



The Cathedral College Rockhampton

2020 Annual School Report



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

The Cathedral College, Rockhampton

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

Principal

Rob Alexander

Address

189 William Street
Allentown
Rockhampton Qld 4700

Total enrolments

1281

Year levels offered

7-12

Type of School:

Catholic Co-educational Boarding

School Overview

The Cathedral College is a Catholic co-educational boarding College located in Rockhampton catering for Years 7 to 12 with a current enrolment in excess of 1300 students including 200 boarders from across Central Queensland and beyond. Residential accommodation for our male boarders is located on the grounds of the College whilst accommodation for our female boarders is situated a short distance away from the College on the historical and beautiful Range site. Our boarders add to the rich and diverse tapestry of life here at The Cathedral College. We are very grateful to their parents for entrusting them to our care when they are often so far away from the family home. This gratitude for the trust and faith placed in us to educate and care for our students is extended to all in our parent community. The responsibility of providing a safe, secure, caring and sustainable environment for each one of our students is one we do not take lightly. Parents can be assured that the protection of their children enrolled at The Cathedral College is our highest priority and the highest priority of all who work in the ministry of Catholic Education.

The Cathedral College was established in 1991 and is founded on the traditions of predecessor Colleges, St Joseph's Christian Brothers College and the Sisters of Mercy, Our Lady of Good Counsel College (Range College); and the charisms of their founders, Blessed Edmund Rice and Venerable Catherine McAuley. The Core Values of our College are *Gratitude, Respect and Compassion* and we strive to live out these values every day in the way we treat each person in our College community and how we interact with the wider community. Outreach to the aged, the sick, the poor and the vulnerable in our local communities and beyond is an essential part of College life.

Our College has the person of Jesus Christ at its heart, a supportive and engaged parent community, students who delight and inspire us each day and dedicated teachers and support staff. Here at The Cathedral College, we believe each person is made in the image and likeness of God – each possessing seeds of greatness, to be nurtured through a holistic Catholic education where academic excellence goes hand in hand with spiritual, emotional, physical, cultural and social development. Our College motto, "*Come, live life in all its fullness*" (John 10:10) invites every member of the College community to develop their relationship with Jesus Christ. Here at The Cathedral College parents are encouraged to play an active role in the education of their children through involvement in the Parents and Friends Association or via serving on the College's Advisory Board. The Parent and Friends' Association is an excellent vehicle to promote informed parent engagement so that the ideal of a true partnership between parents and the College in the provision of a quality, faith-based education for each student becomes a practical reality of everyday College life. The Cathedral College Board is an Advisory group that works collaboratively with the Principal and the entire College community to promote and advance the Vision and Values of the College and the Mission of Catholic Education. The Board also provides the College with an important link to the wider community. The College has an excellent Pastoral Care Program that facilitates respectful and supportive relationships being forged among staff, parents and students.

A successful transition program is provided for students in the Middle School. In the Senior School students can pursue an academic and/or vocational pathway, including school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. Students graduating from the College have pursued a range of pathways post-school including University studies, TAFE courses, apprenticeships, traineeships and full-time work. Our students are encouraged to be involved in co-curricular activities. Participation in Public speaking and debating competitions is encouraged. The College's Concert and Stage Bands and College Choir participate in the Rockhampton Eisteddfod and various music festivals with great success. A full range of sporting teams represent the College in many areas. The College seeks to inspire all members of its community to strive by word and action to respond to Christ's call to '*Come, live life in all its fullness.*' (Jn10:10). There is much more about our faith filled, vibrant and life-giving community here at The Cathedral College that could be shared. The current members of our College community and those who will become part of that community in the years ahead will continue to write new and vibrant chapters in the ongoing story of The Cathedral College – a Catholic College offering a broad, faith-based, inclusive and holistic education that strives to nourish the hearts, minds and souls of young people.

More information on our school can be accessed from myschool.edu.au

Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

The Curriculum at The Cathedral College is divided into Middle School (Years 7- 9) and Senior School (Years 10-12).

In the Middle School, students cover a broad general curriculum with some ability to specialise in elective choices in Year 9. All students study Religion.

