



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Clermont

2025 Annual School Report



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clermont

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

Principal

Sheila Challacombe

Address

50 Box Street,
Clermont QLD 4721

Total enrolments

160

Year levels offered

Prep – Year 6

Type of School:

Co-educational

School Overview

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary 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 156 students from Prep to Year 6.

"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am" (John 13;13). At St Joseph's Clermont "Faith in Christ Our Teacher" is the school motto. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is an educational community where learning, culture, faith and life become a holistic community.

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 and supportive culture, encouraging exceptional working habits in every child.

St Joseph's priorities student wellbeing as the key to student engagement and achievements. A 'Trauma Aware Approach' to student wellbeing allows a nurturing social and emotional awareness and provides skills to assist with personal emotional growth and development which is vital for student and children achievement. Positive social interactions provides a critical foundation for lifelong learners.

To ensure students develop holistically, we provide extracurricular opportunities through community service, sporting and cultural activities. Students actively engage and participate in local events and support many area of the community. Regular visits to Residential Care facility working with familiar local identities; RSL participation; Show society; Clermont Senior Citizens.

St Joseph's is a family orientated school which emphasises the learner as a whole through quality learning and establishing 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 leadership is encouraged through School and Sporting House Captains along with various student representatives including Social Justice, Student Council, Ministry and Cultural leadership roles, in preparation for secondary schooling. School choir, Clermont performing arts, swimming and sporting clubs all provide a variety of interests to school participation and achievements.

More information on our school can be accessed from myschool.edu.au

Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

At St Joseph's, we are committed to providing a holistic, inclusive education that meets the needs of every learner in a safe, supportive and welcoming environment.

Technology is seamlessly woven into learning across all year levels. Students in Years 4 to 6 have access to our 1:1 Chromebook hire scheme, while younger students benefit from dedicated class sets of iPads — ensuring every child has the digital tools they need to thrive in a modern world.

Our specialist curriculum enriches the core program with lessons in Visual Art, Performing Arts, and Health and Physical Education. Beyond the classroom, we offer a wonderful range of co-curricular activities designed to broaden horizons, build confidence and spark new passions.

These include:

- Robotics
- School Choir
- Dance Club
- Chess Club
- Student Representative Council
- Prayer Morning.

These opportunities reflect our belief that education extends well beyond academics — nurturing the whole child, socially, creatively, spiritually and physically. The Classroom Corner showcases certain learning activities through the school newsletter.

Extra Curricula Activities

Sport

Physical activity and sporting participation are an important part of life at St Joseph's. All students attend weekly Physical Education lessons, and those who show interest and ability are encouraged and supported to compete at district and regional level across a range of disciplines. We are proud to offer our students the opportunity to represent St Joseph's on a broader stage.

Highlights include:

- Diocesan Challenge Cup — open to eligible students, with competition in Rugby League and Netball
- Steven Bell/Josh Hannay Cup — a Rugby League competition available to students in Years 4, 5 and 6.

St Joseph's also hosts a small schools' swimming carnival in March and an athletics carnival in June, welcoming students from Kilcummin and Mistake Creek State Schools, as well as Distance Education students. These events are a wonderful celebration of community spirit and friendly competition.

Excursions and Camps

Learning at St Joseph's extends well beyond the classroom. All year levels have opportunities to connect with local community facilities, events and people to enrich their learning. Our students also look forward to annual camps that mark important milestones in their primary school journey:

- Year 5 — Camp Fairbairn
- Year 6 — Apex Magnetic Island

These experiences build independence, strengthen friendships and create lasting memories.

Stewardship and Community Involvement

At St Joseph's, we nurture in our students a sense of responsibility and compassion for others. Our school and community regularly come together to raise funds and awareness for a range of meaningful causes, including:

- Socktober (*Catholic Mission*)
- Project Compassion (*Caritas*)
- St Mary's Parish Christmas Fair
- Movember
- Day for Daniel.

Our students also regularly visit and participate in activities with the **Montcler Residential Aged Care Centre**, fostering genuine intergenerational connections and reminding our children of the importance of caring for all members of our community.

