



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Barcaldine

2023 Annual School Report



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcaldine

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

## Principal

Mr Trent Shillington

## Address

23 Willow Street  
Barcaldine QLD 4725

## Total enrolments

27

## Year levels offered

Prep – Year 6

## Type of School:

Co-educational

## **School Overview**

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcaldine has a proud tradition of high-quality learning within a Christian atmosphere of care and concern for the individual. From humble beginnings with the Sisters of Mercy in 1896, our school has developed a unique culture, family-like in nature, and responsive to the needs of the Barcaldine community. Today St Joseph's provides quality education for approximately 30 students from Prep to Year 6, developing their potential in all areas - academic, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual. The values of the Sisters of Mercy as reflected in our school motto "Live and grow in truth and love", guide us in helping students to become socially just and active citizens who strive to become the best version of themselves. Our school mission statement emphasises the valued partnerships between parents and school and a child-centered education that recognizes and respects each individual's needs and talents. Our small class sizes result in a strong sense of community based on Gospel values and we are an integral part of the local Catholic parish. Our school boasts beautifully designed facilities and learning spaces for staff and students, a large, fully enclosed multi-purpose centre, and extensive, well-maintained grounds. An extra-curricular program, including sporting carnivals, camps, excursions, and instrumental music lessons is offered and the biennial school musical is a highlight on our calendar. The fine school we now have is the outcome of the efforts and cooperation of many people – religious sisters, staff, parents, and students – over many years.

More information on our school can be accessed from [myschool.edu.au](http://myschool.edu.au)

## **Curriculum Offerings**

### **Distinctive Curriculum Offerings**

St Joseph's upholds its Catholic ethos and believes religious education is integral to the curriculum. 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 occur in the composite classrooms.

### **Extra Curricula Activities**

Through participation and performances, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School 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 and visits to the Barcaldine Hospital. All students are involved in preparing for Masses, Liturgies or Prayer Assemblies throughout the school year. St Joseph's also engages in several 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 each year in Under 8's Week, combining with Barcaldine Prep - 12 State School. 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 school has a computer technology program that includes the use of iPads, Chromebooks, and robotics. 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, Our Lady's Longreach. St Joseph's Clermont and Our Ladies Springsure to participate. St Joseph's students are also exposed to various cultural experiences which is greatly aided and supported by government funding. Such funding allows us to engage personnel in the areas of dance, Information and Communication Technologies (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 to enrich learning experiences, motivate students and develop student capabilities in the use of

technology. TVs and VIVIs are installed in every classroom ensuring students are exposed to and immersed in the technological and interactive processes of teaching and learning. Students in Years 3 to 6 are part of a 1:1 Chromebook program and Prep to Year 2 students have 1:1 iPads. All teachers are supplied with a laptop computer as well as a class iPad to monitor student achievement, plan and prepare lessons. A 3D printer, Spheros, 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 participate in professional development and learning to ensure that the students are given the best opportunity to learn using technology.

## **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.

Our school is proactive in educating students against bullying and has recently implemented our 'Student Engagement and Wellbeing for Learning Guidelines'. This document can be found on our school website. These guidelines use the Zones of Regulation Framework and the Berry Street Education Model to foster self-regulation and emotional control. Students are taught skills in consciously regulating their actions, which leads to them becoming emotionally regulated learners. Students participate in activities from both the Zone of Regulation Framework and Berry Street Education Model weekly within classrooms.

### **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 Catholic Primary School will co-operate with parents to address issues related to bullying. Our school has implemented Catholic Education Office policies on Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff in using ICTs. 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 Catholic Primary School family who are invited 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 deliver 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 'Meet and Greet' 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. Teachers use the Seesaw app to message parents and share school work, photographs and videos of classroom moments.

### **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, Clean Up Australia Day and World Environment Day. We



work in partnership with Lady Gowrie Early Learning Centre and the Barcaldine Regional Council and the Central West Aboriginal Corporation 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. With the rising costs associated with electricity, we 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 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 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 (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2023 was 88.41%.

