



a co-educational
catholic school
prep to year 12

St Joseph's

www.stjosephs.qld.edu.au

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St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe

2015 Annual Report

A Catholic co-educational school of the Diocese of Toowoomba

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|
| Address | PO Box 413 High Street Stanthorpe QLD 4380 | Phone | 07 4681 5900 |
| Year Levels | Prep – Year 12 | Fax | 07 4681 5909 |
| Enrolment | 426 | Email | stanthorpe@twb.catholic.edu.au |
| Principal | Dr Michael McCarthy | Boarders | No |
| Vacation Care | No | After School Care | No |

*“Living Mercy”
Since 1875*

Our Mission

St Joseph's School offers a holistic education within a Catholic Christian ethos whilst developing and valuing the uniqueness of the individual as we encourage each student to become a life-long learner.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

- Our school has implemented an integrated approach to the education of our students in line with the syllabus documents developed by the Queensland Studies Authority and ACARA.
- Early Years students engage in a play-based approach to the Australian curriculum.
- Secondary students are grouped in year levels for pastoral care home rooms.
- As a Kids Matter school we have raised the focus on mental health and wellbeing and utilize the “You Can Do It” and Safe Start programs from Years 1 to 7.
- All students in Years 7-12 are issued with a computer device to assist with the integration of ICTs.

For more information visit our website www.stjosephs.qld.edu.au

Extra-Curricular Activities

St Joseph's Stanthorpe offers students a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Some of these are:

- Eisteddfod entry for individuals and class groups in Speech, Drama and Music
- District Lecture competition
- Arts Council presentations
- Excursions are arranged that enhance the learning of our students to Local, District and Regional centres including:
 - Jondaryan Woolshed
 - Girraween National Park
 - Local Museum and Art Gallery
 - The Science Centre
 - Queensland Museum
 - State Parliament House
 - CSIRO in Brisbane
 - QPAC Performances (Brisbane)
- Mercy Immersion Project focused on service to others in the local community and beyond
- Camps in Years 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 & 12
- Retreats for Years 6 to 12
- Participation in a range of National Academic Competitions
- Maths Olympiad
- Affiliation with Border District and Granite Belt Sports Associations that ensure opportunities for our students to trial in all Queensland School Sport events
- Biennial School Musical
- Science Challenge
- Maths Team Challenge
- Annual Darling Downs Science and Engineering Challenge
- Darling Downs Maths Teams Challenge
- Annual involvement in Confraternity Rugby League and Netball
- Young Winemakers Program
- Excursion to a theatrical performance in Brisbane
- Various sporting activities including:
 - School, district and Darling Downs swimming, cross-country, athletics
 - Winter & summer sports district teams
 - Futsal competitions
 - Football, Rugby League, softball and netball competitions
 - "Mercy Dashers" Running Club

Social Climate

St Joseph's is a Catholic co-educational school that caters for students from diverse backgrounds. The Primary campus has approximately 220 students and the Secondary campus approximately 190 students. As a School founded by the Sisters of Mercy, life at St Joseph's School is shaped according to our six Mercy Values: Respect for Human Life, Dignity, Compassion, Service, Options for the Poor, Mercy & Justice.

St Joseph's offers a unique school character with a strong sense of community for students from Prep to Year 12. Our Pastoral Care program incorporates Kids Matter and Safe Start (Primary) and a variety of age-appropriate programs in Secondary. In conjunction with our policies and procedures including our bullying policy, St Joseph's School aims to develop a



school environment where young people feel safe, valued, engaged and purposeful whilst providing our students with skills to develop resilience and effective social relationships.

St Joseph's is a relatively small school. Therefore, it is able to offer small classes yet a wide range of subjects and a wide range of co-curricular activities – an education as individual as each child.

St Joseph's is able to offer the children of the Granite Belt - at any level - relevant, practical and personal guidance that will help to develop his / her potential academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Strategies for Addressing Bullying

St Joseph's School addresses bullying using the following strategies:

Policy & Procedure

- Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure
- Pastoral Care Policy and Procedure

Educational Programs

- Religious Education Curriculum
- Safe Start Program (P-6)
- Kids Matter Program ("You Can Do It") (P-6)
- Daniel Morcombe Foundation Child Safety Curriculum (P-6)
- Beyond Blue
- Pastoral Care programs (Years 7-12) focussing on the issue of bullying and positive relationships.