Celebrating Special Events

St Joseph's plays an active and proud role in the life of Clermont. Throughout the year, our students and staff participate in a range of local events and celebrations, including:

- ANZAC Day March
- The Clermont Show
- Coal and Gold Festival
- Northern Hairy Nose Wombat Festival
- Under 8's Day
- Arts Council performances and visits from musicians and performing groups
- Ride to School Day
- Christmas in the Park.

These events strengthen our connection to the Clermont community and give students a wonderful sense of local identity and pride.

Robotics and Technology

Robotics and technology are central to preparing our students for the future. Engagement in robotics builds vital coding skills while developing creative problem-solving abilities that will serve students well beyond the classroom. Through our innovative technology program, students enjoy a hands-on, exciting learning experience that equips them for a rapidly changing world.

Community Use of School Facilities

St Joseph's is more than a school — it is a hub for the broader Clermont community. **Clermont Performing Arts** holds weekly music dance and drama sessions in our dedicated music/drama room, open to the whole community. We also host a **weekly community playgroup**, welcoming local families and their young children to our school.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

At St Joseph's, we believe that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) play a vital role in enriching student learning. Technology opens the door to a vast range of resources, supports diverse learning styles, encourages collaboration and communication, and helps build the digital literacy skills our students will need throughout their lives.

Our Network and Devices

Our school is supported by a fast and reliable network, ensuring students and staff can work online with minimal disruption. Every student has access to a digital device suited to their year level:

- Prep and Year 1 - 1:1 iPads
- Years 2 and 3 - 1:1 Chromebooks
- Years 4 to 6 - Chromebook Hire Program, allowing students to take devices home to support study and access homework through Google Classroom
- All teachers - a dedicated laptop and iPad

Robotics and Active Learning

Our SPIKE robotic kits are used across the upper year levels to deepen learning and engage students in active, hands-on problem solving. Working with robotics encourages collaboration and critical thinking, while building the technical and transferable skills that will prepare our students for the careers of tomorrow.

Assistive Technology

We are committed to ensuring every student can access and engage with learning independently. Reading C-Pens support students by providing auditory assistance for challenging words, enabling them to access grade-level content across all subjects — including Science, Mathematics, History and Literature — with greater confidence and independence.

Every classroom is also fitted with the **Phonak Roger System**, which provides voice amplification and assistive listening support, helping students who face challenges in noisy environments to hear clearly and stay engaged in their learning. Interactive whiteboards were installed in 2025 in all classrooms.

Social Climate

Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

Faith, Community and Student Wellbeing

Living Our Faith Together

The relationship between St Joseph's, our families and St Mary's Parish continues to be a great strength of our school community. Selected classes attend Wednesday Mass at St Mary's Church on a rotating roster, and students take great pride in volunteering to lead Sunday Mass once per term. Our Parish Priest, Father Shaiju Lookose, is a familiar and welcome presence at St Joseph's, joining our school community for Feast Days and shared lunches. Families and parish members are warmly invited to share in the many special events that mark our school year, including:

- Feast Days
- Mother's and Father's Day Morning Teas
- Christmas Concerts
- Our Annual Award Ceremony
- Rite of Passage for our graduating Year 6 students

Our Assistant Principal for Religious Education works closely with students from Year 3 onwards, preparing them for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist — significant milestones in the faith journey of our students and their families.

Student Wellbeing and Support

At St Joseph's, we understand that children learn best when they feel safe, healthy and supported. We offer a range of services and programs to nurture the whole child:

- **Breakfast Club** — Every Monday morning, students are welcomed with a nutritious breakfast before the school day begins, supported by our wonderful Year 5 and 6 student volunteers. This program promotes student health, positive learning outcomes and overall wellbeing.
- **Counselling Services** — Shared across Catholic Schools in our diocese, students have access to short-term one-on-one counselling and small group sessions with a qualified counsellor.
- **Allied Health Support** — Through strong relationships with professional practices, students can access Speech/Language Therapy services at school.

