



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School Springsure 2023 Annual School Report



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School, Springsure

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

Principal

Selena Cutting

Address

9 Gap Street
Springsure Qld 4722

Total enrolments

34

Year levels offered

Prep – Year 6

Type of School:

Co-educational

School Overview

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School provides a holistic education for children from Prep to Year Six. A Kindergarten is provided on-site, and a strong educational partnership thrives between the school and the Kindergarten, ensuring successful transitions for our youngest learners. The school services the rural community of Springsure in the Central Highlands of Queensland, in which the beef, farming and mining industries flourish. Many of our parents are graziers, farmers or employed by local businesses. We are proud of the heritage of the Sisters of Mercy and, by being hospitable to and welcoming of all in our community, we strive to live out our school motto: Honesty, Respect, Care. We aim to develop a community spirit based on Gospel values in the Catholic tradition and are an integral part of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Parish.

Classes are multi-age, with Prep-Year 2, Years 3/4 and Years 5/6. Although a small school, we offer a holistic education through the implementation of contemporary Literacy and Numeracy practices, as well as offering a diverse range of specialist subjects including Robotics, Dance, Music and Drama. We work hard to ensure that all students are encouraged to reach their maximum potential in their learning and as caring and thoughtful members of the community. We encourage all parents to work in partnership with our staff, parish and wider community to maximise every child's growth and success. This supportive and productive environment helps build highly effective relationships, enabling our students to foster a love of learning and realise their potential.

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

Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is a co-educational school offering primary education from Kindergarten to Year 6. We offer a holistic and innovative educational program that leads the way in the Central Highlands. We have a wonderful partnership among staff, parents, students and the wider community to help create the foundation of a caring and inclusive culture which supports the growth of every student. Honesty, Respect and Care are the values that underpin our faith driven culture which develops well-grounded, respectful and community-minded individuals who are ready for bright futures.

Extra Curricula Activities

- All students are encouraged and given the opportunities to take part in our School Masses and School Prayer Assemblies.
- Our School proudly supports the local tradition of marching in the town's ANZAC Day march each year and is always well represented by students, parents, and staff.
- Representative Sport – students are involved in a variety of sporting events at various levels (school, district, Central Highlands, Capricornia). Sports include athletics, swimming, cross country, rugby league, rugby union, soccer, tennis, and netball.
- The school runs a netball competition for the district, inviting any girls or boys throughout the district to be involved in an active and team supportive afterschool activity.
- All Year 5 & 6 students can attend a camp of up to 5 days during the year. Each year level can attend school excursions when they relate to and enhance classroom teachings.
- Our school enters a display in the pavilion at the local show that provides an opportunity for students to show their work to the wider community.
- Our school runs an annual School Art Exhibition for the community at the local art gallery towards the end of the year.
- Every student from Years 3-6 has the opportunity to participate in an instrumental music lesson through their music lessons.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

In working through establishing the integrated curriculum process, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School aims to make Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) integral to learning. To realise this, we aim to achieve a number of goals:

- To take full advantage of the possibilities of ICT to enhance student learning, create efficiencies in delivering education and school administration, and advance lifelong learning.

- To empower teachers and students to make the most of new technologies to create new learning pathways that will equip students to learn for life.
- To connect teachers with professional learning so they can create and employ meaningful and engaging strategies where ICT is integral to learning.
- To support the effective use of ICT for learning by sharing and celebrating success, delivering an underpinning framework of ICT support and maintaining and extending ICT curriculum integration.

Social Climate

Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

The 'MJR- Making Jesus Real', and 'Daniel Morcombe' programs are incorporated into the school curriculum and school life for every child. A school counsellor is employed for one day a fortnight to address children's needs. Religion is taught as a Learning Area for 2.5 hours per week. Religious education is at the core of our school and we continue to enjoy a very good relationship with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish. A whole-school Behaviour Management Policy is in place, with strategies across the school to assist staff in implementing a consistent approach. The aim of the Behaviour Management Plan is to ensure a safe and secure learning environment where all children have access to a range of learning opportunities.

Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Our school has implemented Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) policies on Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff. The school regularly communicates to parents and the school community about cyber safety issues. We also have appropriate policies in place to deal with the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices. Our school has social/emotional learning programs in place to assist students in guarding against bullying at school. We access CEDR representatives to give focused information sessions to parents, staff and students. The school community is kept up to date about developments in this area. All CEDR and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis.

Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

The Parents and Friends Association (P&F) meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month. This organisation conducts fundraising activities for the school to assist with purchasing resources. However, the P&F are primarily committed to generating events that promote a culture of family within the school, providing an avenue for families in the community to get together to share their thoughts, feelings and time together.

The School Board has been in operation for a number of years with new members undergoing an induction program. The Board provides leadership with policy development, financial management, visioning, maintenance and capital works.

We have an open-door policy where parents are welcomed and encouraged to be actively engaged in the school community in a variety of ways depending on their time, talents and interests. Communication between staff and parents is given the highest priority and it is our belief that with open two-way communication our school will continue to flourish as a friendly learning environment. We have incorporated 'Celebration of Learning' days at school and invite families and community into our classrooms, providing an insight into the children's learning and the wonderful work the school does.

Our fortnightly newsletter also provides a vital communication link between the school and families and once a fortnight each class provides a comment for the Newsletter to keep parents informed. We also have a Seesaw and social media page to help inform parents of happenings in the school.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

The school has adopted the Assisi model that has been fundamental in the development of our school as a learning community for sustainability. This model constitutes the Australian Catholic Bishops' Sustainability initiative and is a strategic, systems-based, integrated sustainability initiative that invites all in our community to participate through inquiry, formation and conversation to implement processes for just and sustainable living. It is evident in our school via whole school projects including: solar panels, nude food to reduce waste, recycling bins in eating areas, poultry to recycle food scraps, student led gardens, mission activities, Making Jesus Real Groups, paper recycling and whole school integration of social justice issues within school RE programs.