Parental Involvement

There are numerous opportunities for parents to become involved in the life of the school. Some of these are:

- Volunteer readers
- School Board
 - Finance Committee
- Parents & Friends Association
 - Tuckshop (Primary & Secondary) Committees
 - Fundraising Sub-Committees

Parents are always welcome at St Joseph's School.

School Financial Information

The information on net recurrent income including:

- Federal Government recurrent funding
- Queensland Government recurrent funding
- Fee, charges and parent contributions
- Other private resources

Is available from: www.myschool.edu.au



Staff Composition

| Workforce Composition | Total Teaching Staff | Total Non-teaching Staff | Indigenous Staff |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Headcounts | 40 | 16 | 0 |
| Full-time equivalents | 34.9 | 10.6 | 0 |

Teacher Qualifications

| Qualification | % of Teaching Staff |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Doctoral / Post Doctoral | 3% |
| Masters | 11% |
| Bachelor Degree | 75% |
| Diploma | 11% |
| Certificate | 0% |

Professional Development

Staff at St Joseph's in 2015 continued to be involved in a number of Professional Development activities. The main areas of professional development were:

- Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) workshops, in-services and seminars. These occur across the curriculum and at all year levels.
- New Technologies – application and implementation
- Quality Assessment across all curriculum areas
- The Inquiry Process and Pedagogy
- The School's founding tradition: The Mercy charism
- Child Protection Training
- Resuscitation and First Aid upgrades
- Accreditation to teach in a Catholic School and accreditation to teach Religious Education
- Individual Professional Development activities that relate to teacher's area of interest or teaching area that align with school and individual goals.

Many Professional Development activities are provided by the Toowoomba Catholic Education Office, the Queensland Studies Authority and the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF). All teachers participate in school-wide activities and some areas more specific to their needs. The school budget expended \$ 27 346 for professional learning in 2015.

Average Staff Attendance

95.47%



Staff Retention

100%

Average Student Attendance Rate

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2015 was 92.6%

Student Attendance for Each Year Level (expressed as %)

| Prep | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12 |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 90.8 | 91.6 | 93.8 | 92.3 | 91.8 | 92.8 | 94.1 | 93.7 | 94.5 | 92.5 | 92.0 | 92.2 | 92.3 |

Description of How Non-Attendance is managed by the School

Absent students are entered into our Student Database. If the absence is unexplained, the parents receive an SMS message or a phone call. Attendance records are collated each term and if attendance is below 90% and without satisfactory explanation a letter is sent home to parents to inform them of the level of attendance and to raise their awareness. If necessary, this is discussed further at a Parent-Teacher interview.

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Results

| Year 3 Test Results (2015) | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---|
| | OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE | NATIONAL AVERAGE | STATE AVERAGE | Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark |
| Reading | 418 | 425.5 | 418.4 | 100 |
| Writing | 369 | 416.3 | 405.8 | 94 |
| Spelling | 365 | 408.8 | 395.7 | 100 |
| Grammar and Punctuation | 391 | 430.5 | 433.2 | 94 |
| Numeracy | 395 | 397.8 | 392.2 | 94 |
| Year 5 Test Results (2015) | | | | |
| | OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE | NATIONAL AVERAGE | STATE AVERAGE | Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark |
| Reading | 529 | 498.5 | 494.5 | 100 |
| Writing | 485 | 478.1 | 470.2 | 96 |
| Spelling | 502 | 498.1 | 489.2 | 96 |
| Grammar and Punctuation | 508 | 503.1 | 499/8 | 96 |
| Numeracy | 515 | 492.5 | 486.0 | 91 |



| Year 7 Test Results (2015) | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE | NATIONAL AVERAGE | STATE AVERAGE | Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark |
| Reading | 554 | 546.0 | 543.0 | 100 |
| Writing | 527 | 510.6 | 504.6 | 97 |
| Spelling | 546 | 546.7 | 544.3 | 97 |
| Grammar and Punctuation | 550 | 541.3 | 539.1 | 93 |
| Numeracy | 537 | 542.5 | 538.9 | 100 |
| Year 9 Test Results (2015) | | | | |
| | OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE | NATIONAL AVERAGE | STATE AVERAGE | Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark |
| Reading | 582 | 580.2 | 572.2 | 97 |
| Writing | 579 | 546.5 | 537.6 | 95 |
| Spelling | 590 | 583.2 | 579.5 | 97 |
| Grammar and Punctuation | 585 | 567.9 | 565.9 | 100 |
| Numeracy | 585 | 591.7 | 584.7 | 100 |