### 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 out using the electronic 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. This can be done by using the Audiri App or calling the school office. 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	6.00	7.00	3.00
Full-time equivalents	5.50	3.67	1.34

### 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 participate in the Essential Skills for Classroom Management workshop to provide safe, supportive and disciplined learning environments which promote high standards of achievement and responsible behaviour in all students. Teachers have participated in professional development on the implementation of the Australian Curriculum Version 9 in the learning areas of English and Mathematics. Reading and writing continue to be a priority with staff who have attended training in Literacy Workshops and Developmental Reading Assessment. Staff have also participated in workshops run by James Anderson (Learnership and Mindsets) over the last two years. These workshops provide practical skills to allow teachers to create a growth mindset towards learning within their classrooms. Staff also participate in Religious formation sessions through the annual Bishop's In-service Day, training in Student Protection, Catholic Social Teaching Workshops, First Aid & CPR, Workplace Health and Safety and School Based Curriculum Development.

The percentage of teachers engaged in professional development was 100%.

## Total funds expended on Professional Development

The total of funds expended on teacher professional development was \$ 7,100.

## 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 five days, was 91.44%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 100%.

## School Income

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

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

## 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](http://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**

The school uses NAPLAN, the Oral Language Assessment (OLA), Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) and Progressive Achievement Test (PAT-R and PAT-M) data to identify the needs of individual students. Students' needs, school trends and current research are considered when making instructional decisions. By tracking and supporting these students and implementing individual literacy and numeracy plans, improvements have been evident in students' progress. Data walls have been designed to enable teachers and leaders at St Joseph's to analyse, make appropriate adjustments and monitor progress to ensure strong literacy and numeracy outcomes for our students.

## **Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps**

### **Strategic progress in 2023**

In 2023 the St Joseph's Leadership team used the feedback provided from our National School Improvement Tool Audit when devising our School Improvement Goals.

Our School Improvement Plan has four domains:

- Catholic identity and ethos
- Effective Teaching and Learning
- Pastoral Support and Wellbeing
- Leadership, partnerships and resourcing.

The goals for 2023 in our School Improvement Plan include:

- To review the School Mission Statement to ensure students understand its meaning and application within the school.
- To provide rich sacred spaces and liturgical experiences for students through symbols, rituals, artworks and physical spaces.
- Ensure Agreed Practices for English, Maths, HASS and Science are visible in teaching and learning across the school with a focus on the continued integration of learning goals and success criteria.
- Use data informed practices in teaching and learning to support student growth in DRA.
- To review the school behaviour management policy and procedure to improve engaged learning time in classrooms for all students.
- To implement a process to develop a feedback culture for teachers on their pedagogical practices, so that teachers are encouraged to continually improve at identifying and addressing student needs. Teachers will set goals, volunteer to mentor colleagues, evaluate and self-reflect on their teaching practice. Mentors will spend time working with teachers to improve their teaching practices, including modelling, evaluating, and providing feedback on classroom teaching.

### **Strategic Priorities for 2024**

In 2024 the St Joseph's Leadership team used the feedback provided from our National School Improvement Tool Audit and progress from our 2023 goals when devising our School Improvement Goals.

Our School Improvement Plan has four domains:

- Catholic identity and ethos
- Effective Teaching and Learning
- Pastoral Support and Wellbeing
- Leadership, partnerships and resourcing.

The goals for 2024 in our School Improvement Plan include:

- To review the School Mission Statement to ensure students understand its meaning and application within the school.
- To provide rich sacred spaces and liturgical experiences for students through symbols, rituals, artworks and physical spaces.
- Ensure Agreed Practices for English, Maths, HASS and Science are visible in teaching and learning across the school with a focus on the continued integration of learning goals and success criteria. Support new staff to integrate this into their day-to-day teaching.
- Implementation of Student Engagement and Wellbeing Guidelines involving all key groups (students, parents and staff) to ensure every student's educational needs are met.
- Support staff to seek improvements in their teaching practice by providing mentorship, observing English and Math teaching throughout the year, the year and providing feedback.

- Continue to work with James Anderson on embedding 'Learnership' Strategies into the classroom.

## **Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction**

We receive informal feedback from parents, students and community members regularly. Feedback is generally very positive. Constructive feedback is welcomed and there is always a discussion to see what can be learnt from it. St Joseph's School has a very proactive and productive 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.