Child Safety

The safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. St Joseph's implements the **Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum** from Prep to Year 6, and we maintain a strong, unwavering commitment to safeguarding all children in our care.

Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

At St Joseph's, every person has the right to feel safe, respected and included. Addressing bullying is a shared responsibility, and our leadership works closely with families to resolve concerns. Students and parents sign annual Acceptable Use Agreements for school devices. Cyber safety is embedded in our curriculum, and all staff complete annual Child Protection Training. Policies are reviewed regularly and we are guided by the Office of e-Safety Commissioner with updated information posted for families through our newsletter.

Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

Parents are valued partners at St Joseph's. Families are invited to join our Parents and Friends Committee, Fundraising Group or School Board, and to volunteer in classrooms, tuck-shop, sport and school events. Our fortnightly e-newsletter keeps families informed and connected. We encourage parents to meet regularly with teachers to discuss their child's progress and strengthen the home-school partnership.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

At St Joseph's, we are committed to caring for our environment. Food scraps feed our school chickens, whose eggs supply our tuck-shop and Breakfast Club. The school has a Containers for Change account and children are encouraged to recycle drink bottles and cans during school functions. Funds gained are returned to school projects including the garden club. Our gardens are watered on a timed overnight system, and solar panels help reduce our carbon footprint — making great use of Central Queensland's year-round sunshine.

We are mindful of energy consumption, ensuring lights, air conditioners and appliances are switched off when not in use. Staff are encouraged to consider the environmental impact of their daily practices, including photocopying and classroom consumables. Our e-newsletter and text messaging system also help minimise paper use across the school.

Characteristics of the Student Body

St Joseph's serves a wonderfully diverse community drawn from Clermont's three interconnected industries — mining, rural production and local business. Each sector brings its own character to our school community, and we embrace the unique blend of backgrounds and life experiences this creates.

Our school community reflects the dynamic nature of the region. A significant number of drive-in/fly-in/fly-out workers mean family populations can fluctuate, and we welcome the many families who join us on a transient basis. As new mining ventures continue to develop in the region, further growth in enrolments is anticipated. Clermont's diverse employment landscape also attracts skilled workers from around the world. Families arriving on permanent and temporary visas are warmly welcomed into our school, enriching our community with their cultural histories, languages and lived experiences. This diversity is something we celebrate and consider one of St Joseph's greatest strengths.

We proudly acknowledge the **Wangan and Jagalingou peoples** as the Traditional Owners and Caretakers of the land on which our school stands, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2025 was 90.24%.

Management of non-attendance

Regular attendance is essential for every child to reach their full potential. Attendance is monitored daily by staff, with leadership contacting families after three consecutive absences or when attendance falls below 90%. An automated SMS system manages daily absences, and students arriving late or leaving early are recorded in our administration system.

Staffing Information

Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	17.00	13.00	0.00
Full-time equivalents	13.90	7.44	0.00

Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	
Masters	6.25%
Bachelor Degree	93.75%
Diploma	
Certificate	

Major Professional Development Initiatives

At St Joseph's, ongoing professional learning ensures our staff deliver the best possible outcomes for every child. This year, staff engaged in the Berry Street Education Model during Pupil Free Days, deepening their understanding of trauma-informed practice and child behaviour. This was further supported by a whole-school focus on wellbeing involving fortnightly modelled lessons to build teacher capacity. A focus on differentiated teaching was supported through professional learning with Matthew Capp. Selected staff completed training for Spell-Ex to support our Initial-Lit Program. Bishop's In-Service Day focused on spirituality through the ALPHA sessions, Mary MacKillop Grotto Retreat and microlearnings in Religious Education. All support staff completed training in the Initial-Lit Literacy Program, used from Prep to Year 2. One staff member has started the A.S.P.I.R.E. Religious Education professional learning.

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 \$18,750.00.

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 93.91%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 91.43%.

