



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Yeppoon

2023 Annual School Report



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

Principal

Max Martin

Address

Barracuda Crescent
Lammermoor
Yeppoon QLD 4703

Total enrolments

530

Year levels offered

Prep to Year 6

Type of School:

Co-educational

School Overview

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is located at Lammermoor Beach near Yeppoon on the Capricorn Coast of Central Queensland. The school was founded by the Presentation Sisters in 1958. By the early 1990s, significant growth in student numbers necessitated a relocation and construction of new buildings, and Sacred Heart opened at its current location in 1991. Since that time, the school has grown into a three-stream school, Prep to Year Six, with a current enrolment of approximately 530 students.

The school's guiding charism is that of the Presentation Sisters.

The school motto, "Enriching Spirits, Educating Minds", calls us to be both a genuine faith community and an excellent educational community. The school maintains close ties with the Sacred Heart Parish with the Catholic Church being located nearby.

Sacred Heart is quite a modern school with very good facilities and classroom resources, a large library, performing arts rooms, an Outside School Hours Care facility and a basketball court-sized covered area. The grounds are extensive, well kept and include a full-size oval, modern play equipment, vegetable garden and a sacred space.

Sacred Heart is a school where students are encouraged to develop holistically - spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially, physically and culturally.

The implementation of the MiniLit and Macqlit programs are an integral part of our school's literacy approach.

Students are offered opportunities to participate in a variety of sports through interschool activities and specialist PE lessons and arts pursuits with an extensive instrumental music and choral program being offered. Chess and robotics are also offered as extra-curricular activities.

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

Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Children and staff regularly attend parish masses, assist with liturgy and music and children's liturgy. Staff is involved in the parish sacramental team.

Athletics, senior and junior swimming and cross country are annual school carnivals in which our children are involved. Challenge Cup, Touch Football Challenge, Development and Capras Cup are interschool carnivals in which our school competes. Our Year 5 and 6 children are also involved in Friday afternoon interschool sport in Terms 2 and 4.

Choir, with trained teachers, is offered to all year levels. The school has a well-established instrumental music program including strings, woodwind, guitar and singing. Ensembles, folk groups and string orchestra perform at the annual instrumental music concert.

A myriad of cultural activities and concerts are held annually including Footsteps dance sessions, end of year concert, instrumental music concert, Indigenous dance performance and attendance at local secondary colleges' musical. Year 6 attend a week-long camp and Year 4, a two-day overnight camp to Capricorn Caves.

Our involvement in Under 8's Week, Book Week, Science Week, Catholic Education Week, Harmony Day, National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, NAIDOC Week, 'Count Us In' National Song Day, local ANZAC Day march, Yeppoon Show and National Simultaneous Reading Time are highly anticipated.

Special events such as Pancake Tuesday breakfast, a Mother's, Father's, Grandparent's Day morning tea, family movie nights, Colour Run and school discos are also celebrated.

Extra Curricula Activities

The MiniLit and MacqLit literacy programs have been implemented across all year levels. These are run by specialist fulltime teachers.

The school offers significant opportunities for children to excel in the Arts especially visual arts, dancing and instrumental music.

Sport is also an emphasis with netball, rugby league, touch football and soccer played.

Mathematics Team Challenge, Premier's Reading Challenge, Chess Club and subsequent interschool competitions are offered to our children.

Sacred Heart has an After School Hours Care facility where children are cared for in a safe and stimulating environment from 3pm - 6pm, Monday to Friday.

Many social justice initiatives are undertaken at Sacred Heart including fundraising for Caritas, St Vincent de Paul, Cancer Council and communities affected by natural disasters. Our school's Mini Vinnies group is extremely active in our community.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

Desktop computers, laptops, Chromebooks and iPads are distributed throughout the classrooms.

All classrooms and learning areas have interactive televisions with VIVI capacity and wireless connectivity.

Google Apps for Education and Google Classrooms are used by teachers.

ICTs are integrated into all Learning Areas.

Teachers are provided with a laptop and iPad Pro and are regularly up skilled by attending ICT workshops and through peer tutoring. Teachers use a number of on-line administrative resources for recording attendance, behaviour management and for the preparation of report cards.

Teachers use a range of on-line teaching including Study Ladder and Inquisitive to enhance classroom pedagogy.

Our school employs an IT specialist for two days each week.

We have a one-to-one Chromebook program running in Year 4 which is in its second year of operation.

Social Climate

A school counsellor is employed for three days each week.

A buddy program between Prep and Year 6 operates for the entire year.

Whole school and year level assemblies, weekly student awards, recognition of birthdays and individual achievements, celebration of World Teachers' Day and School Officers' Day are all integral to our school.

A Peer Support program is run during Term 2 and 3 each year. This involves children from Prep to Year 6 being assigned a family group which meets weekly and undertakes activities based on a particular theme for example self-esteem, positivity. Our Year 6 children facilitate these sessions.

