



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Barcaldine

2018 Annual School Report



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

System

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

Principal

Annie Wachtel

Address

23 Willow Street
Barcaldine Q 4725

Total enrolments

36

Year levels offered

Prep-6

Type of School:

Co-educational

Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Joseph's upholds its Catholic ethos and believes religious education is integral to the curriculum. In order for students to deeply engage with the curriculum, units of study are designed to co-ordinate with cultural and local community events and opportunities provided by visiting specialists and performers. The Learning Areas of Science, Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), Technologies and Health and Physical Education are implemented in cycles so in-depth study of topics can be made in the multi-age classrooms.

Extra Curricula Activities

Through participation and performances, St Joseph's significantly supports local community events including the ANZAC Day March, the May Day Float Procession, the Barcaldine Show, the monthly Anointing Mass at the Willows, Mini Vinnies, Meals on Wheels and visits to the Barcaldine Hospital.

St Joseph's Feast Day provides an opportunity for students of Barcaldine to combine with St Joseph's Blackall to celebrate this feast each year. All students are involved in preparing for Masses or Prayer Assemblies throughout the school year. St Joseph's also engages in a number of awareness raising days including National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, Day for Daniel, National Simultaneous Story Time and Catholic Education Week celebrations. The St Joseph's Student Representative Council initiate fundraising ventures and community events for charities and causes to support local, national and international organisations including Caritas, Cancer Council and Royal Flying Doctors. Our Prep to Year 2 students participate every year in Under 8's Week, combining with Barcaldine State School. These early primary students also participate in the Bravehearts presentation alongside the State School. This presentation educates our students on how to keep safe and supports what we teach through the Daniel Morcombe Curriculum. Teachers are supported to embed these programs into their everyday teaching and parents are supported to implement the programs at home.

Students at St Joseph's can access counselling, learning specialists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists via videoconference through Royal Far West and Outback Futures.

The children are actively engaged in care for the environment. This involves the development of gardens (both vegetable and sustainable gardens) and applying for grants. The students have the opportunity to participate in Garden Club on a weekly basis where they are involved in initiatives which enhance and maintain our gardens.

The school has a computer technology program that includes the use of iPads, laptops, robotics and movie making. Students at St Joseph's are also able to participate in instrumental music lessons on a weekly basis with the Primary Music Institute. Students engage in swimming, athletics, rugby league, netball and various other sports throughout the year. We have regular visits from development officers across many sports to help students grow their interest and skills. The students also have many sporting opportunities through the Central West and North West Schools Sports Board. They are invited to participate in the Catholic Primary Schools Challenge Cup on a yearly basis under the banner of The Western Wave with our school combining with St Joseph's Blackall and Our Lady's Longreach to participate. The Central West Aboriginal Corporation provide opportunities for our children to participate in after school sport either outside on our oval or in our multi-purpose hall. This enclosed space is regularly used for indoor sports, musical and various community events.

St Joseph's students are also exposed to various cultural experiences which is greatly aided and supported by RREAP funding. Such funding allows us to engage personnel in the areas of dance, ICTs, creative art and music to provide opportunities which our students would not normally receive in Barcaldine. We also work in partnership with the Central West Aboriginal Corporation to provide opportunities for our children to participate in Indigenous Art and cultural activities.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

St Joseph's is committed to embedding Information and Communication Technologies into the teaching and learning of all subject areas in order to enrich learning experiences, motivate students and develop student capabilities in the use of technology. Apple TVs have been installed in every classroom ensuring students are exposed to and immersed in the technological and interactive processes of teaching and learning. Students in Years 1 to 6 are part of a 1:1 laptop program and Prep students have 1:1 iPads and access to computers. All teachers are supplied with a laptop computer to monitor student achievement, plan and prepare lessons. A 3D printer, Spheros, Osmos, Probots and Bee Bots have also been introduced to engage students and to enhance and explore the concepts of coding and computational thinking within

digital pedagogies. Teachers are consistently participating in professional development and learning to ensure that the students are given the best opportunity to learn using technology. Each year the school participates in the Kids Connect Conference which promotes learning through technology. Upper years' students nominate to be part of this conference.

