



**St Sebastian's Primary
School, YERONGA**

Annual Report 2021

**Brisbane Catholic Education is
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 Sebastian's Catholic Primary School, Yeronga, is a co-educational, Catholic Primary School providing educational excellence for students from Prep to Year Six. The St Sebastian's School Community is made up of children, parents, teachers and staff who aim to uphold its motto "Faith, Love & Knowledge" by having a welcoming, inclusive and positive environment.

This document reports on the definitive characteristics of St Sebastian's School which are identified in the school Mission, Vision and Values Statement and the ability of the school community to bring this document to life. Pastoral Care of students is reported as a community responsibility which has its foundations in Gospel Values, in mandated educational experiences through the professional and caring work of the school staff in partnership with families. The high quality of the educational experience for students at this school is due to year level team-based planning for engaging learning experiences, based on the monitoring of student learning data and progress, combined with the participation of staff in whole school quality professional development. Students come to school understanding the value of education and looking forward to active participation in their own learning, through the implementation of the Saint Sebastian's Active Learner Dispositions. A variety of extracurricular activities and distinctive curriculum offerings available assist in ensuring that a diversity of student interests can be satisfied.

School progress towards its goals in 2021

Our 2021 yearly goals were organised under the areas of Strong Catholic Identity, Excellent Learning and Teaching and Building a Sustainable Future. In the area of Catholic Identity, we achieved our goals so that we:

- embedded Catholic perspectives into our planning
- completed professional development in meditative prayer to enable quality implementation in the classroom
- further developed and implemented our staff spiritual formation plan embracing the charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- critiqued and implemented our school Reconciliation Action Plan.

Our reading goals continued to be based on BCE aspirational goals of 95% students reaching identified level. From Prep-Year 2 all students made progress with their learning, however 75%-88% of students met these goals. To address this concern, investment has been made in research-based literacy intervention programmes, to complement the effective learning and teaching occurring in classrooms for 2022. Enhancement of student engagement in their learning was achieved through participation of teachers in the Deepening Learning through iPads sessions run in conjunction with BCE. 8 teachers

participated in this project, enhancing the use of ICT to improve pedagogical practice in the classroom. Teachers and students participated in professional development and learning around the digital technology curriculum, specifically in coding and robotics. BCE Education Officers came into classes and worked with students and teachers to implement One Note and other programs from the Microsoft 365 suite, enabling a more integrated approach. We continued to facilitate transparent and sustainable practices to support the environment and financial viability of our school.

Our Year 6 team of students who participated in the Opti-MINDS Challenge won their regional division and moved forward to the state level presentation.

Future outlook

Over 2022, within the area of Catholic Identity, St Sebastian's aims to increase engagement in the area of Religious Education through a focus upon a reconceptualised and recontextualised approach. This will be achieved through professional development led by our EORE and guided planning sessions with the APRE. Student engagement should be reflected in the quality of student work gained in assessment. Staff will continue to be provided with opportunities to develop and explore their own spirituality through the provision of twilight Professional Development sessions, focussing on the charism of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop and Catholic Anthropology.

Whilst the students at Saint Sebastian's achieve well in Mathematics, examination of NAPLAN student data found that many students achievements stayed the same across years 3-5. This data has led to the identification of the area of Mathematics as our explicit improvement agenda for 2022. Through development of a deeper knowledge of the Australian curriculum, and strategies to increase differentiation, we aim for ALL students to progress in their results. The implementation of the Mini-Lit literacy intervention program for students who may be struggling with reading is aimed to provide these students with a consistent, focussed, targeted instruction to assist these students to read.

Increasingly the emotional resilience of our students has been seen to need addressing. In 2022 furthered development of explicitly linked teaching of our school's Active Learner Dispositions in combination with school rules, personal and social capabilities, and the Positive Education Enhanced Curriculum both in the classroom and in mixed vertical groupings and assemblies will provide students with skills and strategies to assist.

Our school's Reconciliation Action Plan has been published and through revisiting this once a Semester with staff we will integrate new ways to engage with its content and critique its implementation to ensure diversity of views.

Ongoing monitoring of the school budget, in conjunction with the financial accountant and the BCE support accountant will ensure continued sustainable management of school resources through the budget. Marketing opportunities for enrolments will continue to be sought with increased Principal tours, opportunities to engage with the media, signage, social media presence and active promotion of the school through school tours and engagement with local kindergartens and childcare centres.

Our school at a glance

School profile

St Sebastian's Primary 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	205	110	95	1

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

St Sebastian's School has an inclusive, coeducational enrolment policy. The school predominantly draws students from families living in the local area, with a smaller number attending who live in outer suburbs with parent/s who work in, or towards, the city. Being less than 10 kilometres from the CBD, Yeronga is middle class aspirational reflecting the price of real estate and the largely professional background of parents. The student population includes a small percentage who have English as a Second Language and some students verified with a disability. The majority of our students have been baptised into the Catholic Church.

