



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Clermont

2019 Annual School Report



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

# System

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

# Principal

Mr Roland Kowitz

# Address

50 Box Street  
Clermont  
Queensland 4721

# Total enrolments

134

# Year levels offered

P – 6

# Type of School:

Co-educational

# Curriculum Offerings

## Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Joseph's School was established in 1900 by the Sisters of St Joseph. The school currently caters for 134 students, Prep to Year 6, in single class groups. St Joseph's is a family-oriented school which emphasises care and concern for the individual. A wide variety of curricular and co-curricular learning experiences are offered to students including the school arts program and garden club.

## Extra Curricula Activities

- All students are involved in school assemblies, liturgies and masses throughout the school year. These twice-weekly occasions provide opportunities to celebrate, commemorate and remember significant events in the community life of our school.
- Various students compete in the Speech and Choir sections of the Central Highlands Eisteddfod each year.
- Sporting Schools program is conducted by trained staff members and involves students in sport and physical activities outside of school hours.
- 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.
- Each class participates in fundraising for projects organised by the social justice group. Funds are raised for Caritas, The Resilience Program and other charities. Senior students are involved in Meals on Wheels deliveries and visit the Aged Care home throughout the year.
- All students from St Joseph's and two small country state schools participate in a small schools' network participating in the Swimming Carnival in December and the Athletics Carnival in June each year.
- Senior students participate in leadership development programs throughout the school year, beginning with a leadership camp that precedes the school leadership speeches and election. The students are involved in on-going self-esteem and initiative activities, goal setting and reflection.
- Classroom learning is extended through Science Day, Bookweek, Under 8's Day and by participation in various community events such as Coal and Gold Festival, National Tree Day and Clean-Up Australia Day.
- All students attend workshops presented by sporting organisations: ARL Development, Rugby Union Development team, Auskick and QLD Sport and Recreation.
- Outdoor education is promoted, with the Year 5 leadership camp making use of the local Outdoor Education facility at Camp Fairbairn.

## How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

St Joseph's has a range of ICT hardware that assists in the teaching of technology. We are well equipped with electronic whiteboards, some new smart monitors, laptop computers and iPads. ICTs are incorporated into the curriculum across all year levels. Interactive Whiteboards are installed in every classroom. 50 iPads complement curriculum delivery and each student in Years 2-6 has a school funded Chromebook for individual use. We deliver the school newsletter electronically, which is well-received by families. The school's website is a wonderful 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.

# Social Climate

## Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

St Joseph's provides a family-oriented school which emphasises care and concern for the individual. The teacher-pupil ratio makes for an intimate school environment. Through the sustained efforts of staff, parents, students and members of the parish community, the parish and school have strong links. The school provides the venue for several parish events including the annual fair and several community concerts. We actively work to build a faith community which demonstrates the love of Jesus Christ through

respect for and service of others. Feast Days, Harmony Day, Resilience team visits are some of the many opportunities afforded our students. Personal and Social Development Programs like 'Making Jesus Real' are implemented school wide. These programs complement the School Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures to build student resilience, foster appropriate codes of behaviour and proactively counteract bullying. The Campus Minister plays an essential role in the support of families and students and in providing a tangible link with the parish and wider community.

## **Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies**

Internet safety is embedded into our Technology Scope and Sequence. It is also explored in-depth in our Child Safety Curriculum which is delivered annually. Our school rules and behavioural guidelines promote positive behaviour in students and communication between parents and the school is very important.

## **Strategies for involving parents in their child's education**

The weekly e-newsletter is an important forum for the communication of information from the school to parents, students, staff and community. The Classroom Comments Section of the e-newsletter contains student observations and reflections on the learning achieved each week. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the activities and decision-making processes through several groups in the school including; Parents and Friends, Fundraising and Playgroup. The School Board has an active role in policy development and implementation and strategic planning at St Joseph's. Parents are encouraged to be involved in classroom activities where possible. This includes providing assistance in Art activities, Literacy Rotations, Maths activities and at sporting events. Parents are encouraged to meet with teachers on a regular basis in order to maintain a strong connection between school and home.

