



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Clermont

2022 Annual School Report



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clermont

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

Principal

Mrs. Sheila Challacombe

Address

50 Box Street
Clermont Qld 4721

Total enrolments

140

Year levels offered

Prep – Year 6

Type of School:

Co-educational

School Overview

St. Joseph's School was established in 1900 by the sisters of St Joseph to serve the small rural township of Clermont. Today St Joseph's School provides a Catholic education for children from mining, rural and small business families within the town. We currently cater for 140 students from Prep to Year 6.

Our curriculum is student centered with the aim of stimulating and challenging individuals on their learning journey. Our school promotes a safe and collaborative learning environment with an inclusive culture, encouraging, and high expectations for good working habits of every child.

St Josephs is a Resilience Project school. The partnership program inspires and engages the whole school community through evidence-based GEM (Gratitude, Empathy & Mindfulness) principles. The program complements the health component of the Physical Education Curriculum.

The school promotes a Trauma Aware Approach to student wellbeing, by nurturing their social and emotional awareness and providing mindfulness skills to assist with their personal emotional growth and development. The inclusion of a weekly school counsellor has provided additional support to those requiring the service.

To ensure students develop holistically, we provide extracurricular opportunities through community service, sporting and cultural activities.

St Joseph's is a family orientated school which emphasises the learner as a whole. St Joseph's provides quality learning and establishes a strong sense of community with a connection between the school, family and local Catholic Parish community. These strong links are sustained by the efforts of staff, parents, students, and members of the parish.

Student representation is encouraged by providing students with leadership opportunities of School Captains and House Captains. The formation of the Student Council Group provides students with an experience of a leadership role. Cultural, Social Justice, Student Ministry and Student Council representatives are students from years 3 – 6 form the council. The council members form awareness programs which includes environmental causes: saving the freshwater turtles at the local Hood's Lagoon; less rubbish in the school bins, by not using wrappers and plastic in lunch boxes.

More information on our school can be accessed from myschool.edu.au and at sjc.rok.catholic.edu

Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Clermont provides education to approximately 140 children for Years Prep to six, in single year level class groups. St Joseph's is committed to the formation of the whole person, by providing a holistic learning environment with a learner centered curriculum, where every learner feels they belong, heard, and valued.

School improvement goals were set and achieved during the school year. The school data identifies whole school changes to reading and teaching practices have assisted the overall growth of reading. Students and teachers together set learning goals for identified needs, monitor learning growth through ongoing assessment through a short cycle planning approach to English and Math.

Upskilling staff on 'Trauma Aware Schooling Practices' and 'Mindfulness', provides the whole school with a clearer understanding of students and their individual needs. The inclusion of 'Smiling Mind Mindfulness Program' into the learning environment has provided students with a relationship to emotions and how to use effective skills and strategies when needed. These practices support a 'ready for learning' approach in the classroom for all students. Monthly whole school yoga sessions complement the program.

The school's Positive Behaviour Support Guide is informed by 'trauma aware practices.' Each child is an individual and requires different needs and disciplinary approaches. Consequences are guided for individual circumstances by remaining supportive, with consistent expectations being paramount to maintain a standard within the school environment.

Extra Curricula Activities

Year 6 students lead whole school Friday morning assemblies. The assembly provide an opportunity for classes to lead a celebration, commemoration, or reflection of a significant liturgical or calendar event to the school community.

Fortnightly 'Making Jesus Real' buddy group activities are led and delivered by the year 6 students.

The school collectively performed a school musical, "Beaty and the Beast". A vast range of talent went on display with three sell out community performances. The school was a buzz of excitement for weeks before and after the event.

Students are encouraged and supported in gaining representation in local and regional sporting teams. These students are able to develop skills in a variety of sports at differing levels of attainment.

Catholic Schools Challenge Cup Carnival is held each year at Yeppoon. St Joseph's school fielded a full football team and netball team made up of students from years 5 and 6. The netball team played extremely well, coming away with the win for their pool. The football teams made up of boys and girls played extremely well. The teams came away with the Spirit award for the competition.

The school and community support and participate in fundraising for a variety of charity organisations. The Talk Like a Pirate Day activity raised \$10 000 for Childhood Cancer which was strongly supported by our school as Childhood Cancer affects one of our students and family. St Mary's parish fair is a community event hosted at St Joseph's school. More than \$40 000 was raised to provide support for the parish.

Kilcummin and Mistake Creek State Schools along with Distance Education students, participate in a small schools' swimming carnival in December and athletics carnival in June.

In preparation for year 6 leadership, year 5 students participated in a developmental program through the school year, beginning with a leadership camp that precedes the school leadership speeches and election for leaders the following school year. The students are involved in on-going self-esteem and initiative activities, goal setting and reflection.