Most students completing Year 6 attend Our Lady's College, Annerley; All Hallow's School, Brisbane; and St Laurence's College, South Brisbane. Some male students also opt to leave after Year 4 to commence at St Laurence's College for their Middle Years education.

Curriculum implementation

Curriculum overview

At St Sebastian's, teachers focus on providing challenging and stimulating experiences and opportunities that enable all students from Prep to Year 6 to explore and build on their talents. Learning is student centred, differentiated and targeted to needs.

We implement the eight learning areas, general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities of the Australian Curriculum. We also provide a high-quality Religious Education program where students learn about the area of Religion and are given opportunities to participate in prayer and social justice activities. We use effective, data informed teaching practices to implement the curriculum and hold high expectations for all learners. St Sebastian's has a multi-age, student-centred approach to learning to meet the needs of all students and a Learning Enhancement Teacher is employed to assist in differentiation of learning.

We also offer:

- an extensive music, choir and performance program as well as an instrumental music program.
- Physical Education lessons involving a range of sporting activities for students provided by a PE specialist each week.
- weekly LOTE (Japanese) lessons for all students in Prep to Year 6.
- participation in the Opti-MINDS challenge.
- Participation in Catholic, District and State sporting events and an interschool sport competition.
- Swimming, Gymnastics and Dance programs.
- participation in events with the local RSL such as Anzac Day celebrations.
- school camps for students in Years 4 to 6.
- an extensive leadership program for our Year 5 and 6 students based on servant leadership.

Extra-curricular activities

The following extra-curricular activities are offered to students at St Sebastian's:

- Instrumental music lessons
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) and Vacation Care on our school site
- Junior Engineers Coding and Robotics
- Private chess lessons
- Private speech and drama lessons
- Support of the Parish Sacramental Program
- Support of the local chapter of St Vincent De Paul, Catholic Mission, Caritas and the Sisters of St Joseph's
- Before School Run Club and Athletics Development Club
- Go Sports – variety of sports offered

How information and communication technologies are used to assist learning

At St Sebastian's students use information and communication technologies (ICT) to appropriately access, create and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively across all learning areas. Each student from Years P-6 has individual access to either a laptop or an iPad. A range of ICT devices are available to assist students to adapt to new ways of doing things and evolving technology. Students develop knowledge, skills and dispositions, and the ability to transfer these across environments and applications.

Students work to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to apply the use of technology across learning areas. They apply their skills to information access and management, information creation and presentation, problem-solving, decision-making, communication, creative expression and empirical reasoning. Design and computational thinking skill development are complemented with technology. Students learn to use ICT with confidence, care and consideration, understanding its possibilities, limitations and impact on individuals, groups and communities. Assistive technologies are a valuable asset to adjust learning experiences to meet the needs of students with varying needs e.g. use of immersive reader.

Social climate

Overview

St Sebastian's School is a small, welcoming community, situated in the suburb of Yeronga. We aim to enable all of our community to grow in faith, love and knowledge based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. St Sebastian's implements the Positive Education Enhanced Curriculum, a social well-being program throughout all year levels, integrating this positive approach to well-being with elements of the Australian Health and Physical Education Curriculum and the Personal and Social Capabilities from the Australian Curriculum.

Our school theme for 2021 was "We Are Active Learners" and was used as a tool to integrate our five new learner dispositions, Collaborate, Explore, Be Organised, Reflect, and Show Courage. This theme was used as a resource for bringing the school community together with a common focus, teaching children to work as a team and to become the best reflective learners that they can be while having fun and caring for one another. As part of our theme, and by incorporating our school rules, each learning group creates a class covenant for the year as a commitment to learning and being part of their group.

Our St Sebastian's School Behaviour Plan also reinforces the teaching of positive behaviours and mind-frames. These programs give a framework to the other regular school activities such as Buddies, Inter-school Sport, our Leadership Program for Years 5 and 6, Vertical Pastoral Care Groups, assemblies that

address our beliefs and values, Monday Morning Prayer, School Rules and our Vision for Learners and Learning.

The school week begins with a prayer session on a Monday morning where the school community reflects on the Sunday Gospel to prepare for the week ahead.

Our supportive body of parents and carers support the school in the education of our students through active involvement in the school Parents and Friends association, volunteering to assist in classroom events, and in a range of social and fundraising activities across the year. Parent information sessions are offered to enhance the partnership between the school and the family to educate the St Sebastian's students.

