



St Mary's School, LAIDLEY

Annual Report 2021

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a faith-filled learning community
creating a better future.**



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Principal's foreword

The 2021 Annual Report presents information for reporting requirements and informs the wider community of our school's operations and achievements through the year. The report includes information on the school's profile, curriculum delivery, social climate, school funding, workforce composition and student performance.

St Mary's School is located in the Lockyer Valley in the south-eastern corner of Queensland and approximately one hour drive west of Brisbane. St Mary's was established in 1912 by the Sisters of Mercy and has continued to provide quality education for families living in the Lockyer Valley for nearly one hundred years. St Mary's has grown in size over recent years and currently has around 259 students enrolled. Over the past seven years St Mary's School has been fully refurbished and enhanced through the construction of some new modern facilities. The grounds are picturesque and have an outlook over neighbouring farms and up the Mulgowie Valley. This outdoor play space comprises two adventure playgrounds, a large oval, a multi-purpose court and an outdoor living learning environment. Educational partnerships are highly valued at St Mary's, and we strive to engage parents and local community groups within our learning community. St Mary's is a dynamic school that values the gifts and talents of individuals and lifelong learning.

School progress towards its goals in 2021

The explicit improvement agenda for 2021 focused on gaining improvements in building a culture which upholds the Mercy Values, providing a differentiated curriculum to meet the needs of all students and building teacher capacity in interpreting data to inform literacy teaching and planning and use expected and effective practices. In 2021, we completed our BCE School Review which indicated that our school direction was in line with BCE standards and expectations. The data from the review is used to strategically map out the explicit improvement agenda which informs our direction.

The actions we took to achieve this EIA included:

- Professional Development to build teacher capacity in interpreting data
- Developed Parent Engagement Steering Committee
- Developed a strategic marketing plan.

Future outlook

Catholic Identity Goal: By the end of 2022, students and families will be familiar with the Mercy Values from our 'Mercy Way of Being Community'. Catholic Perspectives is planned for and enacted in English.

Strategies:

- Professional development provided to staff.

- Using media platforms to inform parents about Mercy Values.

Diversity and Inclusion Goal: Throughout 2022, continue to build the capacity of staff to ensure NCCD data collection processes and student referral process is followed.

Strategies:

- Extra release time for collection of evidence.
- Professional development on quality differentiation.

Learning and Teaching Goal: By the end of the year, there will be improvements in student reading as demonstrated by PAT-R, NAPLAN Reading & Literacy Monitoring results.

Strategies:

- Moderation sessions
- Teacher Learning Walks
- Planning and Data days
- Whole School Professional Learning Plan developed.

Wellbeing Goal: By the end of the year, student attendance will be above 80%.

Strategies:

- Raise awareness about the importance of student attendance through parent information nights and social media.
- Monitoring class attendance data.

Organisational Effectiveness Goal: By the end of the year, we will continue to improve enrolments across the whole school and specifically Prep 2022.

Strategies:

- Continuing development and implementation of the marketing plan.

Our school at a glance

School profile

St Mary's School is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Year levels offered in 2021: Primary

Student enrolments for this school:

	Total	Girls	Boys	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
2021	255	116	139	18

Student counts are based on the Census (August) enrolment collection.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School student body is represented by boys and girls aged five to thirteen years old. In 2021 the school had an enrolment of 259 students. Students draw from a vast area across the Lockyer Valley to attend St Mary's. The school is in the Lockyer Valley approximately 9km for the Warrego Highway and students live on farms and within the town itself. The student body is made up of students from very diverse backgrounds. Approximately 8% of students identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Twelve students are from homes where English is a second language. The range of backgrounds provide an environment that is rich with culture and diverse. At St Mary's we have students enrolled who are from a variety of faiths. Including Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican and Uniting Church. Students at St Mary's have varied interests including dancing, sporting, artist, equestrian and

sporting pursuits. The St Mary's curriculum is aligned to the National Curriculum and is specifically framed to meet the needs of all students in each class. It is focused on meeting the student's academic, spiritual, physical and social needs through a range of student directed and teacher directed learning experiences. Students upon finishing their studies tend to go to Sophia College, Plainland and a small percentage go to Laidley High School and Faith Lutheran.

