



**Brisbane  
Catholic  
Education**

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# ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORTING – 2015

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION, ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

School Name Star of the Sea School

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### Principal's Foreword

#### Introduction

Star of the Sea is a Catholic, co-educational primary school located in Cleveland overlooking Moreton Bay and Stradbroke Island. Cleveland is the oldest parish in Queensland with the first Church being opened in Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island. Being a relatively new school, the physical environments and the personalised, active and interactive learning were based on research and school visits within Queensland and in Sydney and Melbourne. As an innovative school, we are actively engaging students in their learning. We opened in 2009 with Prep to Year 3. We abide by a number of mantras including "we are building an expert team, not a team of experts", "we are about collaboration not competition" and our way of working "illuminates rather than limits, gives direction rather than destination."

In 2015, our enrolment was 291 students. In 2015, we have continued to host teams of Principals, Leadership, teachers and educational consultants from within the Archdiocese and interstate. They have been particularly interested in our flexible and contemporary learning environments, use of technologies and the motivation and engagement of all our students during Discovery Learning. Our theme for 2015 was "Be Your Best Every Day" and our theme song was "This is the Best Day of my Life" by American Authors..

### School Profile

Star of the Sea School is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Coeducational  or Single Sex

Year levels offered: Primary  Secondary  P-12

Total Student Enrolments 291 Girls 138 Boys 153

## Characteristics of the student body

Our enrolment of 291 students includes 153 boys and 138 girls. The majority of our students live in the local area of Cleveland and Thornlands. 37 students travel from Stradbroke Island daily on the water taxi. A small number of students live in Thorneside, Ormiston, Wellington Point and Mt Cotton. The majority of our students live with both parents and both parents work. Currently, 7 indigenous students are enrolled, 10 children with English as a Second Language and 11 students with special needs. Almost 80% of our student population identifies as Catholic.

The students are split into three house colours using Indigenous names for our water theme - Barinya, Elandra and Iluka.

The majority of our students who leave primary school enrol in Carmel College in Thornlands which is co-educational also.

## Our distinctive curriculum offerings

We plan, teach and assess from the Australian Curriculum.

Students with needs are catered for with individualized programs. Japanese is the LOTE offered.

We have a strong representation of students in our P-2 and 3-6 choirs. Our inclusive policy is very evident in our music program as any student who wishes to participate is included, no auditions. Our instrumental music program is undertaken by all students from Years 3 - 7. Currently, they may choose keyboard, drums, guitar or singing. We held our first whole school musical "Little Stars" in Term 3 at the Redlands Performing Arts Centre with matinee and evening performances.

We have also implemented PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning- which assists in the maintenance of a safe and orderly environment. Kids Matter is a whole-school approach to improving children's mental health and wellbeing for primary schools. We are in our third year of the process which is based on respectful relationships. The program promotes social and emotional learning, working authentically with parents, carers and families and support for students who may be experiencing mental health difficulties

We also offer a range of co-curricular activities - before school, after school and at lunchtimes:

- Cooking
- Chess Club
- Cross Country training
- Fun Runs
- Basketball
- Netball
- Skipping
- Zumba and Hip Hop
- Robotics
- Sewing and Knitting

## Extra curricula activities

- \* Auskick
- \* Soccer
- \* Speech and Drama
- \* Dance Fever
- \* Cricket
- \* Zumba
- \* Skipping
- \* OzTag
- \* Netball
- \* Basketball
- \* Milo2Cricket
- \* Robotics Club
- \* Skipping
- \* Art Club
- \* Writing Club

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

As a school, we have found that the use of such technologies not only prepares our students for real world situations, but it also provides opportunities for students to be involved in rich learning, that they find real and relevant. ICLTs have the abilities to be fantastic motivators and enablers for learning. Students are able to use various devices, such as iPods, iPads, laptops and cameras to assist them in demonstrating an understanding of concepts, in addition to assisting them in gaining a greater knowledge and understanding using tools that they feel comfortable with, and motivated to explore. At Star of the Sea, we have witnessed students become independent learners, as a direct result of technologies being embedded into our curriculum. Students exhibit reciprocal teaching skills and self help skills on a daily basis, when using technologies in their learning. We have had the opportunities to use ICLTs to assist students with learning difficulties within the classroom. iPad application technologies have been used to translate a non-writer's verbal understandings in texts, consequently producing work never produced by such students. Wireless technology is provided throughout and banks of student laptops, Ipod touches and Ipads are provided in each learning area.

## Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

Through the explicit teaching of social skills in each class, students learn important skills associated with getting along with others. Skills such as joining in, problem-solving, showing respect and including others form an integral part of the curriculum in all year levels, and students with particular social needs are given further intensive support from staff. One of the 3 school goals, 'Respect for Others', is consistently modelled and taught by staff, further promoting an environment that values each individual and the important role each member plays in the school. In addition to this, parenting support is offered by the Guidance Counsellor, both in the form of a series of informal information sessions on a range of topics, or individually as the need arises e.g. building self-esteem and resilience.

"Bounce Back" is a whole school program focussed on the building of resilience and promoting emotional and social well being. We have a Zero Tolerance to Bullying.

## Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Star of the Sea School has a positive reputation in the local community with constant accolades from the public about exemplar behaviour whilst in school uniform. Formal e.g. surveys and informal e.g. anecdotes reinforce the high degree of parent satisfaction with our school. Another forum is enrolment interviews and annual visits to our feeder kindys which also are avenues for feedback.

Teacher satisfaction with the school is high based on such forums as the results of the 2014 BCEO Staff Survey and annual component reviews of our Strategic Plans. Students take great pride in their school adhering to our 3 goals "Respect for Self", "Respect for Others" and "Respect for our Environment."

## Parent involvement in their child's education

Parents who have read, signed and abide by our Volunteer's Code of Conduct are warmly welcomed into the learning areas to support our students and staff. Parents are also involved in fundraising, the organization of social functions, attend our Parent Community Group meetings each month and provide feedback in many forms including survey responses for our annual internal reviews and 5 yearly external reviews.

Parents are kept well-informed via emails, newsletters, the school website and Moodle, our eLearning Portal and Parent Portal. Regular communication with teachers about their child's progress is strongly encouraged. Parent

education is also a strong focus. A parent library has been established and our Counsellor facilitates frequent sessions for parents on such topics as building self-esteem, building resilience, dealing with temper tantrums etc. Changes to our Home Reading philosophy and practice has also enabled greater involvement by parents to encourage their children to read for love, read for life and read for learning.

## Staff Profile

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff
Headcounts	18	12
Full-time equivalents	16.6	7.1
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	0	

## Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of Teaching Staff (teaching staff includes school leaders)
Doctorate	
Masters	2
Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate	2
Bachelors Degree	13
Diploma/Certificate	1

## Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2015 was \$ 28 190

The major professional development initiatives were as follows

- Religious Education
- Indigenous Education
- Data
- Reading and literature
- Spelling
- Behaviour Management
- Student Well-Being
- Positive Partnerships - ASD
- Delivering Excellence in Learning and Teaching / Visible Learning
- Speech and Language / Occupational Therapy

## School Income by Funding Source

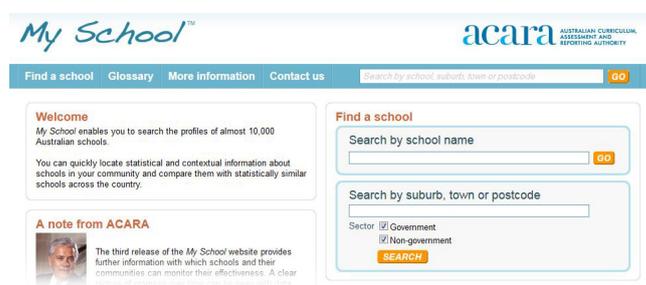
School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our school income details, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following:

'Find a school' text box.

Type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select '<GO>'. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school's My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting 'School finances' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's entry web page.



## Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was 97.80 % in 2015.

## Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2014 school year, 94.0 % of staff were retained by the school for the 2015 year.

## Key Student Outcomes

Whole School Attendance Rate	95.00 %
Prep Attendance Rate	95.00 %
Year 1 Attendance Rate	94.00 %
Year 2 Attendance Rate	96.00 %
Year 3 Attendance Rate	96.00 %

Year 4 Attendance Rate	94.00 %
Year 5 Attendance Rate	94.00 %
Year 6 Attendance Rate	94.00 %

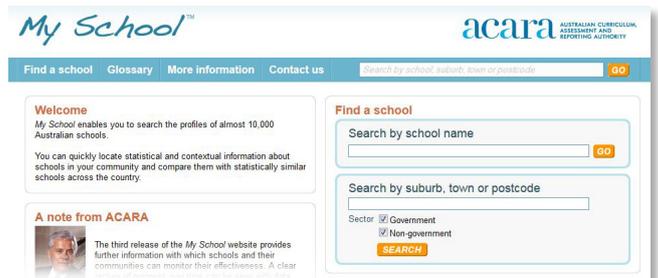
## Policy and practice to manage student attendance

Class rolls are marked electronically 2 times per day. Parents are required to notify a child's absenteeism by phone, in person or in writing. Parents who have not notified are sent an SMS at 9:30am each day. Recording of attendance covers illness, appointments, family reasons, transport issues. At the end of each semester students with 100% attendance are recognized on assembly with a special award.

## Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.



The screenshot shows the My School website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Find a school', 'Glossary', 'More information', and 'Contact us'. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar, with the text 'Search by school, suburb, town or postcode' and a 'GO' button. Below the navigation bar, there are three main sections: 'Welcome', 'Find a school', and 'A note from ACARA'. The 'Welcome' section contains text about the website's purpose and a 'GO' button. The 'Find a school' section has two search boxes: 'Search by school name' and 'Search by suburb, town or postcode', both with 'GO' buttons. Below the search boxes, there are radio buttons for 'Sector' with options for 'Government' and 'Non-government', and a 'SEARCH' button. The 'A note from ACARA' section features a small profile picture and text about the website's third release.

To access our NAPLAN results, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following

'Find a school' text box.

Type in the name of the school whose NAPLAN results you wish to view, and select '<GO>'. 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 our NAPLAN data.