## **Reducing the school's environmental footprint**

We engage in recycling practices, whereby food scraps are used to feed our chickens. We also grow a selection of fresh vegetables to distribute amongst the school community. The school's gardens are predominately native flora, which assists water conservation.

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# **Characteristics of the Student Body**

Enrolments at St Joseph's are drawn from three types of demographic 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 and the independent business and services sector. There are financial, emotional and social impacts on individual families in each sector. Common to all is the impact of change and the need to develop respect and resilience. 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 St Joseph's. The school community continues to be enriched by the vitality and vibrancy of our rural students. With several proposed mining ventures close to Clermont, it is predicted that the population of the town will stabilise in the short term. 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 Joseph's.

## **Average student attendance rate (%)**

93.96 %

## **Management of non-attendance**

Parents are asked to inform the school of any student absences. Three days unexplained absences are met with a phone call from the administration.

# Staffing Information

## Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	13.00	10.00	0.00
Full-time equivalents	10.70	4.34	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

The staff of St Joseph's Clermont received training in Work Place Health and Safety in 2019.

Training also included Bishop's in-service Day.

Training for members of the School Board with John Kennedy from the Catholic Education Office.

Resilience Project Training for staff - for the support and delivery of the Resilience Project that is linked into the Health Curriculum.

Training and continued work for 4Dimensions.

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 \$ 46,000

## Average Staff Attendance and Retention

98.25 %

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was

83.78 %

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# 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

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector  Government  Non-government

SEARCH

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## 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.

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## Key Student Outcomes and Value Added

Our school motto, 'Faith in Christ - Our Teacher' is central to everything we do at St Joseph's. At our school, we aim to develop within our students the ideals of academic excellence, love of God, self and others and respect for the environment. At St Joseph's, we see the education of our students as a dynamic partnership between the home and school. Parental support is integral to help maximise student achievement. Inspired by the person and teaching of Jesus Christ, we serve the community of Clermont, by providing:

- Life-long faith education
- Religious education
- Relevant, holistic, quality education to assist all in their search of meaning for life

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## Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

### Strategic progress in 2019

We identify and implement a whole school Literacy program approach as opposed to a “program” and continue to develop this method of instruction. Professional development was accessed to assist with this implementation.

We identify and implement a whole school Writing program approach as opposed to a “program” and continue to develop this method of instruction. Professional development for the implementation of the Writing program was provided by a consultant from the Catholic Education Office.

As a school we are developing ways of tracking student improvement over the whole school as there was no data to track year levels apart from the Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN results. With these being two years apart, they are not a reliable guide for progressing or tracking learning.

The school has also introduced Multi Lit to support those learners who require further assistance

The introduction of the MJR program across the whole school has seen an improvement in our school pastoral support and wellbeing.

### Strategic Priorities for 2019

Throughout 2019 St Joseph's worked to develop a whole school approach to planning and data gathering to better inform our teaching and learning practices. The development of expert teaching teams worked to

support the systematic curriculum delivery and differentiated teaching and learning. Staff participated in the Writing Project as a whole school initiative and implemented this in classrooms to improve student learning in writing. This improvement will be monitored and used in conjunction with NAPLAN data. In addition, our Prep and Year 1 class will be participating in Initial Lit and Initial Lit 2 in Year 2. The school will introduce Mac Lit to support our upper students. Work will continue the Resilience and MJR projects and we will be working to further develop the pastoral support program and wellbeing of students.

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

In 2016, the school participated in the Enhancing Catholic Schools Identity Project (ECSIP). Staff, students and parents responded to several surveys. The data was accumulated and in 2017 the results were interrogated and an action plan to respond to the findings was implemented. This information has been used in 2019 for the NSIT audit and Improvement Validation. This will now inform the School Improvement Plan. The School Board developed a three-year Technology Plan to ensure St Joseph's Clermont remains current and viable within a 21st century curriculum. The Board also assessed draft policies developed by the Catholic Education Office and provided necessary feedback. School wide fundraising guidelines were developed by the Board and P&F to address the purpose and benefactors of fundraising projects in the school. Our P&F meetings provide parents a forum to discuss any concerns that are general in nature. The P&F continuously deliberates on the use of these funds for school resources, ongoing maintenance and major projects.