Characteristics of the Student Body

Current enrolment is 34 students from Prep to Year Six. Our school services the rural community of Springsure in the Central Highlands, which is dependent on the beef, farming, and mining industries. Many of our parents are graziers, farmers, miners or employed by local businesses. The majority of families are middle-class, supportive and very involved in their child's education.

Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2023 was 92.18%.

Management of non-attendance

It is a statutory requirement that students attend school on each school day during the year. Parents/guardians are asked to notify the school via a telephone call, email or note whenever their child is absent. Text alerts are automatically sent each morning to families of children who are absent from the school but have not notified the office. Extended or repeated absence will be reported to the Principal who may require that the reason for absence be supported by a certificate from a medical practitioner. If no contact is made with the school after two days of a child's absence, the school office will telephone the home.

Staffing Information

Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	5.00	4.00	0.00
Full-time equivalents	5.00	2.29	0.00

Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	
Masters	20%
Bachelor Degree	80%
Diploma	
Certificate	

Major Professional Development Initiatives

Staff professional development initiatives included:

- Bishop's Inservice Day and Religious Education Day focusing on formation and evangelisation.
- Workplace Health and Safety procedures and protocols.
- Data collection and the efficient use for improving learning outcomes.
- Catholic Education facilitated conferences (curriculum and leadership focus).
- Student Protection and Protective Behaviours including Safeguarding.
- Staff members engage in professional sharing during staff meetings.
- Staff attended several self-directed professional development activities, including literacy development and Early Years Curriculum.

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 \$5,300.

Average Staff Attendance and Retention

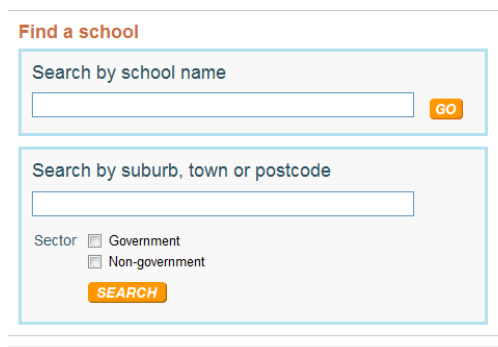
The average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to five days, was 90.34%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 100%.

School Income

<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

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



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Find a school". It contains two main search sections. The first section is "Search by school name" with a text input field and a "GO" button. The second section is "Search by suburb, town or postcode" with a text input field. Below this, there is a "Sector" section with two radio button options: "Government" and "Non-government". At the bottom of the second section is a "SEARCH" button.

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

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School are continually developing ways to use data to drive quality teaching practice. Students have continued to achieve great results in Years 3 and 5 testing with most students achieving at or above expected levels. Standardised reading and mathematics testing is completed on all students to track their progress and give teachers direction for their planning. We are continuing to engage with our reading data from the Diagnostic Reading Assessment (DRA) and Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT). Each year this data is improving with an ever-increasing percentage of our students at or above the expected level for their age.

Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

Strategic progress in 2023

In 2023, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart staff were able to successfully achieve our school improvement goals. Our staff were able to undertake personalised professional development to help strengthen their teaching and learning capacity in the areas of Religious Education, Mathematics and Student Wellbeing. Through ongoing professional development, teachers indicated that they felt confident in knowing the most appropriate school and online resources available to them to teach Religious Education lessons. All OLSH students were able to maintain or meet the Norm Growth for PAT Mathematics assessments. All classes began the journey of Berry Street Trauma Informed Practices in their classrooms and all staff attended whole staff training in January of 2024. Daily at OLSH, teachers are involved in data conversations between the leadership team and classroom teachers to ensure their teaching and learning is appropriately challenging and engaging for all of our students.

Strategic Priorities for 2024

In 2024, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart has developed the following priorities:

- By the end of 2024, students and staff will be familiar with different types of prayer and will improve the invitational nature of our school's prayer life by exposing our school community to the various expressions of prayer.
- By the end of 2024, students will be sitting above the 40th percentile for their year level for PAT Mathematics assessments.
- By the end of 2024, all classes in OLSH will have termly meetings regarding pastoral support data and communicate findings and strategies back to families.
- By the end of 2024, we will build at least three community partnerships that contribute towards authentic learning experiences.

These priorities will be monitored throughout the year and adjusted as necessary, being reported to the parent body and wider community through newsletters, social media and P&F and Board meetings.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

In June 2023, our parents, staff and students were invited to undertake a school satisfaction survey. All four areas (Catholic Ethos and Identity, Leadership, Partnership and Resourcing, Effective Teaching and Learning and Pastoral Support and Wellbeing) of the satisfaction survey for both our parents and teachers averaged above 4.10 out of a total score of 5. Our parents indicated Leadership, Partnership and Resourcing as our highest rated area of the school and our staff indicated Staff Engagement as their highest rated area.

Our highest-rated statements of our satisfaction surveys for both Parents and Staff (all parents and staff indicated agree or strongly agree are):

- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Springsure is well managed and organised.
- Information is communicated effectively.
- Staff at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Springsure respond promptly to my enquiries.
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Springsure is a welcoming and caring community where everyone is treated with respect.
- The teaching of Religion at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Springsure is of a high standard.