Curriculum implementation

Curriculum overview

At St Mary's the school curriculum is aligned to the National Curriculum and is specifically framed to meet the needs of the students in each class. It is focused on meeting the student's academic, spiritual, physical and social needs through a range of student-directed and teacher-directed learning experiences. These prepared learning experiences consider the needs of the individuals at St Mary's and are aimed to be meaningful, fun, challenging, play-based, integrated and flexible.

Staff at St Mary's actively participated in professional development that enhance student learning and development. This professional development broad ranging across the curriculum and included the areas of Mathematics, Literacy, History and Social and Emotional well-being. St Mary's continued the teaching of the Japanese language for students in Prep to Year six. In accordance with the Brisbane Catholic Education Guidelines, we aim to build "foundations for learning which are life long and life giving".

Extra-curricular activities

At St Mary's School we provide several different activities that complement the day-to-day teaching of students. These activities are an important part of school life here at St Mary's and would often not happen if it weren't for the generosity of many staff, parents and other community members.

These activities include.

- Japanese
- Speed-soccer
- Cross country
- Athletics
- Swimming
- Mini Blasters Cricket.

How information and communication technologies are used to assist learning

St Mary's has continued to make ICT a priority for resourcing, learning, and teaching. The school is now equipped with up-to-date technology which is available to all students. St Mary's have a strategic digital succession plan to ensure we are supporting their learning and they are prepared for the future.

- Students in Prep-Year 1 have class set of iPads.
- Years 2/3 have access to 1:1 iPads.
- Years 4-6 have 1:1 laptops.

Social climate

Overview

The St Mary's Learning Community prides itself on being supportive and welcoming. These attributes guide the interactions between students, staff, parents and the wider parish community. Students, staff and parents have opportunities to be involved in pastoral care projects and activities such as: Buddy Groups, The Mercy Values Program, Catholic Mission Appeal and strategic fundraising to support causes that affect our community. St Mary's prides itself on following our 'Mercy Way of Being' which is based on respect and does not tolerate bullying and promptly addresses disrespectful and inappropriate behaviour. St Mary's uses support staff to proactively support students with Positive Behaviour Support.

Parent, student and staff satisfaction

The tables below show selected items from the Parent/Caregiver, Student and Staff BCE Listens Surveys.

BCE Listens Survey - Parent satisfaction

Performance measure	
Percentage of parents/carers who agree [#] that:	2020
This school helps my child to develop their relationship with God	100.0%
School staff demonstrate the school's Catholic Christian values	100.0%
Teachers at this school have high expectations for my child	96.3%
Staff at this school care about my child	98.1%
I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns	96.3%
Teachers at this school encourage me to take an active role in my child's education	90.7%
My child feels safe at this school	96.3%
The facilities at this school support my child's educational needs	100.0%
This school looks for ways to improve	96.3%
I am happy my child is at this school	98.1%

BCE Listens Survey - Student satisfaction

Performance measure	
Percentage of students who agree [#] that:	2020
My school helps me develop my relationship with God	84.9%
I enjoy learning at my school	90.9%
Teachers expect me to work to the best of my ability in all my learning	96.6%
Feedback from my teacher helps me learn	92.0%
Teachers at my school treat me fairly	88.6%
If I was unhappy about something at school I would talk to a school leader or teacher about it	77.3%
I feel safe at school	87.5%
I am happy to be at my school	89.8%

BCE Listens Survey - Staff satisfaction

Performance measure	
Percentage of staff who agree [#] that:	2020
Working at this school helps me to have a deeper understanding of faith	95.5%
School staff demonstrate this school's Catholic Christian values	95.5%
This school acts on staff feedback	68.2%
This school looks for ways to improve	95.5%
I am recognised for my efforts at work	81.8%
In general students at this school respect staff members	100.0%
This school makes student protection everyone's responsibility	95.5%
I enjoy working at this school	86.4%

[#] 'Agree' represents the percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement.
DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Family and community engagement

At St Mary's we recognise that parents are and always will be the primary educators of their children. We aim to support, promote, and build on this foundation through encouraging parent involvement within the school. At St Mary's we see parents as a key stakeholder in the three way partnership of student education and is, therefore, highly valued and appreciated. Parent help occurs in a variety of ways from direct support in excursion helpers and support in classrooms. Along with these areas, St Mary's has developed a Parent Engagement Steering Committee to increase parent engagement in student learning and build strong partnerships with parents and families. Parental and community assistance is both welcomed and encouraged as our school learning environment is enhanced through their ongoing support. St Mary's continues to hold regular meetings to consult parents regarding the adjustments made to assist students with diverse needs to ensure they have full access to the curriculum.

