

School Name St Mary's Primary School

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Principal's Foreword

Introduction

The Annual Report gives insight into the progress made throughout 2015 by St Mary's Primary and the continued focus our school has on the improvement of Literacy and Numeracy achievement for all learners.

St Mary's is a Catholic Primary School catering for the educational needs of children from Prep to Year 6. We have a history of serving the Catholic community of Ipswich and its surrounds for 152 years. Our heritage listed buildings, which have been internally refurbished to cater to current educational practices, provide a tangible bridge connecting the past to the future.

We are blessed to have a dedicated staff, passionate about educating children through the provision of high quality teaching and learning experiences. Our close relationship with the priests and parishioners of St Mary's Parish helps our students develop a relationship with God. This relationship centres on our way of life that makes Jesus real in the lives of the members of St Mary's Primary community.

School Profile

St Mary's Primary School is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Coeducational or Single Sex

Year levels offered: Primary Secondary P-12

Total Student Enrolments 572 Girls 317 Boys 255

Characteristics of the student body

The St Mary's student body is drawn from the city of Ipswich and its surrounds. We are a diverse community in terms of socioeconomic status and educational background. Together with the Brisbane Catholic Education Office, St Mary's has a dedicated approach to supporting students with learning needs.

During 2015 our Literacy and Numeracy Teacher worked within classrooms supporting student learning outcomes. A key component of this initiative was the building of teacher capacity through coaching and modelling.

The majority of the students are of the Catholic faith, with students from other Christian denominations and other faith traditions contributing to the religious culture of the school. The following subsets of students contribute to the unique characteristics of the school:-

English as a Second Language - 16 students
Indigenous - 23 students
Defence Force Students - 33
Verified Students - 28

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

The following are key components of how we deliver curriculum at St Mary's Primary

1. Uninterrupted blocks of time for instruction
2. Differentiated instruction in every subject area
3. Assessment as, for and of learning
4. Early intervention for students

As well as the Key Learning Areas, the curriculum is enhanced by the following offerings to various groups from Prep through to Year 6.

1. Music - Specialist lessons plus the option of studying an instrument through the instrumental program.
2. Inter-school sports
3. Sporting Option Program for years 5 to 6.
4. Camp/Outdoor Education Program for year 6

Extra curricula activities

- Instrumental Music Program Yr 3-6
- School Choirs' involvement in local Eisteddfods
- Leisure program for years 5 to 6 including squash and lawn bowls
- Gymnastics and competitive cheer leading.
- Excursions for Classes P-7
- Outdoor Education camps for Years 6
- Outside School Hours Care program
- Inter-school sporting opportunities for all students Year 5-6
- Cross country & athletics training for all students in Years 3-6 with selected students chosen to compete at local, district and state level.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

The school endeavours to embed the use of Information and Communication Technologies in every aspect of the teaching learning cycle. Students from Prep to Year 7 regularly access one of the two computer laboratories as part of their learning. Within the classroom, students either individually or in small groups, access either i pads or laptops to support their learning in English and Mathematics.

Inactive whiteboards are utilized to engage students and enhance the teaching learning process. The school is networked via fibre optic cabling which supports efficient and effective data retrieval. The school's wireless footprint allows network access by students and teachers throughout all buildings and grounds allowing enhanced connectivity.

Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

St Mary's Primary ensures that a positive school culture is developed at every available formal and informal opportunity through the teaching and modelling of core Gospel Values. We achieve this in a variety of ways:-

- Making Jesus Real philosophy is at the core of all we do.
- Ensuring that Positive Behaviour is not only a policy but is taught, rewarded and re-enforced.
- Guidance Counsellor services
- Social Emotional Learning
- Class "Buddy" System
- Providing opportunities for students to learn about and participate in social justice activities.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parents and students have opportunities at various times to participate in School Surveys. These responses provide feedback on current school performance as well as identifying suggestions for future direction. Parental responses indicate they have a very positive perception of St Mary's Primary.

Parent involvement in their child's education

Parental involvement is an essential aspect of school life at St Mary's. The Pastoral School Board supports the strategic direction of the school. Parish, parent and staff representatives bring varied perspectives to the decision making process. Our Parent and Friends Association plays a vital role in nurturing our sense of community, in support the maintenance and improvement of the learning environment for students and in addressing and responding to broader educational issues.