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	97.4%
School staff demonstrate the school's Catholic Christian values	94.9%
Teachers at this school have high expectations for my child	84.2%
Staff at this school care about my child	100.0%
I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns	87.2%
Teachers at this school encourage me to take an active role in my child's education	84.6%
My child feels safe at this school	97.4%
The facilities at this school support my child's educational needs	87.2%
This school looks for ways to improve	94.7%
I am happy my child is at this school	97.4%

BCE Listens Survey - Student satisfaction

Performance measure	
Percentage of students who agree [#] that:	2020
My school helps me develop my relationship with God	96.2%
I enjoy learning at my school	96.4%
Teachers expect me to work to the best of my ability in all my learning	98.2%
Feedback from my teacher helps me learn	98.2%
Teachers at my school treat me fairly	96.4%
If I was unhappy about something at school I would talk to a school leader or teacher about it	78.6%
I feel safe at school	85.7%
I am happy to be at my school	81.8%

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	100.0%
School staff demonstrate this school's Catholic Christian values	100.0%
This school acts on staff feedback	100.0%
This school looks for ways to improve	100.0%
I am recognised for my efforts at work	93.8%
In general students at this school respect staff members	100.0%
This school makes student protection everyone's responsibility	100.0%
I enjoy working at this school	100.0%

[#] '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

"Every day is open day at St Sebastian's". This is our philosophy regarding involvement of families and the community within our school. The Covid 19 Pandemic continued to impact on this throughout some of 2021, however under normal circumstances, parents were welcome within our classrooms through participation in literacy and numeracy activities, group work and special celebratory days such as "Mary MacKillop Day". Families are encouraged to volunteer to assist within the school for fundraising events, tuckshop, and Friday BBQ. In 2021 our school engaged with the local community through local fundraising events such as our Fete. Our community assists charities such as St Vincent de Paul, Caritas and Catholic Mission.

Parents are vital as partners in their child's education as they are the first educators of their children. All students are given student voice during three-way conferences involving their learning where individual goals are discussed and reflected upon. Teachers use effective and expected practices to differentiate classroom learning. Where necessary learner action plans are created to support classroom learning. The Support Teacher Inclusive Education, Guidance Counsellor, Primary Learning Leader, class teachers and parents are involved in this planning and reflection. In case of special needs enrolments, a supported enrolment process involving all parties is commenced the year before enrolment to assist with the student's transition to school.

Other methods of engagement are:

- The school newsletter is electronically delivered to parents.
- Class parent coordinators deliver messages and organise social activities and support for fundraising activities
- The school and P&F have worked together to establish a Parent Portal to further enhance communication between school and home.

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.

Find a school

Search website

Search by school name or suburb

Go

School sector

School type

State

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

View School Profile

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

School profile

NAPLAN

Attendance

Finances

VET in schools

Senior secondary

Schools map

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	23	16
Full-time Equivalents	15.9	6.1

*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	7
Graduate diploma etc.**	8
Bachelor degree	7
Diploma	1
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 in 2021 were as follows:

- Implementation of our Active Learner Dispositions and how they were embedded into the classroom through the model of pedagogy
- Collection and interpretation of data
- Moderation of student work
- The majority of staff from Prep-Year 4 participated in the "Deepening Learning through iPads" sessions to ensure ICT capabilities were developed with the use of the native apps
- Maths – Deepening staff understanding of Multiplicative Thinking and the 'Launch, Explore, Summarise' model to enhance differentiation
- NAPLAN Online Training for the introduction of this test format
- RAP plan implementation through engagement with John Maume from Benarrawa Community Development Association
- Writing Analysis Tool and collaboration
- Staff Spiritual Formation in the area of Catholic Tradition
- Leadership forums
- PLL and APRE cluster meetings
- Use of Microsoft 365 suite and applications for use in the classrooms.

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2021 was 100%.

Staff attendance and retention

Average staff attendance

Description	%
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders	96.9%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 84% 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	94.7%
Attendance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at this school	92.9%

Average attendance rate per year level			
Prep attendance rate	94.5%	Year 4 attendance rate	95.8%
Year 1 attendance rate	94.0%	Year 5 attendance rate	95.0%
Year 2 attendance rate	94.5%	Year 6 attendance rate	93.6%
Year 3 attendance rate	95.0%		

*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

Rolls are marked twice daily at 9:00am and 2:00pm. Students arriving to school after 8:55am must be signed in at the office and receive a late slip to hand to their teacher. Parents are requested to notify the school via the school office, by phone, note or via our BCE Connect App if their child is absent. If an absence is unexplained, an SMS message will be made by the office to the student's family to investigate.

The importance of school attendance, and the effect of absence upon a student's learning is discussed in the school handbook, at our prep information evening and at class parent teacher information evenings at the beginning of the year. Reminders are regularly placed in our fortnightly newsletters regarding the importance of regular attendance. If continued or regular periods of absence are noted, contact is made with the parents/caregivers by the class teacher/and or administration to follow up reasons.

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

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.

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

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



4. 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.