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

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector Government
 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

St Joseph's uses a range of diagnostic assessments — including OLA, DRA, PMA, SA Spelling and Words Their Way — to inform teaching and track student growth. A collaboration with POP Speech involved all Prep students completing a speech and language screener and the school supporting therapy for a limited number of students. Individual literacy and numeracy goals make learning visible to students, empowering them to take ownership of their progress. We are proud that our Year 3 and 5 students achieved strong and exceeding in the NAPLAN Reading results in 2025.

Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

Strategic progress in 2025

Learning Growth and School Improvement

Monitoring growth in reading, word study and Mathematics remained a key focus, with problem-solving strategies central to our Numeracy program. We continued aligning teaching and assessment to the Version 9 Australian Curriculum through Universal Design for Learning. This year we warmly welcomed three new graduates, bringing five Early Career Teachers to our staff, who receive dedicated mentoring and support. Our School Improvement Plan reflects four key dimensions:

- **Catholic Identity & Ethos** — Making our motto visible in classrooms and linking it to Catholic Social Teaching and daily life
- **Effective Teaching & Learning** — Implementing consistent Literacy and Numeracy frameworks, individual learning goals and moderated assessment
- **Pastoral Support & Wellbeing** — Embedding emotional literacy strategies and opening a new sensory room
- **Leadership & Partnerships** — Supporting staff through targeted professional learning and establishing collaborative student/parent/teacher goal-setting interviews.

Strategic Priorities for 2026

Future Directions 2026

Our 2026 School Improvement Plan is shaped by the 2024 School Improvement Tool Report, the 2023 Enhancing Catholic School Identity report and school data trends. Our key priorities are:

- **Vision and Mission** - Making our school's vision, mission and yearly goals visible and alive across our community so we replicate our motto, "Faith in Christ our Teacher" and embed Catholic Social Teaching.

- **Curriculum Framework** - Developing and implementing a consistent whole-school scope and sequence for Literacy and Numeracy, with agreed pedagogical practices to enhance Australian Curriculum V9. A major focus on developing additive thinking skills in Year 3.
- **Student Wellbeing** - Embedding whole-school wellbeing practices supported by ongoing Berry Street Education Model professional learning and our well-being lessons to build teacher capacity. Provision of training for new teachers and to build their capacity with BSEM through dialogue with experienced educators and consultants (CEDR Wellbeing Team). Working with CEDR to attract and retain a permanent counsellor for St Joseph's Clermont.
- **Professional Learning** - Providing staff with meaningful and targeted development opportunities in pedagogy, universal design of learning, early career support, essential skills for classroom management, staff formation, leadership development (CHRISTOS, LME Project), literacy and numeracy.
- **Family Partnerships** - Strengthening deliberate collaboration between school leadership, staff and families to improve student outcomes through our school organisations.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

Community, Student Voice and Staff Engagement

St Joseph's is increasingly recognised as a quality Catholic school with a clear and compelling vision for teaching and learning. This reputation is built on the active involvement of every member of our community — students, families and staff alike.

Our Parents and Friends Committee meet each Wednesday of Week Five every term, playing a valued role in supporting the school. This year the committee contributed to the purchase of hearing loop microphones and catering for our 125 year school celebrations — practical yet historical investments that make a real difference to our students' learning experience.

Student voice is central to life at St Joseph's. Our Student Council, drawn from Years 3 to 6 and including Cultural, Social Justice, Student Ministry and House Captain representatives, meets every four weeks to shape school life and champion causes that matter to them. Students also serve as School Captains and House Captains, developing confidence and leadership skills that extend well beyond the classroom. Council members have driven awareness initiatives including support for the Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat conservation effort and regular visits and activities with Moncler Residential Aged Care Centre.

Student engagement is further enriched by a range of student-led lunchtime groups, including dance, soccer, chess, mindfulness, cricket and art — all organised and run by students themselves.

Our staff meetings are purposeful and forward-focused, incorporating NCCD moderation, professional development in key priority areas and Religious Education curriculum planning. ALPHA sessions provide staff with a meaningful opportunity to explore their personal faith, share their experiences and grow together as a faith community. Staff continue to build professional learning in the Religious Education space through the A.S.P.I.R.E. Program.