# 2014 School Reporting - Primary

## The Schools Story

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System:</th>
<th>School Name:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Catholic Education Office - Rockhampton</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Blackall</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Based Contact Person:</th>
<th>Address:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal’s Full Name:</td>
<td>109 Thistle St Blackall QLD 4472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duane Wann</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone:</th>
<th>Fax:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
<th>Website:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07 4657 4248</td>
<td>07 4657 4807</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjbl@rok.catholic.edu.au">sjbl@rok.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.sjblrok.catholic.edu.au">www.sjblrok.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Enrolments:</th>
<th>Year Levels Offered:</th>
<th>Type of School:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Prep – Year 6</td>
<td>Co - educational</td>
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Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Joseph’s is a Prep to Year 6 school organised into four class groupings. Our curriculum reflects Gospel values, while our tradition is based around the work and story of St. Mary MacKillop. The school is well known for its community spirit, its excellent resources and student outcomes. Many opportunities are provided for our children to reach their spiritual, academic, physical and emotional best. In recent years our students have experienced success at local eisteddfods, maths competitions, regional and state sporting carnivals and lateral thinking tournaments. Our approach to supporting student health development within the school curriculum includes the 'You Can Do It' and 'Making Jesus Real' programs as well as a school emphasis on supporting motor and physical skill acquisition. We believe our students need to be life-long learners, equipped with the skills required to learn, transfer learning, use ICT, contribute to teams, manage change and be self-aware. As such, we are committed to providing an integrated and well-balanced Catholic education in an atmosphere that reflects the values of the Gospels in affiliation with the legacy of Mary MacKillop.

Extra Curricula Activities

The St Joseph’s Feast Day provides an opportunity for students of Blackall to combine with St Joseph’s Barcaldine students to celebrate this feast each year. St Joseph’s also engages in a number of feature days including: National Day of Action Against Bullying, Walk to School Day, A Day for Daniel, Under 8’s Day and Catholic Education Week celebrations.

Students from St Joseph’s are involved in variety of community and social justice events including: Combined schools ANZAC Day Memorial, Blackall Community ANZAC Day Memorial, visitations/performances to the Blackall retirement village, Mother’s Day Breakfast and the Father’s Day Pizza Cook-off.

‘Making Jesus Real’ is a value-based program which aims to recognise and be witness to the teachings of Jesus, each day. In conjunction with the “You Can Do It” program students are encouraged to become aware of the goodness in themselves and each other. All students are involved in preparing for Masses or Prayer Assemblies throughout the school year.

The St. Joseph's Student Council initiates fundraising ventures and community events for charities and causes including: Caritas, Cancer Council, Royal Flying Doctors, Angel Flight, the Cathedral Restoration Appeal and the various disaster appeals.

All students are provided with opportunities to undertake academic opportunities namely, the ICAS - Mathematics, Science and English Testing Competitions and St. Joseph's Speaking Festival.

Students from St Joseph’s are provided with numerous sporting opportunities courtesy of a Physical Education Specialist. Students engage in Swimming during Term 1, Athletics throughout Term 2, Rugby League and Netball during Term 3 and various other sports throughout Term 4. Students also complete at district and regional trials together with the various Rugby League, Touch Football, Netball, Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. The Sporting Schools Community program involves students engaging in sport and physical activities outside of school hours and provides the opportunity to mix with their community peers.
St. Joseph's students are also exposed to various cultural experiences which are greatly aided and supported by RREAP funding. Such funding allows us to engage personnel in the areas of dance, movement, ICT's, creative art and music to provide opportunities which our students would not normally receive in Blackall. The school has commenced a Drama program for all students.

St Joseph’s has two playground areas, a full sized Rugby League/Cricket oval and the MacKillop Centre which is a multi-purpose enclosed space allowing for indoor sports, musical and various community events. We are currently in the process of developing a reflective and sacred community site/space between the church and school to represent to connectedness between both entities.

In recognition of our diverse student needs, our first session contains a five minute ‘Munch and Crunch’ break which allows students to eat healthily, thus breaking the two hour session and enhancing concentration at this peak time of learning.

Through the access of RREAP funds, students of St. Joseph’s experience and participate in learning activities and events they ordinarily would not be able to attend or participate in. Such events include: Shockwave Festival, Year 3/4 Camp to Charleville, Year 5/6 Camp to Tallebudgera/Fairbairn Dam, Writing and Making Music with Josh Arnold, Arts Councils and Challenge Cup Rugby League/Netball.

St Joseph's has recently incorporated online Japanese lessons. Through the support and assistance of The Cathedral College in Rockhampton, students engage in Japanese lessons every Wednesday via Skype with Japanese teacher Rachelle Belz. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to not only learn the Japanese language, but to also learn about Japanese Culture.

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

The use of ICTs is particularly evident at St. Joseph's. Interactive Projectors have recently been installed in every classroom; ensuring students are exposed to and immersed in the technological and interactive processes of teaching and learning. A computer trolley housing a classroom set of laptop computers is readily available to each class, while twenty five iPads complete the interactive and technological transformation of our school. Teachers are expected to incorporate ICTs and IT in all Key Learning Areas when teaching the students.

