## 2014 School Reporting - Primary

### The Schools Story

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System:</th>
<th>Diocesan Catholic Education Office - Rockhampton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Name:</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Based Contact Person:</td>
<td>Principal’s Full Name: Miss Bianca Hodges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>4 Canberra Street, North Mackay 4740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>0749573355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax:</td>
<td>07495740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bianca_hodges@rok.catholic.edu.au">bianca_hodges@rok.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website:</td>
<td>sjnmrok.catholic.edu.au</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrolments:</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Levels Offered:</td>
<td>Prep to Year 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of School:</td>
<td>Primary</td>
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Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St. Joseph’s offers a holistic, varied and integrated curriculum for students from Prep to Year 7. St. Joseph’s provides two class groups from Prep - Year 7. Included within our curriculum delivery are Technology (Semester 1), Music (Semester 2) and HPE specialist lessons, school sporting and cultural opportunities, and meaningful prayer experiences.

Extra Curricula Activities

Extra curricular activities at St. Joseph’s include sporting, academic and cultural pursuits. Our students are encouraged to ‘have a go’ and always give their best. A particularly strong sports’ culture exists at St. Joseph’s, with the school participating in interschool swimming, athletics and cross country. School sporting teams include Rugby League, Hockey, Touch Football and Netball. Opportunity to participate in Swimming, Athletics and Aussie Rules is offered throughout the year. St Joseph’s participates in the Mackay and District Netball Competition and Vickie Wilson Cup. The St Joseph’s Rugby League and Netball teams participated in the ‘Challenge Cup’ at Yeppoon. Challenge Cup is a Diocesan Catholic Primary School competition held every year for Junior Rugby League and Netball.

At St. Joseph’s, we believe that cultural experiences allow children to develop self-confidence and co-operation in an exciting and dynamic environment, while building discipline and perseverance skills. Speech & Drama lessons are offered during lunchtimes and after school, by a private teacher, to students from Prep to Year 7. All students are given the opportunity to participate and perform at numerous school and community events including Assemblies, Masses and the Mackay Eisteddfod. Students are given the opportunity to be involved in our school instrumental program through Musicorp. This program has students from Years 1-7 learning woodwind, string and percussion instruments. There are also independent specialist teachers who offer piano and guitar. Every three years, St Joseph’s presents a whole school musical, which is one of the highlights of a child’s cultural experience at St. Joseph’s. These original musicals are written and directed by the dedicated staff of St. Joseph’s and brought to life by the students.

Students from Years 6 and 7 are given the opportunity to participate in the Mackay and District Primary School’s Regional Debating. The school enters students from Years 3 to 6 in the ICAS competitions; and students from Years 6 and 7 in the McDonald’s Maths Challenge.

Each term, students from Year 6 and Year 7 are selected to participate in an Extended Learning Program which offers challenging activities aimed to extend their knowledge and experience. St Joseph’s participates in the Mackay Regional Eisteddfod and attends the Whitsunday Voices Literature Festival.

Students participate in a number of community fundraising activities for charity including Red Nose Day, Shave for a Cure and Biggest Morning Tea, Project Compassion and Catholic Mission fundraising. Students from Prep–Year 7 march annually in the Mackay Region Anzac Day Parade.
How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

All learning spaces at St Joseph’s have Interactive Whiteboards and these are used to enhance the teaching and learning process. Teachers also have laptops, desktop computers and ipad’s for each class, that are utilised to help with planning and pedagogy in the presentation of their units of work with the children. At St Joseph’s, Prep-Year 7 students participate in specialist Technology classes in our newly upgraded Tech Lab, featuring 30 desktop computers. This lab is also utilised by classes outside of Technology lessons. A bank of 4 Desktop Computers are also in our school library for students to utilise for research and assignment work when necessary. A number of classes also have access to digital cameras and data projectors, within the school, to help with the organising and presentation of digital/electronic work when the project brief requires. The school also has access to educationally approved/secure Diocesan Links and Portals that provide safe access to educationally approved platforms for learning.

Social Climate

St Joseph’s is committed to a quality, inclusive, Catholic Education. We share in the Mission of the Church, providing through our Religion programme knowledge and rich experiences that will inspire and empower the children and families in our care. Our Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures reflect a commitment to a restorative approach to discipline and correcting behaviours.

Buddy Classes are determined at the beginning of the school year, with a lower year level class being ‘buddied’ with an upper year level class. These classes participate together within everyday school activities and contribute to building a sense of community between classes and across the school.

Our Pastoral Care Worker works two days a week, and is very well utilised throughout St. Joseph’s. Students and parents spend time with this staff member and benefit greatly from this time.

Regular School Assemblies celebrating individual and class achievement and the celebration of important Public and Faith/Feast Days are an important part of developing the social and cultural life of the school. Liturgy and prayer form a consistent part of our school life, with our school gathering each day as a whole community to connect, pray and celebrate together.

St. Joseph’s Outside School Hours Care Program operates from 0700-0815 and from 1445–1800 in the evening, and caters for our children from Prep–Year 7. St. Joseph’s Vacation Care Program operates over school holiday periods.

Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Our school has implemented Diocesan policies on Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff. The school regularly communicates to parents and the school community about Cyber Safety issues. We implement the Child Safety Curriculum and engage guest speakers to present to students, staff and parents on an annual basis to support awareness in this area. We also have appropriate policies in place to deal with the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices.