Lunch time groups operate to assist children experiencing difficulties with interacting with others. Social skilling is the emphasis here.

A breakfast club operates every Friday 8am – 8.20am and provides toast, condiments and fruit for all children.

Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Each year, all children are taught the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum in Term One. It aims to teach them about personal safety and awareness, including cyber safety and phone safety, by focusing on three key safety messages: Recognise, React and Report.

The school has Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Codes of Practice.

The safe and responsible use of ICT is promoted for students and staff.

Teachers, parents and children are regularly updated on anti-bullying and cyber safety.

Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

Our school board and Parent Connect group meet monthly.

Heart Parents Friendship groups which involve at least one parent representative for each class, welcome new families to our school and conduct social events throughout the year.

Parents/carers are invited to be part of committees such as the Reconciliation Action Plan and IT Renewal.

Parents/carers are invited to help in the classrooms and assist in the tuckshop, grounds care and on excursions.

Information about supporting children's learning is presented in our weekly school newsletter and via email.

Teachers have parent email distribution lists to encourage effective communication.

Consultation with parents/carers and local elders has been vital in developing our school's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

The use of air-conditioning is restricted to Terms 1 and 4.

We have compost bins and worm farms for scraps.

We aim to decrease our paper usage through the use of E-newsletters, Paper Cut monitoring, Google class pages, sites, drive and blogs, SMS facility and on-line ordering for weekly tuckshop.

Sacred Heart has over 250 solar panels installed on our undercover area. These have significantly reduced the cost of our electricity.

Our Student environmental group is facilitated by one of our Year 2 teachers.

Characteristics of the Student Body

Children from across the Capricorn Coast attend our school.

Many travel by bus from Yeppoon and from the townships of Emu Park and Zilzie to the south.

The majority of children were born in Australia and come from a Catholic or Christian background.

Forty-eight Indigenous students are enrolled as well as six students who have English as a second language.

Many of the families who reside at the Capricorn Coast have at least one member of the family employed in association with the mining industry west of Rockhampton. Some of these families have come from inter-state and overseas to take up job opportunities in the resources sector.

Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2023 was 88.91%.

Management of non-attendance

Low attendance is only occasionally a concern at Sacred Heart School.

If a child is away for a prolonged time, their parents/carers are contacted by a member of our school leadership team, the matter is discussed and a plan of action collaboratively agreed upon.

Our school counsellor is also able to deal with such situations.

Staffing Information

Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	37.00	27.00	2.00
Full-time equivalents	30.40	15.75	1.00

Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	

Masters	8%
Bachelor Degree	89%
Diploma	3%
Certificate	

Major Professional Development Initiatives

Behavioural management, the effective teaching of spelling/word study, the effective use of data to improve children's learning, faith and religious education development through our annual Bishop's in-service day and professional development days are our major professional development initiatives.

Particular foci have been on word study, PLCs and the effective teaching of writing.

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 \$78,600.

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 91.55%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 92.50%.

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

There has been a trend over recent years towards above average NAPLAN results in Year 3 and our goal is to continue this and extend it into Year 5. These in turn have certainly improved.

Our Annual School Action Plan states a priority to improving learning outcomes for all students in our school through improving the competence and effectiveness of teachers, through implementing whole school pedagogy and learning programs and through the use of assessment data to inform instruction.

Our school foci are currently word study, writing and supporting children experiencing learning difficulties in literacy and numeracy.

Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

Strategic progress in 2023

- Continuing with the implementation of our whole school word study program and the gathering of data to judge its effectiveness in improving each child's spelling abilities.
- Further developing our MiniLit and MacqLit programs which target children across all year levels experiencing reading difficulties. These programs have shown very positive results.
- Enacting a whole school maintenance plan with emphasis on our grounds and classroom improvements.
- Improving teachers' behavioural management skills through the instigation of a whole school behaviour program.
- Using children's academic data to provide better and more meaningful learning opportunities for our children.
- Continuing to develop a whole school focus on quality learning based around high expectations of all our children to succeed.
- Emphasising the teaching of effective writing practices.
- Developing whole school practices for Mathematics and investigating ways to improve our children's numeracy skills.

Strategic Priorities for 2024

- Developing whole school positive behaviour guidelines and procedures.
- Initiating Professional Learning Communities (PLC) amongst teachers to foster collaboration.
- Focus on capital works to cater for our increasing enrolments.
- Continue to develop whole school practices for Mathematics; investigating ways to improve our children's numeracy skills.
- Student and staff well-being.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

Parents, carers, teachers and children have expressed satisfaction with our school.

Parents/carers seeking enrolments often comment that the school has been recommended to them by other parents and members of the wider community.

Teachers express the desire to remain at our school.

Children express satisfaction with the academic, sporting and cultural opportunities offered to them and graduated students continue to achieve success.

Our school Parent Connect group and board meetings are well attended and interest in these groups is high.