



**Mater Dei Catholic Primary
School, ASHGROVE WEST**

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.

Mater Dei Catholic Primary School is an inner city, co-educational, Catholic primary school situated in the leafy suburb of Ashgrove West. Most children reside in the suburbs of Ashgrove West, Ashgrove, The Gap, Samford, Mitchelton, and Enoggera. Mater Dei comprises of children, parents/carers and staff who uphold the school's motto "Caritas" (care and concern) by being a welcoming, inclusive, and joy-filled community working together to inspire children with a love of learning and a heart of hope. We promote a quality, safe environment where learning is relevant, motivating, and meaningful that empowers our children to develop the knowledge, skills and Christian values needed for life's journey.

Our school boasts flexible learning spaces, a contemporary and well-resourced library with a iHub where children are encouraged to be creative, critical thinkers and problem-solvers. The school also provides a range of extra-curricular activities that interact with community groups in the local and wider community. Mater Dei is a place where children are known by name; are encouraged to learn and reach their full potential; are encouraged to pursue a deep and loving relationship with our God; and are encouraged to be active participants who can shape and enrich our world.

School progress towards its goals in 2021

Goal	Progress
To deepen the spiritual, scriptural, and theological capacity of our students and staff through a recontextualised world view	Ongoing
To meet school and system Literacy targets for all year levels	Achieved
To consolidate the Mater Dei attendance rate at or above 90%	Achieved
To transform teaching practice to engage students in deeper learning opportunities using Inquiry-based learning and Design Thinking processes	Ongoing
To build a talented and high-performance staff. In 2021 we focused on engaging with and embedding evidence-based, consistent pedagogical practices that stretch and challenge students in English (focusing on reading)	Achieved

Future outlook

In 2022, we are looking forward to further strengthening our Catholic Identity by reviewing our school's Vision and Mission statements as well as developing a set of school values that underpin these statements and reflect a recontextualised catholic worldview.

We will also continue to embed consistent and evidence-based pedagogical practices in the teaching of English, especially in reading focusing on student individual reading goals, effective feedback and assessment that stretches and challenges students. We are also looking forward to developing positive

partnerships with a cluster school by participating in regular professional conversations around effective planning processes and moderating assessments to improve student learning outcomes. Building a high-quality professional teaching staff will also continue to be a focus in 2021 ensuring teacher professional goal setting reflects our school’s explicit improvement agenda.

Our school at a glance

School profile

Mater Dei Catholic Primary School is a primary 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	202	105	97	1

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

Mater Dei’s student body remains a largely homogenous group in 2021 with most of our students born in Australia. While a small percentage of students were born outside of Australia, they are Australian citizens by descent, having at least one parent an Australian citizen. A small number of students identify with English as a second language with only one student and one staff member in the school community identifying as First Nations people. Our student body comes from diverse family backgrounds, where parents are well-educated, with most holding tertiary qualifications. Our families live locally in Ashgrove West, Ashgrove, and The Gap with more families commuting from Mitchelton, Enoggera, Samford, and Everton Park. Most students leaving Mater Dei will transition to Catholic secondary schools with the majority enrolling at Marist College, Mount Saint Michael’s, Stuartholme College, St Joseph’s, Gregory Terrace, and All Hallows’ School.

Curriculum implementation

Curriculum overview

Our dedicated staff pride themselves in delivering the Australian curriculum using contemporary, evidence-based pedagogies that support the individual learning styles of all students. Specialist teachers work with classroom teachers and provide rich learning experiences for all students. French is now taught from Prep to Year 6. Physical Education, Music and Visual Arts also expand on classroom programs by focussing on specific skill development. Our curriculum incorporates the Learning Areas of Religion, Maths, English, Science, HASS, The Arts, Design and Digital Technologies, LOTE, Health and Physical Education. Each unit is planned collaboratively in Year Level Teaching Teams catering for the individual differences, preferences, and the specific needs of our learners. Our students' learning is supported by a variety of digital devices. In Prep to Year 2 we have a ratio of 1:2 iPads and a 1:1 iPad program in Years 3 to 6. A weekly onsite technician maintains our digital devices and network. Our students also have access to a contemporary library and iHub supported by our Teacher-Librarian. Our Support Team collaborates with external providers and professionals to respond to individual needs of students in the school context. They also work across the school allowing for individual, small group and whole class intervention and differentiation to meet the needs of all learners.