Apparent Retention Rate - Year 10 to Year 12

| Year | Enrolment | Year | Enrolment | Apparent Retention Rate |
|------|-----------|------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 2007 | 21 | 2009 | 20 | 95.2% |
| 2008 | 20 | 2010 | 15 | 75% |
| 2009 | 17 | 2011 | 13 | 76% |
| 2010 | 29 | 2012 | 22 | 76% |
| 2011 | 34 | 2013 | 29 | 85.3% |
| 2012 | 34 | 2014 | 27 | 79.4% |
| 2013 | 36 | 2015 | 33 | 91.7% |

Year 12 Outcomes for 2015

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of students awarded a Senior Education Profile [SEP] | 33 |
| Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education [QCE] | 30 |
| Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement [QCIA] | - |
| Number of students awarded one or more vocational education and training [VET] qualifications | 15 |
| Number of students who are completing or have completed a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship [SAT] | 12 |
| Number of students who received an Overall Position [OP] | 14 |
| Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma [IBD] | - |
| Number of students who completed Year 12 and received a statement of results [Senior Statement] | 3 |



| | |
|---|-----|
| Percentage of students who were awarded at least one of the following: QCE, VET [including students who participated in a SAT], IBD | 91% |
| Percentage of students who applied for and received an offer of a tertiary place through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre [QTAC] | 93% |

Value Added

School administration and staff continually monitor and evaluate the academic performance of all students. Their individual educational needs are identified and strategies applied. This has seen individual student academic results progress over a number of years and has enabled St Joseph's to offer a personalised education program particularly for all students.

St Joseph's Primary Campus has continued with the Kids Matter program and within this, uses the "You Can Do It" program to build confidence, resilience, persistence, organisation and personal relationship skills. Over recent years this program has improved the self-esteem of students and has led to greater awareness of issues associated with bullying, harassment and social inclusion. Parents are offered support, information and access to Parenting workshops developed within our local community.

In addition, the School implemented the Safe Start program for students from Prep-7. This program focussed on protective behaviours in the context of Child Protection. Parents and Caregivers were also offered in-service on this program and how elements of same could be implemented at home.

St Joseph's School implemented for the first time in 2011 a 1-to-1 Laptop program for Year 9-11 students. This program enabled the School's to achieve a 1:1 ratio of computers to students and continues for all incoming Year 8 students. In addition, the School has invested funds into Primary Campus IT, with laptop upgrades across middle Primary and the provision of a 1:1 ration in Years 6 and 7.

Students in years 10, 11 and 12 are able to access vocational pathways such as apprenticeships and traineeships, providing opportunities for a smooth transition into the workforce. St Joseph's School has the one of the highest rates of School-Based Apprenticeship/Traineeship (SBAT) uptake in the diocese.

St Joseph's offers a progressive educational experience within a caring supportive environment. The Catholic ethos, expressed through our Mercy Values, values and celebrates the unique attributes of all, and is recognisable throughout the school. A comprehensive Religious Education program provides students with the opportunity to know, understand and develop their faith. Each student is challenged to contribute to God's creation in a way that leads to personal growth and is life giving.

Excellence in Catholic Education-School Renewal and Improvement Process

School Renewal and Improvement is an on-going process of self-evaluation measured against a commonly agreed set of criteria. It informs action planning at the school level to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. Above all, Catholic schools must be good schools with a strong learning orientation and a strong sense of purpose. This process provides an opportunity for each school to reflect on 4 Domain areas: Catholic Life and Religious Education; Learning and Teaching; Leadership for School Improvement; Strategic Resourcing. Each of these Domains has elements (24 in total) which are reviewed on a cyclical basis and plans for improvement developed if necessary



In 2015, the elements of Student Achievement were reflected on, reviewed and strategically planned for.

Post-School Destinations

To be updated in September 2016 as data becomes available.

Parent Survey Information

For survey results and questions access the “For Parents” section of our school website:

www.stjosephs.qld.edu.au

A hardcopy of this report is available by request from the Principal

