78 %

School Income

<http://www.myschool.edu.au>

(The School information below is available on the My School website).



Find a school

Search by school name

GO

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector Government Non-government

SEARCH

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy Results

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for Years 3 and 5 are available via the My School website at www.myschool.edu.au.

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of our school's NAPLAN results.

Key Student Outcomes and Value Added

Both anecdotal and statistical data from NAPLAN Year 3 & 5 tests support that St. Mary's is providing a very sound education for students enrolled at the school. However, national testing is only a snapshot in

the overall picture of holistic education and these results belong within a context. Some year levels will perform better than others due to the cohort of students coming through at that particular time.

At St Mary's, we welcome all who seek a Catholic Education and its values, and therefore our students come from diverse backgrounds with a wide range of abilities. The social, physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions of learning are as equally valued as the academic at our school as we challenge learners of all ages to be reflective and self-directed.

Professional development of teachers, improved access to technology and the dedication of significant blocks of uninterrupted core learning time have all contributed to improvement in learning outcomes.

Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

Strategic progress in 2019

- The school engaged in the collection and analysis of data across all year levels in the areas of English and Mathematics. Systematically this data was used for planning, teaching and differentiation for learners.
- Whole-school practices with data collection and school wide procedures have been established and are embedded in teacher expectations and highlighted in the staff handbook.
- Teachers met in year levels and across year levels to align and prioritise the school Mathematics and Technology Curriculum Programs.
- Most teachers were trained as Level 1 Profilers and all of the teaching staff were profiled by an external profiler. Whole of school data was analysed and focus given to consolidating effective pedagogical practices across the whole school.
- There has been a continued effort to further develop the data literacy skills of all teachers in order to analyse, discuss and use ongoing student data.

Strategic Priorities for 2020

- Continue to analyse and moderate writing samples and record the progress each term in year levels and across year levels. Extend our middle and higher achieving students in the area of writing. Focus on spelling development and extend students' knowledge of word origin and meaning.
- Use the CeD3 software to store data and analyse student data across subject and year levels. Continue to develop the data literacy skills of all staff members, in order to analyse, discuss and use ongoing classroom data in a sophisticated way, to identify growth over time and to inform planning and instruction.
- As all teachers are trained as Level 1 Profilers, provide regular opportunities for them to profile each other and provide feedback to their peers and observe other teachers at the work.
- Continue development of a culture of continuous professional improvement that includes classroom-based learning, mentoring and coaching arrangements. Continue developing a school-wide approach to plan for consistency in curriculum delivery.
- Embed effective pedagogical practices in all teaching and have all teachers committed to improvement and best practice.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

St Mary's Catholic Primary School has an excellent reputation within the community and there is a high level of parent satisfaction. St Mary's completed the examination phase of the National School Improvement Tool NSIT in 2017. The feedback in each of the Key result areas was overall positive and affirming of what we do on a daily basis and provided direction for the school development plans. Some of the summary commendations were: 'the school has a very welcoming, supportive, harmonious and inclusive environment where respectful relationships are given a high priority; the religion curriculum is embedded in everyday

activities in the classroom and wider school community; the teaching staff are very passionate about their roles and work well together in the best interests of the students.'

In addition, our parent feedback was in response to the Enhancing Catholic School Identity Project. Feedback from all stakeholders in our school community about our school's Catholic culture was positive and provided hope for our future as a vibrant Catholic school.