Social Climate

Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

St Joseph's is a family-orientated school which emphasises care and concern for the individual, and the teacher-pupil ratio makes for an intimate school environment. We advocate Christ-centred learning where the values of the gospel are clearly evident. We aim to support the vision of the Mercy Sisters who established St Joseph's School in 1896, which is to educate the whole child – academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Our school values are mercy, justice, service, compassion and excellence. These values support a positive school environment and are evident in the way students reach out to the community, how they treat one another and the atmosphere that promotes putting 100% effort into all activities. Students participate in a variety of community and social justice events, supporting their local and wider community by showing generosity and serving others.

The Making Jesus Real program is a resource used by teachers across the school to establish a common language on positive attitudes, treating others with respect and developing the ability to self-reflect. Our school is proactive in educating students against bullying and follows the Responsible Thinking Process and the Zones of Regulation Framework to foster self-regulation and emotional control. Students are taught skills in consciously regulating their actions, which in turn leads to increased control and problem solving abilities.

Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Every person in the St Joseph's community has a right to feel safe and be safe. We strive to create an educational environment where each individual is respected, accepted, included and free from fear or threat. This safe environment will enable all members of the community to reach their full potential. Dealing with bullying in all its forms is a shared responsibility. Where possible, St Joseph's Primary School will co-operate with parents to address issues related to bullying. We draw on organisations from the community such as Anglicare to assist in guarding students against bullying at school. Our school has implemented Catholic Education Office policies on Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff in using ICT's. All system and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis. The school regularly communicates to the school community about cyber safety issues. We also have appropriate policies in place to deal with the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices. St Joseph's works in partnership with the local police and anti-bullying and cyber safety agencies to deliver information sessions to students and parents/carers in order to educate and prevent bullying and cyber safety issues. Through workshops, we also use Catholic Education Office personnel to work with our Year 5 and 6 students on the issue of cyber bullying.

Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

Parents are integral members of the St Joseph's family who are continually invited and welcomed to attend school activities. Parents are strongly encouraged to join the Parents and Friends Association which maintains a positive involvement in the school in a variety of ways. The School Board also plays an integral role in supporting our school by making valuable contributions in policy development and implementation. At the beginning of each year teachers present a concise presentation, which covers a variety of topics including curriculum content, classroom, homework and behavioural expectations. It is a great opportunity for parents to meet their child's teacher. A welcome BBQ coincides with the Parent Information evening as a medium to bring the school community together. Parent/Teacher interviews are conducted twice each year. Information sessions on learning areas, behaviour management and reporting procedures are offered to parents to support their child's development. The fortnightly electronic newsletter is an important tool for the exchange of information between the school and families. St Joseph's teachers use the ClassDojo app to give feedback to students, message directly with parents and share school work, photographs and videos of classroom moments. Another app that is used to engage with parents is the Skoolbag app. This app also enables parents to receive instant updates from school.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

St Joseph's has introduced a number of initiatives to care for our environment. We participate in National Plant a Tree Day to reduce carbon dioxide in our atmosphere and Clean Up Australia Day. We work in partnership with Lady Gowrie Early Learning Centre and Barcaldine Regional Council to produce projects which are mutually beneficial to both parties and the community. We also work with St Vincent de Paul to purchase items for costumes and projects to help reuse goods. A worm farm was introduced to assist in the fertilisation of the school garden and fruit trees. We collect food scraps for our worm garden which reduces rubbish. The fruit and vegetables grown in our school garden are used for classroom cooking and in our tuckshop. With the rising costs associated with electricity, we at St. Joseph's, are very conscious of energy consumption. We ensure that lights, air conditioners and any electrical appliances are turned off after use or when students/teachers are not in rooms. We have installed solar power to reduce our carbon footprint and to make use of the year-round sun Central Western Queensland provides. Teachers are encouraged to be responsible, sustainable members of society and to consider how their everyday practices impact on the school's environmental footprint. These considerations relate to photocopying, water use and classroom consumables. St Joseph's now has an electronic newsletter to conserve the use of paper and text messaging has also been introduced to limit paper use.

Characteristics of the Student Body

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School has a long and proud history. Established by the Sisters of Mercy (Rockhampton Congregation) in 1896, it has served this community with considerable distinction. Currently the vast majority of families enrolled at St Joseph's live and work in the town of Barcaldine. A government assisted bus service is available for property owners who have children travelling to school from distances outside of the immediate town. The student population consists of some children who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background and English as a Second Language (ESL). Being a small school, we pride ourselves on our strong family atmosphere which is based on Gospel Values. As a staff we model these values by our word and actions. These gospel values are reflected in all our dealings with all members of our school community. The St Joseph's community enjoys the close knit family qualities of many small town Catholic schools. Children, parents and teachers work in partnership to provide and nurture the development of each individual. We believe that this partnership is vital to our mission of proclaiming the Good News.