St Joseph's significantly supported local community events including the ANZAC Day March, The Clermont Show, Coal and Gold Festival and the Hairy nose Wombat festival.

Clermont Performing Arts hold weekly session in the music/drama room which is available to the whole Clermont community.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

St Joseph's has a range of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) hardware that assists in the teaching of technology. ICTs are incorporated into the curriculum across all year levels. One to one iPads complement curriculum delivery in the Prep and Year 1 classes and every student in Years 2 and 3 have a school funded Chromebook for individual use.

2022 St Joseph's introduced an ICT chromebook program for students in years 4 - 6. Year 4 students acquire a new chromebook which is taken through to year 6. Payment for the device is charged to school fees.

A fortnightly school newsletter is delivered electronically to parents and the community. The school's website is a place for current and prospective parents to find information about the school. This website is also used as the gateway for students to access their school email address. Our Technology Scope and Sequence document identifies specific skills and knowledge across all year levels, which assists the sequential development of each student's technology skills. All teachers are supplied with a laptop computer to monitor student achievement, parent communication, school reporting and prepare lessons.

Google Classroom is used to support homework and classroom tasks in years three to six.

The inclusion and use of assistive technology, reading pens are used for children who prefer to work independently, as they work on assisting reading skills. A reading pen allows a child to work with grade-level books in science, math, history, and literature as it reads those difficult words to support the students.

Bee bots are introduced into the Prep curriculum to incorporate the skill of coding, directional skills and to help develop the prefrontal cortex to enhance problem solving strategies and skills.

Social Climate

Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

St Joseph's staff, parents, students and members of the parish community, maintain strong links. Classes attend weekly Wednesday Mass at St Mary's Church on a rotating roster. The school provides the venue for parish events including the annual fair and several community concerts. Parish and community members are invited to attend school held activities, Feast Days, Harmony Day, Grandparents Day, Mother's and Father's Day morning tea.

Personal and Social Development Programs like 'Making Jesus Real' and 'Daniel Morecombe program' are implemented school wide. The Campus Minister plays an essential role in the support of families and students and provides a tangible link to the parish and wider community.

Students invited the residents of MonCler to attend the final dress rehearsal of the Beauty and the Beast musical production and extended hospitality to the senior citizens of Clermont at a Christmas morning tea.

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 a safe educational environment where everyone is respected, accepted, included and free from fear or threat. Dealing with bullying in all its forms is a shared responsibility. Leadership cooperate with parents to address issues related to bullying.

The school endorses the Catholic Education policies on 'Acceptable Use Agreements' for students and staff in using ICTs which is accepted by parents and students annually prior to ICT usage of school devices. All system and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis.

The school regularly communicates up to date cyber safety issues through the e-newsletter. St Joseph's is a Resilience Project School. The program provides support to anti-bullying and cyber safety information to students and parents/caregivers in order to educate and prevent bullying and cyber safety issues. Internet safety is embedded into our Technology Scope and Sequence. It is also explored in-depth in the Catholic Education Student Protection Training which is delivered annually to all staff.

Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

Parents are invited and encouraged to be involved in the decision-making processes through formal groups within the school structure: Parents and Friends, Fundraising and the school board.

The School Board has an active role in policy development and implementation and strategic planning at St Joseph's. Students' families support, attend and volunteer at school events, athletic and swimming carnivals, discos, tuckshop, Christmas carols and at the Bingo night which is the school's major fundraiser.

The fortnightly e-newsletter provides a Classroom Corner section to showcase classroom learning activities. Parents volunteer to assist with classroom activities by listening to reading, art activities, literacy rotations, Math activities and at sporting events. Parents are encouraged to meet with teachers on a regular basis to discuss students' progression of learning and to develop a collaborative plan in order to maintain a strong connection between school and home for a consistent and relevant approach for learning.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

The school engages in several recycling practices. Food scraps are used to feed our chickens and the eggs are used through the tuck-shop and Monday morning breakfast club. The prep class grows a selection of fresh vegetables to be used in their cooking classes and the school tuckshop. The school's gardens are watered on a timed system during the night.

At St. Joseph's, we are very conscious of energy consumption. We ensure that lights, air conditioners and any electrical appliances are turned off after use or when rooms are not in use. Solar power has been installed to reduce our carbon footprint and makes use of the year-round sunny conditions that Central 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

Enrolments at St Joseph's are drawn from three types of demographics which interconnect in a unique way in Clermont and the surrounding area: the mining industry and support facilities, the rural sector including grain and cattle production and the independent business and services sector.

There are financial, emotional and social impacts on individual families in each sector. With the diversity of employment in the area, the range of cultural backgrounds at St Joseph's is increasing. New families on permanent and temporary visas are enrolling their children at St Joseph's. These students contribute through their language, life

experiences and cultural histories to the diversity of the school. The school community continues to be enriched by the vitality and vibrancy of our rural students.

