



**Brisbane
Catholic
Education**

teaching • challenging • transforming

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORTING – 2016

CATHOLIC EDUCATION, ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

SCHOOL PROFILE

School name St Ambrose's Primary School

Postal address Davidson Street, NEWMARKET, QLD, 4051

Phone (07) 3356 4130

Email pnewmarket@bne.catholic.edu.au

School website www.stambrosesschool.qld.edu.au

Contact person John Hinton

Principal's foreword

St Ambrose's is a connected community, working together to ensure exceptional learning experiences for all within a caring Catholic environment. We are blessed with a range of contemporary facilities, including a multipurpose indoor gymnasium, two new playgrounds, a resource centre, a working garden and air conditioning throughout the school. Students and staff have complete access to technology, including laptops and iPads; all classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and wireless internet connectivity.

At St Ambrose's, we believe in developing the whole child - including their faith and spirituality. It is through our vibrant and contemporary Religious Education program and the religious life of the school that we ensure each child's understanding of faith is developed.

Each class teacher at St Ambrose's is an inspired and passionate educator. This comes from a love of children, a love of learning and a philosophy that is supported by focused professional development. In addition to high quality learning and teaching in the classroom, St Ambrose's also provides specialist lessons in Japanese, Physical Education, Integrated Arts and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics). Our extensive array of co-curriculum and extra-curriculum activities develops the various gifts and talents of our students, many of whom have achieved sporting and academic representative honours through these programs.

School facts

St Ambrose's Primary 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: 267 Girls: 153 Boys: 114

Characteristics of the student body

St Ambrose's School is a Catholic school and part of the Brisbane Catholic Education community of schools. We are a co-educational Prep top Year 6 school, with a student population of 270 (two streams of each class).

Social climate

St Ambrose's strives for exceptional learning and teaching while empowering students to become loving and responsible citizens as governed by a Catholic ethos.

This approach to education is underpinned by our Habits of the Heart: 'Love, Tolerance, Generosity, Hope, Perseverance and Remembering'. The habits are six principles that guide our actions, words and treatment of others. They permeate our community and link us to our heritage.

At St Ambrose's, our strength is in our community. The Habits of the Heart and Good Samaritan Charism create a common language among teachers, parents and students. This allows us to face our challenges and grow together. We 'lead by example' and cooperate to instil a sense of equity and respect within our learners. It is through this ethos that the diverse needs of our students are best met.

St Ambrose's offers the latest in teaching and learning, technology and extra curricular activities. Our mission is to provide students with a stimulating curriculum – enriched by Gospel values – that develops strong, confident individuals who are well equipped to make a positive difference in the world.

Curriculum - our distinctive offerings

Education is our core business. This is inclusive of the Christian focus we provide that stems from the Catholic faith we promote. Our school is committed to the progressive development and implementation of educational strategies that will best serve the learning needs of children in preparation for their life in the 21st century. The core components of our approach to learning are based on research detailing elements that facilitate the best conditions for the human brain to learn most effectively. These core components are:

- a focus on integration of content across Key Learning Areas;
- creating a learning environment marked by an absence of threat;
- providing content that is meaningful and based in real life experiences;
- providing choice for children in regard to their learning;
- allowing adequate time for learning functions to consolidate;
- creating an enriched environment for learning;
- promoting collaborative learning;
- focusing on immediate feedback to assist student assessment; and
- focusing on mastery of learning as the basic test of competence.

Curriculum - our extra curricula activities

St Ambrose's offers a range of extra curriculum activities, including but not limited to:

- School sport (intra and inter school sports carnivals, Catholic education sport gala days, Dance Fever & before school coaching)
- School music (tuition, band and choir programs)
- Chess program
- Speech and Drama program
- International academic testing
- Optiminds
- Gift & talented program

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction

St Ambrose's School is a community drawn together with a common interest - children and learning. St Ambrose's provides many opportunities for students, teachers and parents to liaise, correspond and discuss programs and progress. Students, parents and staff see St Ambrose's School as a welcoming community where children are cared for in a supportive environment which nurtures their sense of belonging and heightens their self worth. P&F Minutes of Meetings and School Newsletters provide a comprehensive overview and feedback mechanism for the school community. In addition, feedback to the principal through Enrolment Interviews from new families consistently endorse the positive reputation of St Ambrose's School.