School funding

School income broken down by funding source

School income, reported by financial year accounting cycle using standardized national methodologies and broken down by funding source is available via the *My School* website.

How to access income details

1. Click on the *My School* link <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.
2. Enter the school name or suburb of the school you wish to search.

The screenshot shows the 'Find a school' section of the My School website. It features a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search by school name or suburb' and a 'Go' button. Below the search bar are three dropdown menus labeled 'School sector', 'School type', and 'State'. The top of the page has a dark blue header with 'Find a school' and 'Search website' links.

3. Click on 'View School Profile' of the appropriate school to access the school's profile.

A rectangular button with a dark blue border and the text 'View School Profile' in dark blue.

4. Click on 'Finances' and select the appropriate year to view the school financial information.

The screenshot shows a navigation bar with several tabs: 'School profile', 'NAPLAN', 'Attendance', 'Finances', 'VET in schools', 'Senior secondary', and 'Schools map'. The 'Finances' tab is currently selected and highlighted in dark blue.

Note: If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a hard copy of the school's financial information.

Our staff profile

Workforce composition

Description	Teaching Staff*	Non-Teaching Staff
Headcount	20	15
Full-time Equivalents	18.2	8.3

*Teaching staff includes School Leaders

Qualification of all teachers*

Highest level of qualification	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	1
Graduate diploma etc.**	0
Bachelor degree	19
Diploma	0
Certificate	0

*Teaching staff includes School Leaders

**Graduate diploma etc. includes graduate diploma, bachelor honours degree, and graduate certificate.

Professional development

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Embedding Catholic Perspectives
- Curriculum – collaborative planning and data days
- Leadership
- First Aid
- Early Career Teachers Mentoring.

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2021 was 90%.

Staff attendance and retention

Average staff attendance

Description	%
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders	95.6%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 78% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2021.

Performance of our students

Key student outcomes

Student attendance

The overall student attendance rate in 2021 for all Brisbane Catholic Education schools across years Prep-6 was 92.4%.

Description	%
The overall attendance rate* for the students at this school	91.7%
Attendance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at this school	83.3%

Average attendance rate per year level			
Prep attendance rate	91.4%	Year 4 attendance rate	94.4%
Year 1 attendance rate	88.2%	Year 5 attendance rate	93.4%
Year 2 attendance rate	91.3%	Year 6 attendance rate	90.5%
Year 3 attendance rate	91.0%		

*The student attendance rate is generated by dividing the total of full-days and part-days that students attended, and comparing this to the total of all possible days for students to attend, expressed as a percentage.

Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Procedure for Student Absenteeism

When a child is absent:

- Parents are to contact the school office or via parent portal on the day of the absence.
- Parents are to contact the school as early as possible and give their child's name, grade level, and reason for the absence.
- Parents should advise the school when they think their child will return.

Roll Marking

- All class rolls are marked in the morning at 8:30am
- If a child is absent at roll call and they are unexplained, parents will receive an SMS to explain reason for absences.
- Class rolls are then marked at 1:40pm

If a child is away for more than three days and their parents haven't notified the school, their classroom teacher will contact the parents to check in and offer support.

Strategies to improve Attendance:

- Informing parents and carers about the importance of attendance in school newsletter
- Speaking to students on assembly about the importance of attendance
- At the beginning of each term teachers speak with students about the importance of attendance and discuss class reward.
- Class Data is given to staff every week so they can track their progress.

NAPLAN

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 NAPLAN tests are available via the [My School](http://www.myschool.edu.au/) website.

How to access our NAPLAN results

5. Click on the *My School* link <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.
6. Enter the school name or suburb of the school you wish to search.

A screenshot of the search bar on the My School website. It features a search input field with the placeholder text "Search by school name or suburb". To the right of the input field are three dropdown menus labeled "School sector", "School type", and "State". A magnifying glass icon is positioned to the right of the "State" dropdown.

7. Click on 'View School Profile' of the appropriate school to access the school's profile.



8. Click on 'NAPLAN' to access the school NAPLAN information.



Notes:

1. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a hard copy of the school's NAPLAN results.
2. The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy ([NAPLAN](http://www.naplan.edu.au/)) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.