Each year in February, Parent Information Evenings provide the opportunity for parents and teachers to develop a shared understanding and commitment to the children in their care. At these meetings, teachers provide parents with an overview of the learning activities with which students will engage over the year ahead.

Formal Parent/Teacher interviews are conducted twice per year and many parents take these opportunities to discuss their child/rens' progress. Classroom teachers willingly meet with parents at other times. Many parents join their children on excursions, during classroom activities and sporting events.

Staff Profile

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff
Headcounts	37	20
Full-time equivalents	32.27	12.47
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	1	

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of Teaching Staff (teaching staff includes school leaders)
Doctorate	0
Masters	7
Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate	2
Bachelors Degree	27
Diploma/Certificate	1

Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2015 was \$ 32 400

The major professional development initiatives were as follows

1. 3 teachers joined a Brisbane Catholic Education Visible Learning Tour to New Zealand.
2. 3 teachers attended the Making Jesus Real Conference in Hobart
3. 5 teachers attended Dylan Wiliam's Formative Assessment Workshop
4. Principal attended Australian Council of Educational Leaders Conference in Sydney.
5. Engaged as a whole staff with John Hattie's Visible Learning.

School Income by Funding Source

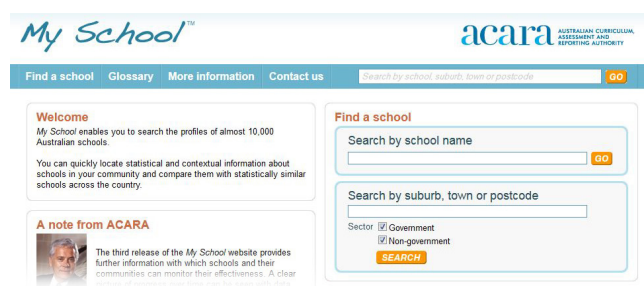
School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our school income details, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following:

'Find a school' text box.

Type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select '<GO>'. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school's My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting 'School finances' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's entry web page.



Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was 96.56 % in 2015.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2014 school year, 68.0 % of staff were retained by the school for the 2015 year.

Key Student Outcomes

Whole School Attendance Rate	95.00 %
Prep Attendance Rate	94.00 %
Year 1 Attendance Rate	93.00 %
Year 2 Attendance Rate	94.00 %
Year 3 Attendance Rate	94.00 %

Year 4 Attendance Rate	95.00 %
Year 5 Attendance Rate	95.00 %
Year 6 Attendance Rate	95.00 %

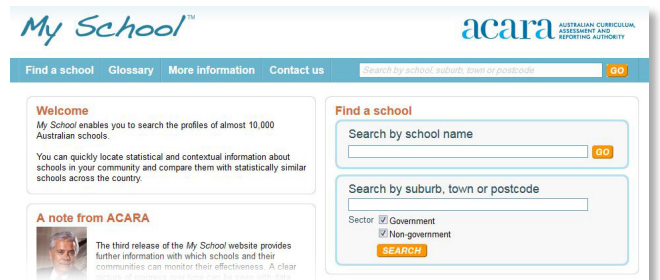
Policy and practice to manage student attendance

St Mary's Primary School has few issues relating to student attendance. We follow all mandatory requirements and manage student attendance on an individual basis through regular contact with parents/caregivers.

Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.



The screenshot shows the My School website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Find a school', 'Glossary', 'More information', and 'Contact us'. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar, with the text 'Search by school, suburb, town or postcode' and a 'GO' button. Below the navigation bar, there are three main sections: 'Welcome', 'Find a school', and 'A note from ACARA'. The 'Welcome' section contains text about the website's purpose and a 'GO' button. The 'Find a school' section has two search boxes: 'Search by school name' and 'Search by suburb, town or postcode', both with 'GO' buttons. Below these search boxes, there are radio buttons for 'Sector' with 'Government' and 'Non-government' options, and a 'SEARCH' button. The 'A note from ACARA' section features a small profile picture and text about the website's third release.

To access our NAPLAN results, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following

'Find a school' text box.

Type in the name of the school whose NAPLAN results you wish to view, and select '<GO>'. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being able to access our NAPLAN data.