**Social Climate**

Our school's Religion Program and the 'Making Jesus Real' Program provide a basis for the way we treat each other and how we interact. It is a value-based program which aims to recognise and be witness to the teachings of Jesus in everyday living.

St. Joseph's celebrates Catholic Education Week annually as a special opportunity for all Catholic education ministries to celebrate their distinctive mission and share the great things they are doing with their school, parish and wider communities.

Whole school assemblies are held every Monday and Friday with classroom awards acknowledged and birthdays celebrated, together with recognition of extra-curricular individual achievements. This information is also published in the school newsletter each week. While the Year 5/6 students lead the assembly, each class is responsible for preparing a prayer component each term.
Students from St Joseph’s are involved in a variety of community and social justice events including: Combined Schools ANZAC Day Memorial, Blackall Community ANZAC Day Memorial, visitations/performances to the Blackall retirement village, Mother’s Day Breakfast, Father’s Day Pizza Cook-off, Shockwave Festival and Christmas Concert. St Joseph’s also engages in a number of feature days including: National Day of Action Against Bullying, Walk to School Day, A Day for Daniel, Under 8s Day and Catholic Education Week celebrations.

The introduction of the Mini Joey’s program in term 4 has provided prospective parents and students an insight into the values and practices inherent not only within St. Joseph’s, but also within Catholic Education. Further, prospective Prep students are given an insight into the daily routines and expectations within a Catholic Primary School.

Every Year Six student is considered a leader with significant responsibilities. The St. Joseph’s Student Council initiate fundraising ventures and community events for charities and causes including: Caritas, Cancer Council, Royal Flying Doctors, Angel Flight, the Cathedral Restoration Appeal and the Rockhampton and Bundaberg Flood Relief.

**Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies**

The school has anti-bullying and behaviour management policies in place to go hand-in-hand with behaviour modification programs. Students, staff and parents have collaboratively worked toward enacting this policy thus ensuring bullying and behaviour management strategies are implemented when the need arises. Every person in the St Joseph’s Primary School community has a right to feel safe and be safe. St Joseph’s Primary School strives to create an educational environment where each individual is respected, accepted, included and free from fear or threat. This safe environment will enable all members of the community to reach their full potential. Dealing with bullying in all its forms is a shared responsibility. Where possible, St Joseph’s Primary School will co-operate with parents to address any bullying that occurs inside or outside the school environment.

**Strategies used for involving parents in their child’s education**

Parents/Guardians and Grandparents are invited and welcomed to attend our Monday morning briefing and Friday assembly. During the Friday morning Prayer Assembly awards are acknowledged and birthdays celebrated, together with recognition of extra-curricular individual achievements. The Year 5/6 students lead the assembly, while each class is responsible for preparing an assembly each term.

The St. Joseph's Parents and Friends’ Association meets monthly and maintains a high and positive involvement in the school in a variety of ways. They play an integral role in fundraising and supporting the school through the purchasing of resources and equipment. The St. Joseph's School Board also meets monthly and makes a valuable contribution in policy regulation and implementation.

In order to inform new families of the school’s expectations etc., the classroom teachers facilitate a concise presentation which covers a variety of topics including, curriculum content, classroom, homework and behavioural expectations. It is also a great opportunity to personally meet their child’s teacher. A welcome BBQ is aligned with the Parent Information evening as a medium to bring the school community together at the beginning of a new school year. Similarly, Parent/Teacher interviews are conducted twice throughout the year.
Parents/Guardians and Grandparents are welcomed and invited to assist with classroom procedures and educational experiences through reading programs, maths groups, creative art lessons, school camps, feature days and sports carnivals. Special events such as: Mother’s Day Breakfast, Father’s Day Pizza Cook Off and Grandparents Day also ensure a very high parent participation and involvement.

St Joseph’s students host an Art Exhibition every year. This is an occasion when students can display their work for parents and it provides an opportunity for parents to view the work the students have undertaken. Class teachers also conduct ‘Culminating Activity’ days to showcase the learning that has been undertaken throughout the term.

Through the access of RREAP funds, students of St. Joseph's experience and participate in learning activities and events they ordinarily would not be able to attend nor participate in. Such events include: Shockwave Festival, Year 3/4 Camp to Charleville, Year 5/6 Camp to Tallebudgera/Fairbairn Dam, Writing and Making Music with Josh Arnold, Arts Councils and Challenge Cup Rugby League/Netball.

Reducing the school’s environmental footprint

With the rising costs associated with electricity, at St. Joseph's we are very conscious of energy consumption. We ensure that lights, air conditioners and any electrical appliances are turned off after use, or when students/teachers are not in rooms.