Extra-curricular activities

Mater Dei offers a range of extra curricula activities for student participation. These include:

- Inter school sport participation- Gala Sport, Zone, and District competitions in Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics, Netball, Soccer, AFL and Touch football;
- An Instrumental Music program for students from Prep to Year 6;
- Mater Dei Dance;
- Speech & Drama;
- Robotics club;
- Public Speaking;
- Debating;
- Reader's Cup;
- UNSW Science, Maths and English competitions;
- Camps for Years 4 & 5 (Noosa North Shore) and Year 6 travel to Tangalooma Resort;
- Leadership retreats for Year 6 at the beginning and end of the year;
- Senior School Choir is offered for Middle and Senior Primary children;
- Senior School Choir participation in QCMF and the ANZAC Day Service;
- Junior Choir is offered to all Year 2 students.
- Mini-Vinnie's Junior branch of St Vincent de Paul (Years 5 and 6);
- Buddy system between Senior Primary and Prep children;
- Year 6 Students participate in a variety of leadership opportunities including leading assembly, Sacred Time, Open Days, Peer Mediators, visits to the local kindy's and representation at community events;
- Community Sport Groups offer a variety of programs- Brisbane Roar, AusKick, Go Sports;
- Parish Based Sacramental programs; and
- A variety of incursion and excursion opportunities for all students.

How information and communication technologies are used to assist learning

In 2021, the school continued to provide funds to upgrade the digital tools used at the school. Teachers and students now have access to a variety of digital resources that supports learning. Technologies include short throw projectors and whiteboard screens, 70-inch smart televisions, Apple TVs, iPads with external keyboards, Lego Mindstorms EV3s, Lego Wedos 2.0, BeeBots, a Lego wall, green screen and Makey Makey's. We have a 1:1 ratio of iPads from Years 3 to 6 and a 1:2 ratio in Prep to Year 2. All teaching staff have been provided with a new iPad and a MacBook Air to enable a seamless integration of technology across the school. Teachers continue to engage with the Digital Technologies and the Design and Technologies curriculums as well as embedding digital capabilities within the learning and teaching process. Our students are encouraged to use these devices as tools to communicate, create, collaborate, and apply critical thinking skills while engaging in their learning. This access to a variety of information technologies proved advantageous during Alternative Education Provisions which offered online learning during COVID-19 lockdowns. Staff continue to engage with a variety of Microsoft Office 365 apps to support learning and teaching.

Social climate

Overview

At Mater Dei, we pride ourselves as being a safe, welcoming and inclusive community. We have implemented a variety of strategies to ensure a harmonious school environment. These include:

1. The 'Play is the Way' Program which assists our students in developing strong, emotional, and social capabilities and resilience. This program is taught across the whole school each week by class teachers.
2. Explicitly teaching our school's "Behaviour Matrix" through C.A.R.E. (**C**are for Environment; **A**ct safely; **R**espect self and others; and **E**xcellence in learning).
3. Acknowledging special milestones in the lives of our children such as celebrations of welcome, farewell and graduation as well as regular recognition of student achievement, effort and behaviour at school assemblies, in school newsletters and on school social media platforms.

4. Participating in a whole school "Wellness Week" in the seventh week of each school term.
5. Engagement in leadership opportunities for children in Senior Primary (Years 5 and 6). These activities include Prep and Year 1 buddies; leading assemblies and whole school Monday morning Prayer; Peer Mediators; Bokashi collection; leading sport, social and academic activities; and leading opportunities in raising awareness for those individuals less fortunate than us through our Caritas groups -Mini-Vinnies, Project Compassion and Catholic Missions.
6. Participation in Bullying No Way; Daniel Morcombe Day; Harmony Day; Naidoc Week; and National Reconciliation Day.
7. Participation in Pastoral group activities.
8. Celebrating our Catholic Identity during Feast Days and religious traditions.

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	94.2%
Teachers at this school have high expectations for my child	92.3%
Staff at this school care about my child	96.2%
I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns	94.2%
Teachers at this school encourage me to take an active role in my child's education	94.2%
My child feels safe at this school	96.2%
The facilities at this school support my child's educational needs	98.1%
This school looks for ways to improve	98.0%
I am happy my child is at this school	94.1%

BCE Listens Survey - Student satisfaction

Performance measure	
Percentage of students who agree# that:	2020
My school helps me develop my relationship with God	92.5%
I enjoy learning at my school	94.0%
Teachers expect me to work to the best of my ability in all my learning	100.0%
Feedback from my teacher helps me learn	97.0%
Teachers at my school treat me fairly	88.1%
If I was unhappy about something at school I would talk to a school leader or teacher about it	76.1%
I feel safe at school	95.5%
I am happy to be at my school	86.6%

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	95.7%
School staff demonstrate this school's Catholic Christian values	100.0%
This school acts on staff feedback	81.8%
This school looks for ways to improve	95.7%
I am recognised for my efforts at work	82.6%
In general students at this school respect staff members	90.9%
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

At Mater Dei Catholic Primary School, we have a strong culture of parental involvement and engagement in all school activities. Family and community engagement are both highly valued and viewed as a critical component of the educational team working together for the benefit of each child. Parental involvement is always welcomed and encouraged at Mater Dei. In 2021, the school continued to have a very active P&F Association who assisted the school in collaborative decision making, providing personal expertise where relevant. In particular, the school invites and encourages our families to become involved on a regular basis in activities such as:

- Parent /Teacher Meetings and Parent Information evenings;
- Mater Dei Parents & Friends Association;
- Volunteering in classrooms or at the tuckshop;
- Assisting at special events or offering support at sport carnivals such as Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics at a school, zone or district level.
- Volunteering as a Class Parent Representative;
- Developing grant applications for the school; and
- Assisting with fundraising at annual school events such as Music in the Moonlight, Trivia night, beginning of the Year Fun Day; Mother's Day and Father's Day gatherings, Mater Dei Ladies lunch, Father's day out; and the end of year Christmas Concert.