Average student attendance rate (%)

89.2 %

Management of non-attendance

In order for students to reach their full potential it is of paramount importance that they attend school regularly. Our staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor all absences and work in partnership with parents to support and promote the regular attendance of students.

An absentee SMS system is implemented daily. Each morning an automatic SMS is sent to parents of absent students when the school has not received parental notification. Students arriving late to school and departing early are required to sign the student register and times are recorded in the school administration system. Parents are required to inform the school with an explanation as to the cause of absences. Cases of prolonged absence are investigated by a member of the school's Leadership Team.

Staffing Information

Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	5.00	5.00	0.00
Full-time equivalents	4.40	2.30	0.00

Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	
Masters	
Bachelor Degree	100 %
Diploma	
Certificate	

Major Professional Development Initiatives

Teachers from St Joseph's are involved in a variety of professional development activities that support and develop individual's professional learning, spiritual and faith development. All members of staff have participated in English and Mathematics workshops presented by specialists in their fields. The key focus has been differentiation and how teachers can accommodate all students in their class. Reading and writing continue to be a priority with staff who have attended training in the Writing Project, Literacy Workshops, Developmental Reading Assessment and InitialLit. Staff also participate in Religious formation sessions through the annual Bishop's In-service Day, training in Student Protection, First Aid & CPR, Workplace Health and Safety and School Based Curriculum Development.

Total funds expended on Professional Development

\$ 7,900

Average Staff Attendance and Retention

66.67 %

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was

96.46 %

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

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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

In 2018, Year 5 NAPLAN results indicated that our school mean was higher than the state and national mean in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. School growth from Year 3, 2016 to year 5, 2018 was better than the national and state growth in Reading, Writing, Spelling and Numeracy.

The school uses the NAPLAN data to help individual students. As well as NAPLAN results, we use a number of factors to assist us in determining curriculum development including Oral Language DRA testing and PAT Maths. Students' needs, educational trends and research are taken into account when making decisions about adjustments to curriculum and teaching pedagogy. By tracking and supporting these students and implementing individual literacy and numeracy plans, improvements have been evident in students' general work as well as in test results. Data walls allow teachers and leadership at St Joseph's to analyse and make appropriate changes to the literacy and numeracy needs of the school.

Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

Strategic progress in 2018

Our goals for 2018 were:

- Commencement of a school Teaching & Learning Framework
- To proactively promote the academic, social and spiritual opportunities that St Joseph's has to offer
- To review the school's behaviour management policy so that it reflected the importance of student wellbeing

The school made good progress on the goals for 2018 by:

- The development of St Joseph's Vision Statement as the first step in the Teaching and Learning Framework
- Students performed in numerous community events including our own school musical, Tree of Knowledge Festival, May Day celebrations, Rainbow Run, Car Wash
- Working in collaboration with Barcaldine Regional Council to hold community events at St Joseph's
- Updating the school's behaviour management policy
- Promoting a mutual partnership with Barcaldine State School and Community Kindergarten through transition programs

Strategic Priorities for 2019

We are very proud of our achievements and progress. Our plan for the future is to continue to work to increase enrolment numbers and to promote student and staff wellbeing using a positive education approach. We are implementing changes to our pedagogical approach to teaching phonics and are working to improve students' functional writing. Learning engagement is central to achieving these outcomes, through strong relationships, high quality learning experiences, differentiated activities and technology. We continue to enhance the Catholic Identity of our school by making the Mercy Charism more visible and by helping students build an understanding of the Mercy Values.

The key goals for 2019 in our School Improvement Plan include:

- Continue to develop a school wide Teaching and Learning Framework
- Continue to reflect on ways that the Making Jesus Real program could be enhanced in the school
- Continue to build staff skills in analysing and interrogating a broad range of data to create a culture of self-evaluation and reflection across the school

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

We receive informal feedback from parents, students and community members regularly. Feedback is generally very positive. However, when negative constructive feedback is received there is always a discussion regarding what we can learn from it and how we can improve. St Joseph's School has a very productive and proactive School Board and Parents and Friends Association. The school is blessed to have teachers and parents who give much time and effort to ensuring that our school offers all that it can to the students and in doing so have created a welcoming, positive school culture that is valued by all. The school and parish work well as a unit. We have a happy staff and student body which leads to improved academic achievements.