Characteristics of the Student Body

St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School is located in the isolated Central Queensland Outback town of Blackall, population approximately 1500 in town and 1800 in the shire. The Josephite Sisters established our school in 1917. The population of the school has increased over the past three years. St. Joseph’s is part of St. Patrick’s Parish, Blackall. The school is the only Catholic (or Christian) school in the area. Each of the four classes in our school consists of two year levels in a multi-age setting. This results in a strong family atmosphere which is based on Gospel Values. As a staff we model these values by our word and actions. These gospel values are reflected in all our dealings with all members of our school community. The St. Joseph’s community enjoys the close knit family qualities of many small town Catholic schools. Children, parents and teachers work in partnership to provide and nurture the development of each individual. We believe that this is one of the strengths of our school. We believe that this partnership is vital in our mission of proclaiming the Good News.

Staffing composition, including Indigenous staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Non-Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Indigenous Staff</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcounts</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time equivalents</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>0.06</td>
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### Qualifications of all teachers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification – highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Percentage of staff with this Qualification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral / Post-doctoral</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor degree</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>%</td>
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<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.

$12,200

**MAJOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

- Numeracy and Literacy national partnerships training
- Mentoring and peer support times
- Child Protection In-Service
- Workplace Health and Safety training
- Bishop’s In-service Day
- Religious Education Professional Development
- First Aid training
- Literacy Professional Development
- Science Professional development
- Whole staff planning days
- Seven Steps to Successful Writing In-service
- ACARA History In-service
- Great Teachers = Great Results
- Creative iPad use within the Classroom
The percentage of the TEACHING STAFF INVOLVED IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT is 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 is 99.18%

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year is 90.00%

**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**

St Joseph’s tends to score at, or around the state and national average in all year levels across most testing areas. While we have had significant improvements in the last two years in most areas, these scores can be impaired by students who are struggling with aspects of their learning. We continue to implement the Literacy and Numeracy plans guided by mentors working within the National Partnerships. Improvements have been evident in students’ general work as well as in test results. Results have indicated that we have significantly improved our scores in Language Conventions, Reading, Writing and Numeracy, while the area of Spelling continues to improve.
**Student Attendance**

Average student attendance rate (%)

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92%</td>
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Describe how non-attendance is managed by the school

Students who are absent from school are marked as absent through TASS. If a child is absent for two or more days the parents or caregivers are contacted to check on the student’s non-attendance. Most families send notes, email or contact the office if the child is absent.

**Value Added**

The story of distance travelled

At the commencement of 2014, the Learning Areas of Language Conventions and Numeracy were identified as priority goals across the school. Through the implementation of Language Conventions and Numeracy structures and models, professional development opportunities, and quality teaching and pedagogy, significant improvement across all year levels, especially in Years 3, 5 and 7, were recorded. Subsequently, at St Joseph’s, wonderful progress is being made by our students in achieving and maintaining the Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy standards around the state mean level.

Overall, the students of Years 3, 5 and 7 performed significantly better than that of previous years. The students of Years 3 and 5 exceeded both the State and National standard across the areas of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy, while performing just under the state mean for Spelling, displaying significant improvements on previous years.

There certainly has been significant growth across the cohorts, in particular from Year 3 to Year 5. We have experienced significant growth in Language Conventions, Reading, Writing and Numeracy from Years 3 to 5. The Year 5 to 7 cohort experienced moderate growth across Language Conventions, Reading, Writing and Numeracy.

There is no doubt there has been continued growth across all areas over the last 5 years. The Year 3 level has seen Reading and Numeracy remain quite stable over time, however, Writing, Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation has witnessed positive improvement. This trend is similar for the Year 5 grouping. The Year 7 level has seen Reading remain quite stable over time, however, Numeracy, Writing, Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation has witnessed positive improvement.

Certainly over the past two years modest to significant improvement across most disciplines has been achieved across all year levels. These results are very encouraging and are certainly meeting short term goals, expectations and targets. Reading and Writing were the main priority areas for 2013 (with great success), while for 2014 Language Conventions and Numeracy were to be the focus for teaching and learning. Ultimately, the goal and target is to attain the state mean across all subject areas by 2016.
The story of where you are going

Throughout the year we will continue to review our Literacy and Numeracy plans with a particular focus on Numeracy, Spelling and Language Conventions. With the Australian curriculum now in place, numeracy teaching in the upper year levels will also be a focus as some of the content is new to the primary level. Student performance during last year’s NAPLAN testing informs some of our goals as a school. This data allows us to focus on areas which require further development and to reaffirm the aspects of learning that have been working or making a difference to student learning. Our School Development Plan developed in 2013 assisted in setting goals and pathways for St Joseph’s School over the next five years. Sharing of knowledge and best practice is encouraged and celebrated at St Joseph’s.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

As part of our School Review and Improvement Process, information was collated from school community members, students, staff and parish to devise a School Development plan which will guide our journey for the next five years. Some positive feedback to come from the School Review and Improvement include: exhibiting an atmosphere that is positive, family oriented and welcoming to all, while promoting a safe learning environment for the students. The various giving activities in which the students engage in assisting them to develop empathy, compassion and a sense of social justice. The contribution by the P&F and School Board to improve facilities and the overall appearance of the school, together with contributions towards teaching resources and materials. The sense of 'team' and shared responsibility by staff and parents which create varied opportunities for students. The positive student - teacher relationships and the efforts made by the school to encourage parents to contribute to the future direction of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School.