



ST BENEDICT'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
YEPPOON

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School Yeppoon

2019 Annual School Report



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

System

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

Principal

Mrs Julie McLaughlin

Address

1 Laceys Road
Pacific Heights
Qld 4703

Total enrolments

304

Year levels offered

Prep – Year 6

Type of School:

Co-educational

Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School is a community of learners inspired by the Benedictine vision.

Together we seek to create a welcoming, respectful community where all learners feel safe and supported. We want all to be reflective and self-directed lifelong learners who grow as responsible global citizens living lives of hospitality.

Our teaching practices create an enjoyable, safe and supportive environment where all learners can grow.

Extra Curricula Activities

Approximately 90 students are involved in the instrumental music program. This program involves the teaching of piano, woodwind, drumming and vocal sessions individually or in small groups.

School teams (8 teams with 94 students) are involved in the local club touch football competition. School netball teams participate in the Capricorn Coast Netball Association competition during Terms 2 and 3. This involves 64 girls across 7 teams.

All students in Years Five and Six participate in the weekly interschool sports program during Terms 2, 3 and 4.

All students from Year One to Year Six participate in the Rockhampton and District Eisteddfod during Term 2 through verse speaking choirs. Approximately 140 students also participate in the Eisteddfod through vocal choirs and folk groups.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

ICTs are an integral part of the teaching and learning program from Prep through to Year 6. ICTs are used to enhance student learning by providing students with the opportunity to access a wide variety of learning tools to engage and communicate their learning. ICTs are used to encourage creativity and critical thinking, while providing additional purposes and audiences for learning.

Our Year 6 cohort are involved with in a one to one iPad program where curriculum is delivered through the use of iPad technology.

All students from Prep – 4 are provided with a specifically designed Genius Hour which targets the use of ICTs with a STEM investigative model. This occurs for one hour each fortnight.

Social Climate

Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

In the tradition of St Benedict, our community places an emphasis on learning for life, self-reflection and all learning experienced through academic, sporting and cultural endeavours.

In the Benedictine tradition of prayer, welcome, community and work, we listen, love and learn with Jesus, as we work and pray in the pursuit of peace.

A qualified counsellor provides counselling sessions every Tuesday. This professional work includes working individually with students and parents, group skilling sessions and working within classrooms.

Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

The Student Code of Conduct guides expectations for all behaviour at St Benedict's. The Catholic Education Anti-Bullying Policy is also implemented at St Benedict's. Cyber safety is included in the

learning program for our Year Five and Six students. This is also reiterated exclusively with the Year 6 cohort with contractual conditions taught as part of their one to one iPad program.

Annual Staff student protection training includes information, updates and expectations in these areas.

The Child Safety (Daniel Morcombe) Curriculum is implemented across all year levels during Term 1 each year.

Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

All parents at St Benedict's are automatic members of the Parents and Friends Association upon their child/ren's enrolment at the school. Following the election of an executive, the Association and School invite all parents to the monthly meeting of the Association.

St Benedict's School has a School Board that includes parent members. Parents interested in Board membership are invited to the annual pre-service training. This provides parents with the opportunity to examine their gifts and offer their service to the Board through their monthly meetings.

Each class holds an information evening in week 3 of the school year to assist parents in knowing about the journey of the year ahead. During this session parents are also invited to assist in the classroom.

Parent education sessions are provided at Parents and Friends Association meetings and on other occasions outside of these meetings.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

St Benedict's is aware of its environmental footprint and has introduced several initiatives to reduce our impact on the environment both local and global.

The school installed four large tanks to reduce our water consumption. Two tanks harvest water from our buildings and this is stored for use in our toilets and gardens. Another two tanks store recycled water from our local council which is used for the irrigation of our school oval.

We have an active gardening group who plant and tend a variety of fruits and vegetables. The garden promotes the use of a worm farm and recycled cardboard and food scraps. Children involved with this group collect recyclable items daily and place them in composting bins.

We have begun to clear an area of the school which is adjacent to our local creek. The removal of lantana and other noxious weeds is being conducted by our grounds staff and we intend to then re-establish native vegetation which will enhance the environment, improve water quality and allow students to study this environment over time.

We have approximately 90 solar panels installed and from this we have greatly reduced our power consumption across the whole school. All classrooms have timer switches installed which automatically turn off air conditioners after a period of time. LED lighting has been installed throughout the school, these dim when not being used and they have proved to be very efficient especially those used to power security lighting at night.

Characteristics of the Student Body

Our school is a part of the Capricorn Coast Parish and through its naming is continuing to develop strong links with the Benedictine community. The Benedictine Sisters play an active role in the spiritual and broader community life of St Benedict's Catholic Primary School.