In the Senior School, Year 10 is used as a link to the course of study students envisage in Years 11 & 12. They may choose subjects which are preparatory to this. There is a wide range of subjects on offer to students.

Extra Curricula Activities

The Cathedral College has an extensive range of extra-curricular activities on offer. The major sports played at the college include: Rugby League, Netball, Basketball, Rowing, Australian Football, Rugby Union, Soccer, Touch, OzTag and Water Polo.

Each year the Rugby League and Netball teams compete in the State Carnivals known as the Confraternity Shield and Queensland Independent Secondary Schools Netball. These Carnivals attract competitors of a high calibre. Most unfortunately due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Confraternity Shield and Queensland Independent Secondary Schools Netball Carnivals were not held in 2020 but it is expected they will be held as normal in 2021. A large number of students achieve representative honours in Rockhampton, Capricornia, State and National teams.

Cultural activities include an extensive range of public speaking competitions including Oratory, Lions Youth of the Year, Rotary, Rostrum and Plain Speaking. The Cathedral College has a proud history of involvement in public speaking and many of our students have reached State representative level.

Musically the College has a burgeoning program with nearly 200 students playing an instrument or singing in a school group. Regrettably performance opportunities for our musicians were severely curtailed in 2020 due the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Drama department encourages students to perform their work in a variety of settings. These may include lunchtime and stage performances. The College alternates between productions of a stage musical and other theatrical forms.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

Every student at the College has access to a Laptop computer to be used to enhance their study of the Curriculum. The Information Technology (IT) team at the College supports the students use of their computers.

During the time in 2020 when students were absent from the College during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the excellence of our College's IT department was very much to the fore as it supported the delivery of the Learning from Home through Microsoft Teams. Without an IT system that was equipped to support Learning from Home our teachers would not have been able to deliver lessons to students and their learning would have been negatively impacted.

Our Information Technology system also facilitates teachers analyzing classroom data to inform and assist in continuous improvement of teaching practices. Similarly, our IT system enables schoolwide data analysis that informs and supports improved teaching practice and optimum decision making.

Our College also makes very good use of Assistive Technology in Microsoft Suite that makes a significant contribution to helping students improve their reading skills.

Social Climate

Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

The Cathedral College is a Catholic Boarding College where the safety, care, health and well-being of our students are our highest priorities. A major focus for our College is the creation of a positive environment for students in which our College Values of Gratitude, Respect and Compassion underpin every aspect of College life.

The College provides a quality curriculum that encourages excellence, engages with the beliefs and values of a Catholic worldview and prepares young people to embrace their future with confidence and resilience.

We accept, support and encourage the unique giftedness of each member of the community in a spirit of respectful collaboration. Bullying is not tolerated at The Cathedral College and our staff receive regular training in contemporary Student Protection Policies and Protocols and Anti-Bullying Strategies.

We have an excellent Pastoral Care Team consisting of College Counsellors, Student Support Officer, Indigenous Liaison Officer, House Deans and Assistant Principal-Students.

As a Catholic College, the Gospel values of Jesus are at the centre of life at The Cathedral College and we have a strong partnership with the Parish of Rockhampton South. This partnership is enriched by the fact that our College is located in the shadow of St Joseph's Cathedral. We have an extensive liturgical program involving life giving liturgies, weekly Pastoral Care Group masses and regular College masses. Prayer is an important component of the daily life of The Cathedral College.

All students at the College study Religion. In Senior, they have the choice of Religion and Ethics or Study of Religion.

Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Our school has implemented Diocesan policies on Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff. The school regularly communicates to parents about cyber safety issues in addition to providing education programs to parents on this very important topic that needs the school and the parent community to work in partnership to promote Cyber safety with the students of the College. We also have appropriate policies in place to deal with the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices.

Our College has a number of social/emotional learning programs in place to assist students in guarding against bullying at school. Staff receive annual professional development training and are kept fully updated on their mandatory reporting responsibilities to assist in the protection of the students entrusted to our care. Regular training is provided to staff with respect to the implementation of effective Anti-Bullying Strategies. All Diocesan and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis.

Students in Years 7-9 engage with the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum. Queensland Police Force members also are invited to the College to address all students about cyber safety.

Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

The Cathedral College is a co-educational Catholic Boarding College located in Rockhampton, Queensland. The college fosters strong relationships between the home and school.

As we are a Boarding College many parents live long distances from the College and are not able to attend the normal school functions on a regular basis. Efforts are made to visit parents in their communities and each year the College Leadership Team conduct country tours to visit families across Central Queensland. Boarding parents attend meetings to discuss relevant issues at the beginning of each term. The College has become an innovator in live streaming of significant school events so that parents and grandparents can see events such as Academic Assemblies, Leadership Inductions and Music Nights.

The Parents and Friends Association is an active body that works closely with the Principal to ensure the needs of parents and students are met. The Parents and Friends Association supports social events such as the College Race Day and Welcome Evenings. The Parents and Friends Association is also active in sponsoring Information Evenings to allow parents to be involved in College life and develop skills to assist in raising fine young men and women.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and with students being away from the College for a period of the year, Microsoft Teams became an important way for us to communicate with our parents particularly with the parents of our boarding students who were away from the College for an extended period of time.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

The College has added extensive numbers of solar cells to nearly every suitable building. The system is large enough that it can meet around 80% of the College's electricity needs in peak months. The Boys' Boarding facility is also largely powered by solar energy with water conservation being a priority. The oval watering system has sensors that ensure water is delivered when needed, not just each day and amounts added are controlled. Recycling is strongly encouraged.

Characteristics of the Student Body

The Cathedral College draws its student population from the local area and across Central Queensland. Being a boarding College, students from small country communities are able to access the quality education offered. The College has an indigenous student population of 100 and a number of these students come from Woorabinda, an aboriginal settlement located one and a half hours from Rockhampton. The College has an outreach to those from lower socio-economic backgrounds who seek its values. Many students come from small primary schools where they

have enjoyed being in a close-knit community. Special transition programs have been set up to assist students to feel a sense of belonging at the College.

Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate was 96.66%

Management of non-attendance

Non-attendance is not common at the College and staff are diligent in contacting parents when an absence is noted. Parents are expected to ensure their students are at school and the College works closely in partnership with parents to ensure this occurs.

Year 10 to 12 Apparent Retention Rate

The completion of Year 12 is recognized as a significant factor in ensuring that our students are well placed to enjoy success in their future work and life.

The Year 10 to 12 apparent retention rate was 96.05%.

Staffing Information

Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	92.00	80.00	6.00
Full-time equivalents	88.15	67.59	5.25

Qualifications of all Teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	2.17%
Masters	8.70%
Bachelor Degree	88.04%
Diploma	1.09%
Certificate	

Major Professional Development Initiatives

The major focus of professional development for teachers was the improvement of reading standards throughout the College. We continued our partnership with the University of Melbourne with staff receiving instruction around the teaching of reading and literacy. We continued to focus on the second year of the new QCE with 2020 being the first year that our Years 12's had participated in the new system.

The annual Bishop's In-service Day was held early in 2020 before the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic was felt. As is always the case, the Bishop's In-Service Day provided a wonderful opportunity for our staff to pause and to reflect on the Catholic Identity of the College and the College's Mission and Values that are at the heart of all we do at The Cathedral College.

The Professional Development Days allocated by our Catholic Education Director to assist our teachers in fulfilling their professional development obligations were very much appreciated by our teachers and were very well utilized. We also engaged with AITSL Professional Standards for Teachers.

With Learning from Home being an essential part of teaching and learning for a part of 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we upskilled our teachers to enable them to deliver classes to our students via the use of excellent technology. A Microsoft Professional Development Program was also undertaken by a number of staff and they found this Program to be very helpful.

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 \$183,600.

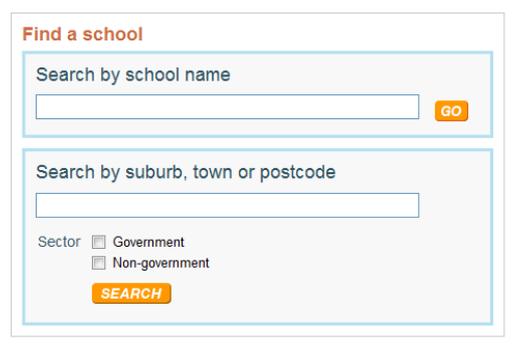
Average Staff Attendance and Retention

The average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to 5 days, was 95.62%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 96.16%.