Parent engagement

Our parent body is highly engaged and actively contributes to the life of the school. Monthly P&F Committee meetings usually involve a very high number of parents coming together to discuss and act in the school's best interest. The P&F also support and organise a wide variety of fundraising initiatives throughout the year in order to provide additional resources for the school community. Our Ambrose Angels is an initiative supported by the P&F - it is one way our school community cares for each other in times of need. The Angels are able to offer support & assistance to families who are experiencing hardship, dealing with illness or injury, coping with bereavement, or adjusting to life with a new baby. They co-ordinate meals, organise school lunch box items, assist with school pick ups or drop offs and/or provide care packages as required.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements - progress towards goals

In 2016, St Ambrose's School set a number of aspiration, yet achievable, goals. Two of these goals were:

1. The development of Action Research Models in relation to the teaching of literacy.
2. The development of Professional Learning Communities that focused on impact of pedagogy and the responsiveness to learning data and student voice.

Both goals were achieved through the implementation of a variety of strategies. Learning data, including NAPLAN results from 2016, showed remarkable progress and achievement. The continuation of PLCs and Action Research Models will continue to be a focus for St Ambrose's School in future years to ensure continued progress and achievement for students.

Future outlook

St Ambrose's School has an inspired future outlook. In 2017 we will be focusing on the achievement of 3 broad goals, these being:

1. Exceptional learning and teaching.
2. Religious Education programming improvements.
3. Development of an Education Brief and Master Plan

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Whole school attendance rate			95.00	%
Prep attendance rate	93.00	%	Year 4 attendance rate	95.00 %
Year 1 attendance rate	96.00	%	Year 5 attendance rate	94.00 %
Year 2 attendance rate	96.00	%	Year 6 attendance rate	95.00 %
Year 3 attendance rate	96.00	%		

Management of non-attendance

St Ambrose's School follows the Brisbane Catholic Education policy in relation to the management of attendance. St Ambrose's expects parents to inform the school of any and all student absences. Where necessary, St Ambrose's take a proactive role in contacting parents directly via text, email or in person to ensure children's safety and well being is a top priority.

NAPLAN results

Average NAPLAN results

	Year 3		Year 5	
	School	Aust.	School	Aust.
Reading	461.36	425.70	547.10	501.70
Writing	430.40	420.50	518.25	475.40
Spelling	435.50	420.10	517.25	492.90
Grammar & punctuation	467.68	436.30	550.65	505.00
Numeracy	431.06	402.20	518.25	492.90

STAFF PROFILE

Workforce composition	Teaching staff	Non-teaching staff
Headcounts	20	11
Full-time equivalents	16.90	6.21
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	0	

Highest level of attainment	Number of teaching staff (teaching staff includes school leaders)
Doctorate	
Masters	6
Post Graduate Diploma/ Certificate	2
Bachelor Degree	12
Diploma/Certificate	

Expenditure on and participation in teacher professional learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2016 was \$ 47000

The major professional development initiatives were as follows

Professional Learning Communities - Action Research Models - Contemporary Learning in a Technology Rich Environment - Visible Learning - Digital Citizenship and Cyber-safety - Habits of the Hearts & Making Jesus Real - CPR + First Aid

Average staff attendance rate The staff attendance rate was 96.46 % in 2016.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2015 school year, 95.0 % of staff were retained by the school for the 2016 year.

SCHOOL INCOME

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/>

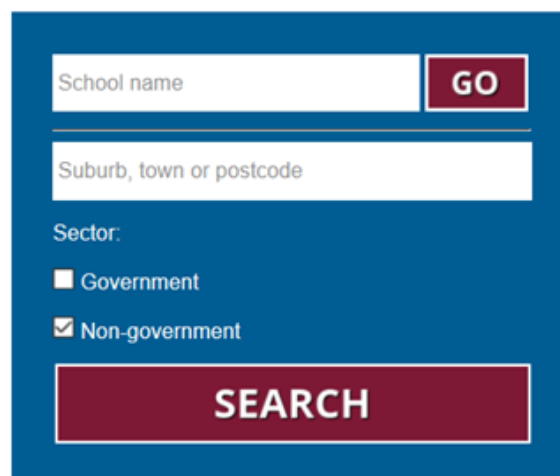
To access our school income details, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following:

'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.

Find a school



The screenshot shows a search interface with a dark blue background. At the top, the text 'Find a school' is displayed. Below this, there are two input fields: 'School name' and 'Suburb, town or postcode'. To the right of the 'School name' field is a red button with the text 'GO'. Below the 'Suburb, town or postcode' field, the text 'Sector:' is followed by two radio button options: 'Government' (which is unselected) and 'Non-government' (which is selected with a checkmark). At the bottom of the form is a large red button with the text 'SEARCH' in white capital letters.