St Benedict's has continued to be a vibrant and welcoming learning community. This culture can be attributed to the close, complementary relationship enjoyed amongst the staff, students, the parents and parish community.

As part of the parish, our school endeavours to be involved with parish activities and to maintain open lines of communication with the wider parish community. Our Parish Priest continues to play a valuable role within the school as we develop our Benedictine charism. A parish representative is also a member of the school board. Our Principal and staff are members of various parish committees ensuring ongoing communication between all groups.

St Benedict's is a part of the wider Yeppoon community and is fostering strong links with Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, St Ursula's College, St Brendan's College and other local schools. Along with these schools, St Benedict's enjoys close ties with local community groups such as St Vincent de Paul and the local RSL.

As a Catholic School, we at St Benedict's strive to witness to the mission of the Catholic Church - to proclaim the Good News. By offering a learning environment that encourages all to work together in a challenging environment, we strive to empower all members of our community to become reflective and self-directed learners who are actively involved in their communities.

Average student attendance rate (%)

91.62 %

Management of non-attendance

All student absences from school require notification to the school via phone, email or note. Unexplained absences are communicated to parents each morning via SMS by 10.00am. Unexplained absences greater than two days are followed up by a member of the administration via phone.

Staffing Information

Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	25.00	12.00	0.00
Full-time equivalents	20.08	6.84	0.00

Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	
Masters	8 %
Bachelor Degree	80 %
Diploma	12 %
Certificate	

Major Professional Development Initiatives

2019 Professional Development Plan

1. Catholic Ethos & Identity

- a. Enhancing knowledge of scripture to improve the teaching of Religion
- b. Understanding the implications for embedding Three Worlds of the Text in planning

2. Teaching and Learning

- a. Building an understanding of and contributing to the development of school wide Teaching and Learning Framework
- b. Coaching and mentoring aligned with assessment practices

- c. Education and application of Growth Mindsets pedagogy
3. Improvement Practices and Processes
- a. Coaching and Mentoring with regular 'walk throughs' conducted by APC & Principal
 - b. Analysing teaching practices associated with spelling

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 \$ 101,800

Average Staff Attendance and Retention

94.15 %

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 87.04 %

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

St Benedict's has a clear focus on providing academic, cultural, physical, relational and spiritual experiences and opportunities for all students.

The 2019 Year Three results were strong across Spelling, Writing and Numeracy with the school mean being above the National average. Grammar and Punctuation was at the national average in Reading and Grammar with Reading being slightly below. The Year Five cohort performed very strongly in all domains with scores above the National average. Matched students continued to demonstrate growth across most areas.

In addition to programs implemented for our focus areas (e.g. teaching, instrumental, sporting, prayer), our school strives to include an outward focus where students support and serve the school, local and wider communities.

Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

Strategic progress in 2019

St Benedict's Goals for 2019 included:

- Increased understanding and use of Growth Mindsets, social and emotional awareness and how these practices need to be embedded in whole school planning
- Development of goals based on identified areas from NAPLAN, PAT Assessments, DRA and Spelling data
- STEM - enhanced planning and delivery across all year levels
- Continued development of individual, visible goals for student in reading and writing

Throughout 2019, teachers continued to access and analyse data collected in relation to formal, point in time, assessments and combined this with their daily observations to develop individual goals for students in reading and writing. These, along with individual spelling goals, were embedded in daily teaching. Student awareness of their own goals and their ability to identify these improved over the year. Teacher confidence in identifying, discussing and implementing strategies which assisted with student learning was enhanced with ongoing professional development.

Teachers have become more capable when applying Growth Mindsets to their teaching and classroom practice.

STEM continues to be embedded across the curriculum through the provision of hands on investigations, practical learning opportunities and open-ended problem solving. Teachers are becoming more confident in delivering learning which targets multiple curriculum areas, therefore, enhancing students' understanding of multi-faceted problems and situations.

Strategic Priorities for 2020

The key goals for 2020 from our School Improvement Plan include:

- Professional development which develops teachers' knowledge around the planning and implementation of the Reading and Writing Hour
- Introduction of new method for the planning and teaching of spelling – whole school approach
- Using STEM thinking skills to create higher expectations and levels of achievement
- Engagement of teachers with Principal and APC regarding professional goals.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

St Benedict's enjoys an active parent community who support the cultural, spiritual, sporting and academic pursuits of the school. Parents are well represented at many school events and activities in which students are involved.

Our holistic approach to education and the development of individuals continues to provide positive feedback to the school.

The teaching and support staff have remained very stable and this contributes to the confirmation of their satisfaction with St Benedict's as a learning community.