Our school has a number of social/emotional learning programs in place to assist students in guarding against bullying at school. The school community is kept up to date about developments in this area. All Diocesan and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis.
Strategies used for involving parents in their child’s education

Our St. Joseph’s School Board and P&F Association are two organisations that contribute in very positive ways towards the well-being of our school. Our School Board works very effectively in relation to school policy, budgeting and the maintenance of our school’s physical environment. The P&F Association is a tireless group within our school who raise much needed funds for a variety of resources. Parents can also assist in the tuckshop and library.

A family school, St. Joseph's utilises our parents within classrooms through Learning Support programs such as the Reading Assistance Program (RAP). Parents are also involved in everyday class activities and co-ordination of sporting teams and cultural performances. Our school encourages parents to attend parent information sessions at the beginning of each school year and, when necessary, the school further communicates curriculum initiatives to parents. Student progress is reported via annual parent/teacher and 3 way (parent/teacher/child) interviews; and twice yearly written reports.

Communication with parents is encouraged and supported by weekly school newsletters and online platforms within the school, and via fortnightly class newsletters. Our school website has currently been redesigned and its content updated. Administration and teaching staff are available to speak with parents as requested.

Reducing the school’s environmental footprint

St. Joseph's is a recently refurbished school and therefore old buildings with a 'heavy environmental cost' in terms of maintenance and servicing have been replaced by new, more energy-efficient design features. The school is constantly looking for ways to reduce energy costs. One way this is realised is to require Air Conditioners not to be used in classrooms during the colder months (2nd and 3rd Terms). We also actively encourage our students and staff to be mindful of switching things off when not in use. We also have one water tank to harvest rain from our Administration building. We hope to investigate, in the future, more energy-efficient lights and appliances after our annual school capital audit is done.

Characteristics of the Student Body

St. Joseph's has students enrolled from a variety of cultural and social backgrounds. Our socio-economic status is wide and varied, as is our cultural impact, with professional and government assisted families, as well as a mix of Filipino, Maltese, German, Indian, South African, Egyptian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. The majority of the school population is drawn from the local urban community. However, some students still come to us from more rural areas. A range of cultures are reflected in the school population, with these and other cultures celebrated at our school.

After a fall in enrolments throughout the late 1990’s until 2000, the school population is now increasing at a pleasuring rate. The vision for St. Joseph’s is that its growth will justify it becoming a three stream school over time and this trend seems justified by the strong interest shown for enrolment in the infant section of our school. We feel confident, with the future demographic predictions for our region, that growth will continue in Mackay.
**Staffing composition, including Indigenous staff**

**Workforce Composition of all teachers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Non-Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Indigenous Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcounts</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time equivalents</td>
<td>19.23</td>
<td>9.25</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Qualifications of all teachers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification – highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Percentage of staff with this Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral / Post-doctoral</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor degree</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>%</td>
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**Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development**

**TOTAL FUNDS** expended on teacher professional development according to Australian Government Quality Teacher Program reporting requirements.

$64,900
MAJOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

The school wide refinements of School Curriculum Programs, the use of ICTs, Behaviour Management, National Partnerships, Staff Induction and Mentoring Programs have occurred throughout 2014. Typical PD undertaken by our Staff has been in the areas of RE (Bishop's Inservice Day and the new Evangelisation, MJR, teaching spirituality, Godly Play), National Partnerships Literacy Mentoring training, Australian Curriculum: Literacy and Numeracy. Pupil Free Days covering topics such as Student Protection.

The percentage of the **TEACHING STAFF INVOLVED IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

100%

**Average staff attendance**

Average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to 5 days

99.58%

**Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year**

88.31%

**School Income**


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

**National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy Results**

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, and 7 are available via the My School website at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.

Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being able to access NAPLAN data.

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**

Data is used to drive quality teaching practices. Students at St Joseph’s have continued to make pleasing progress, and our recent results reflect growth across each of the assessed year levels. St Joseph’s continues to use the external data to identify areas of need within the school to assist with strategic planning, resourcing and for the provision of relevant and targeted professional development.

**Student Attendance**

**Average student attendance rate (%)**

94.3%

**Describe how non-attendance is managed by the school**

Parents are required to contact the office when students are absent. Extended absences must be informed in writing to the office or class teacher. When students are absent without notification for longer than three days, the office will contact the parents.

**Value Added**

**The story of distance travelled**

The NAPLAN test results for 2014 are close to or above State averages in most categories. Our results in many categories were encouraging when compared with State averages. A whole school focus on literacy practices, in particular reading and spelling, has resulted in cohorts reflecting consistent results in these areas. The implementation of a whole school approach to teaching and learning in Mathematics is beginning to reflect in aspects of our numeracy results and this focus will continue into the future.

**The story of where you are going**

A major part of our 2014 School Management Plan has been to enrich St. Joseph’s strong academically through the building upon of solid academic foundations already in place. Our English and Maths results over the past few years justify our decision to introduce specialised literacy and numeracy core skill components to our daily programs. A consistent approach to reading assessment has also be a priority, with the implementation of DRA testing up to Year 5. Continual review of assessment processes and consistency of practices, monitoring of student progress and further standardising of reporting formats continued; as well as continued participation in extra curricula numeracy and literacy activities for students, and professional development activities for staff.

**Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction**

St Joseph’s is rated highly as a welcoming community in the eyes of parents, staff and students. Parents believe that Behaviour Management Procedures are managed and implemented and consistent with Gospel values. Curriculum is structured and delivered in a manner that is meaningful and relevant so as to foster the total formation of the child within our community. Routines with our P&F, School Board, SRC, Staff and Administration meetings are well established, with all being committed to meeting the School’s Mission/Vision statements and supporting the ethos of Catholic Education. The school community is proactive in planning for its future needs by updating and reviewing the School Master Plan on a continual basis.