Active parent/carer engagement in our school is a recognisable feature of the Mater Dei community. We encourage parents/carers to participate in surveys and informal chats to share ideas and for the school to receive feedback on initiatives. In 2021, we continued working with a landscape architect to help design the Stage 1 Playground (as part of our Master Plan) for the school. We also began to reach out to the wider community including our local C&K Kindergartens; we worked with the Ashgrove/The Gap Lions club and engaged in a research project with the University of Queensland to measure the carbon dioxide levels in our classrooms.

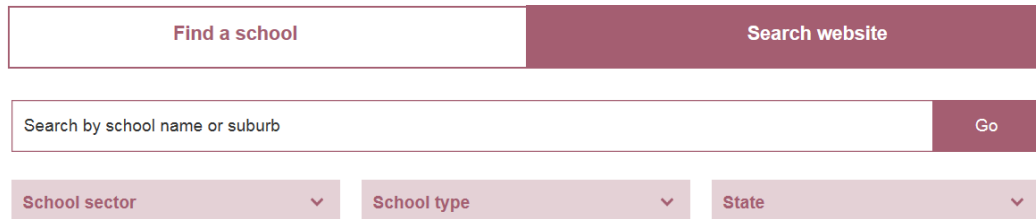
School funding

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	19	15
Full-time Equivalents	15.3	6.4

*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	3
Graduate diploma etc.**	2
Bachelor degree	14
Diploma	0
Certificate	0

*Teaching staff includes School Leaders

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

Professional development

During 2021 a significant amount of professional development was directed towards upskilling teaching staff in embedding contemporary, research-based pedagogies that improve learning outcomes in English, specifically stretching and challenging students in the teaching of reading. Professional learning for the provision of individual needs of students, as well as NCCD requirements was also included. Teaching staff engaged with system driven and external professional learning opportunities either at external venues for in-service days or on-site at school for planning days, data wall conversations, Reviews and Responses and Matrix meetings. Our APRE supported staff in strengthening our Strong Catholic Identity by engaging with two of the Formation for Mission modules. Other professional learning included First Aid and all mandatory online training courses (Student Protection, Code of Conduct, Health and Safety: H&S Awareness, Health and Safety: Fire First Response and Evacuations, Prevention of Workplace Bullying, Sexual Harassment and unlawful discrimination; and Privacy and Data Breach Awareness)

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	95.8%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 90% 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	95.2%
Attendance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at this school	56.3%

Average attendance rate per year level			
Prep attendance rate	94.5%	Year 4 attendance rate	94.4%
Year 1 attendance rate	94.7%	Year 5 attendance rate	97.2%
Year 2 attendance rate	96.1%	Year 6 attendance rate	97.6%
Year 3 attendance rate	94.1%		

*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

Class rolls are marked twice a day, once at the commencement of the school day (8:40am) and once immediately after Second Break (1:55pm). If any child remains 'unexplained' on the class roll at 9:30am, a SMS is sent to the child's main contact asking the parent/guardian to contact the school immediately. If a student is going to be absent from school, parents/carers are required to notify the school (by written note, phone call, email, parent portal or by phoning the school's absentee line). If a student is absent without an explanation from school after the third day, a phone call is made to the parents by the class teacher. We use an electronic sign in and sign out procedure called ALLE for students arriving late to school or who need to depart school early. Parents/Carers are reminded regularly in the school's newsletter of the importance of children attending school each day. Students are regularly reminded at school assemblies about the importance of attending school each day and at the beginning of each new term, students with 100% attendance are presented with a Certificate and recognised at the school assembly.

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](#) 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.



The screenshot shows a search bar with the placeholder text "Search by school name or suburb". To the right of the search bar are three dropdown menus labeled "School sector", "School type", and "State". A magnifying glass icon is located to the right of the "State" dropdown menu.

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

[View School Profile](#)

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



The screenshot shows a horizontal navigation menu with several items: "School profile", "NAPLAN", "Attendance", "Finances", "VET in schools", "Senior secondary", and "Schools map". The "NAPLAN" item is highlighted with a white background and a dark border, indicating it is the selected option.

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](#)) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.