St Joseph's has a strong connection with the local indigenous culture, the Wangan and Jagalingou custodians are the traditional owners of the land in the Clermont area.

Further growth is expected as new nearby mining ventures are developed. The mobility of the mining workforce in addition to the fluctuations of the rural industries will continue to have consequences on the level of enrolment and student mobility at St Josephs.

Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2022 was 90.45%.

Management of non-attendance

For students to reach their full potential it is of the greatest importance that student attendance is high. Through regular monitoring of attendance and absentee patterns, and reviewing the excuses given for absences. St Josephs' may identify that a student is at risk of poor attendance or becoming disengaged. Leadership will follow up with parents when a student has been absent more than three consecutive days. More than five absences in a term for any reason (indicating attendance falling below 90%), even for parent approved health-related absences. 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.

Staffing Information

Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	14.00	12.00	0.00
Full-time equivalents	13.20	6.03	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

During 2022 staff were introduced to the Berry Street Education Schooling which compliments the Trauma Approach Schooling implemented in 2021.

Bishop's In-service Day provided teachers and staff with professional learning in the area of spirituality and Religious Education, the additional September pupil free day provided staff with an opportunity to connect with their individual spirituality and the charism of the Sisters of St Josephs' our foundation sisters.

Initialit Literacy Program is used from Prep through to year 2 to support the literacy curriculum. 2022 support staff were upskilled in oral language strategies and skill to be included into the interventions support practices for students.

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 \$16,100.

Average Staff Attendance and Retention

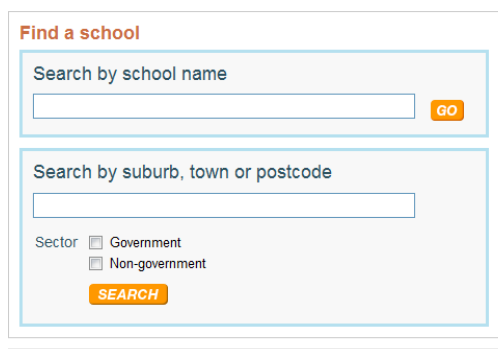
The average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to five days, was 87.52%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 92.86%.

School Income

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

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



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Find a school". It contains two search boxes: "Search by school name" with a "GO" button, and "Search by suburb, town or postcode" with a "SEARCH" button. Below the second search box, there are two radio buttons for "Sector": "Government" and "Non-government".

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

The school used the Oral Language Assessment (OLA), Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), Progressive Monitoring Assessment (PMA), SA Spelling and Words Their Way as diagnostic assessments. In 2022 the spelling analysis tool was introduced to inform short cycle planning in spelling and support the monitor of learning and growth in the skill of spelling.

Students' needs, school trends and current research is considered when making instructional decisions and tracking and supporting students. The introduction of student individual literacy and numeracy goals completed learning visible for students' and for them to take responsibility for academic growth.

NAPLAN results reported significantly above the national average numeracy gain for students in year 5.

Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

Strategic progress in 2022

School Improvement Plan targeted the Catholic Identity and Ethos characteristics of the school. To aim was to maintain and keep the Catholicism faith alive and encourage regular participation in the Mass. Children's mass was reintroduced once a month.

Data and assessed needs informed the school on the direction required to improve learning outcomes. Acting on the data, the key learning skill of spelling was the major curriculum focus for the 2022 school year. Engaging with the Effective Spelling Teaching Guide and using the research informed practices teachers monitored student learning and growth, planned for individual learning goals and a change from spelling to word study.

Strategic Priorities for 2023

2023 St Joseph's will continue to monitor the learning growth of word study skills of our students. Professional development will continue for teachers as they develop pedagogies when teaching word study thus enabling teachers to become more confident with newly introduced word study strategies.

Students have identified Robotics and coding as an area of interest to include more into their learning. Skilling teachers in this area of the curriculum will be included in the professional development for 2023.

Supporting graduate teachers as we welcome them to their first year of teaching will be a priority for 2023 as the addition of three new first year graduates to St Joseph's will bring a total of five graduates to our staff.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

Prep enrolments for 2023 are above capacity and will consist of 24 students. St Joseph demonstrates its commitment to students needs and is attracting attention as a quality school with a strong vision for teaching and learning.

The School Results Survey from 2021 provided positive and strong feedback which supported parent, student and staff satisfaction. The feeling of safety, respect, support, communication and a sense of community was reflected by many comments from all participants.

St Joseph's places a strong emphasis on student connection with respect for self and others. School leaders take on a huge responsibility by modelling school expectations and providing a positive role model for students to look up to.

91.2% of parents agreed that students and staff have an obvious sense of pride in the school and that staff provide a learning environment that is organised, clean, tidy and aesthetically welcoming and that is reflective of the school culture.

School Results Survey will take place in 2023.