School Income

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at www.myschool.edu.au. (The School information below is available on the My School web site).



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Find a school". It contains two main search sections. The first section is "Search by school name" with a text input field and a "GO" button. The second section is "Search by suburb, town or postcode" with a text input field. Below this, there is a "Sector" section with two radio buttons: "Government" and "Non-government". At the bottom of the second section is a "SEARCH" button.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy Results

In 2020, NAPLAN did not proceed as a result of the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Previous NAPLAN results 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

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic there was no NAPLAN in 2020.

The leaving outcomes for the Year 12 2020 cohort have been very pleasing with nearly 40% continuing to higher education and almost all of the remainder moving to work placements.

Year 12 Outcomes

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2020	(Data are available to schools from the QCAA and QTAC secure website using your existing security code)
Number of Year 12 students who received a Senior Education Profile (SEP)	195 students
Percentage of Year 12 students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)	93%
Percentage of Year 12 students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)	1%
Percentage of Year 12 students awarded a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification	45%
Percentage of Year 12 students who undertook a School-based apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)	13%
Percentage of Highest reported ATAR	99.15%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admission Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a university offer	92%

Strategic Improvement: Progress and Next Steps

Strategic progress in 2020

Our goals for 2020 were:

- Improve the resilience of our students and measure their overall well-being. A number of metrics indicated we made good progress in this area.
- Build upon initiatives to increase learning outcomes for some of our most talented students. Positive progress was achieved with some exciting initiatives planned for 2021
- Continue to build teacher capacity by focused Professional Development opportunities for staff. Very good progress was made in this regard through our partnership with the University of Melbourne.

It must be acknowledged that the COVID-19 Pandemic had a big impact on the goals we had set for the year with the most important goal for part of 2020 becoming the successful transitioning to Learning from Home for our students through the use of Microsoft Teams to enable our teachers to deliver lessons to their students on-line in their homes. Our next goal was then the successful transitioning back to Classroom learning when we were permitted to do so by the relevant health authorities.

Strategic priorities for 2021

The key goals for 2021 in our School Improvement Plan include:

- Working more extensively with data to inform us about the learning of our students. This includes developing a data plan, implementing software that gives teachers more information about student progress and other external tests they may attempt.
- Continue a whole school approach to improving the reading of our students. To assist with the achievement of this goal, we have just completed a very successful three-year partnership with the University of Melbourne and their expert education faculty. We will look to continue and build upon the great work that was started through this partnership.
- Encourage our teachers to explore the notion of 'Deep Learning' in their classroom and how this concept can positively influence the learning of their students.
- Continue to focus on the successful integration of our Mission into all aspects of College life and to ensure that the College's Values of Respect, Gratitude and Compassion remain at the heart of College life.

Parent, teacher and student satisfaction with the school

In 2020, the College continued to progress through the ongoing Rockhampton Catholic Diocese School Review and Improvement Process. Students, families and staff members affirmed the College and identified its areas of success. The external Reports commended The Cathedral College on the spiritual life of the college and the strong Catholic ethos evident in its activities and relationships. The Reports commended the college on the welcoming, supportive and inclusive spirit and the strong relationships established with the Parish of Rockhampton South.

The College was commended for the positive relationships nurtured between staff, students and parents and the overwhelming sense that students were respectful, well-mannered and had pride in The Cathedral College.

The most tangible sign of parent satisfaction with the College were Enrolment Indicators. Parents of students at the College were very keen to ensure that their younger siblings be enrolled at the College. It is obvious from the very large waiting lists that exist for enrolment at the College that prospective parents view attendance of their children at The Cathedral College as a very desirable outcome. The number of enrolment applications continue to increase at a rapid rate and both Boys' and Girls' Boarding continue to operate at capacity. All of these very positive indicators illustrate that The Cathedral College is very well regarded in the wider community and is seen as a school of choice for parents, students and teachers alike.