

School Name Our Lady of Dolours School

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Principal's Foreword

Introduction

Welcome to Our Lady of Dolours School. We are a fantastic small school with great students, staff and families. Our charism is grounded in the formative work of the Our Lady of Dolours Parish, the spirituality of St Benedict and the Sisters of The Good Samaritan of The Order of St Benedict who founded the school in 1951. These find expression in the house names of Nugent, Benedict and Samaritan. The early school motto: In all things may God be Glorified, gives expression to the ancient Benedictine philosophy to live by, paying attention to the fullness of life. This finds resonance in the current school motto, Living Loving and Learning in Christ, which draws upon the Good Samaritan charism and is enacted each day with students who are encouraged to be life long learners who care for others, think and learn and act so they can make a difference in their world. We strive to provide innovation through a holistic curriculum which acknowledges that learning is about being enthusiastic, motivated and involved in what you do. Our children have a range of talents and needs and all are at different points on their individual learning journey. This individual progress is measured in many ways and in a variety of formats. We encourage positive participation by all members of the school community by promoting respectful and communication. We have a staff of dedicated teaching professionals, leading learning, catering for individual needs and setting high standards for all students.

School Profile

Our Lady of Dolours 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 188

Girls 96

Boys 92

Characteristics of the student body

Students of Our Lady of Dolours School predominantly come from relatively high socio economic background (SES 108). At Our Lady of Dolours, we have a population of 188 students from Prep to Year 6, these children come from 128 families. We cater to a diverse range of learners and learning needs including students with special talents and those with special educational needs. In 2015 we had 8 students with verified disabilities including ASD, Social Emotional Impairment and Speech Language Impairment. There are a variety of student learning needs outside verified needs and our school has a responsive learning support team that focuses its energy on early intervention through the development and implementation of programs that build student learning. Our school has a low population of English as a Second Language students (7) and low population of Indigenous students (1). Given the school's proximity to the Enoggera Army Barracks, we have high number of students from Defence Force families. This enrolment fluctuates anywhere from 20 to 35 students and in 2015 we had 31 students enrolled. We employ a Defence School Transition Aide to support these students and families. A small proportion of students leave our school at the conclusion of Year 4 to move onto Religious Institute same sex schools. In recent years our enrolments have not be dramatically impacted by this and as a result we have been able to maintain straight classes right through to Year 6.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

Our Lady of Dolours School offers a vibrant educational curriculum from Prep to Year 6 in 2015. Our teachers plan, teach and assess student learning according to the Australian Curriculum and our dedicated and professional teachers embrace the curriculum changes as they are made and engage in professional learning and development to ensure they can provide quality learning opportunities for all children in all areas of the curriculum. Our contemporary curriculum provides rich and purposeful learning opportunities across all areas of learning, optimising student academic success. Students develop the necessary depth of understanding, extent of knowledge and the sophistication of skills expected so that they can move beyond the classroom and make connection within local and global contexts and begin to create personal and social change within their own world. We value the contribution to learning from our team of specialist teachers who share their talents with our students. In 2015 the specialist lessons at OLD are timetabled for Visual Arts, Music, Dance and Physical Education across P-6, and in Year 2-6, the students learn Japanese as their LOTE language. The school engages the expertise of an Instrumental piano, keyboard and guitar teacher to provide parents with the option of private tuition for their children.

We offer a comprehensive focus on ICLTs incorporating information literacy, development of computer skills and online communication and its associated behaviours. In 2015 our Year 5 and 6 students embraced a 1-1 iPad program with Year 4 to take it up in 2016. We also ensure an early intervention screeners process in Prep and Year 1.

Extra curricula activities

Year 6 Social Justice Evening for Vinnies Winter Appeal, Walk for Water, Annual Catholic Campaign
Optiminds: Commendation Award 2015
School Choir: We sing at local events and competitions and every term for the Children's mass
Zone Sports: include Netball, Soccer, Touch Football, AFL, Athletics, Swimming, Cross Country and
Kilometre Club.
Buddies Program
Chatting Children: Oral Language Program
University of NSW Academic Competitions
Piano, Keyboard and Guitar Lessons (Private)
Yr 6/7 trip to Canberra
Chess Club

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

Students at Our Lady of Dolours are encouraged to apply Information and Communication Technologies to solve problems, locate, analyse and exchange information, develop ideas, create models present and display work. The school has a computer centre which provides a teaching space for the development of computer skills, internet searching, information literacy, application of multi media techniques, Web 2.0 expertise, blogging, online communication, sharing of work and an understanding of the importance of cyber-safety. These capabilities are applied in learning situations in the iCentre, the classroom, at home and in an online world. The computer technology in the school is kept current and evolves to encompass new technologies that support student learning. Students in Year 5 and 6 participate in a 1:1 iPad program which makes technology available to our learners as required both at school and at home. A bank of iPads is available for sharing across Prep to Year 4. Six classrooms are equipped with 70" interactive TV screens while the other four classrooms have interactive white boards which will soon be upgraded to interactive screens. A wireless screen sharing system is in place to allow students and teachers to view work and resources from the screens of their devices to the interactive screens. Class blogs facilitate communication with parents and provide a forum for learning plans and student activities.

Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

Our Lady of Dolours is a small school in an intimate setting. We strive to provide a positive and welcoming environment and a place that promotes personal growth and self esteem for all. Parents and visitors to the school frequently comment on this friendly and welcoming atmosphere. They report a love of the small school 'feel' and community atmosphere. Classrooms surround a common courtyard where students gather to eat, and participate in a variety of learning activities. This means that students are well know to one another and to the teaching and support staff. The Leadership and Pastoral care program is structured so that all students have the opportunity to mentor younger students, to reflect on the school values and to participate in activities that foster justice, wisdom and compassion. Our Buddy Program program involves the older students buddying younger students which in turn supports the growth of nurturing relationships. Our school does not tolerate bullying or harassment in any form. All reported incidents of bullying and harassment are taken seriously and will be investigated. Reported incidents may come from parents, students, staff and friends of the school.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school is high with enrollment applications for Prep exceeding our student capacity. Parents readily give strong positive feedback about Our Lady of Dolours as a school and as a Catholic learning community, via survey responses, emails to school, verbal commendations and messages through the Parents and Friends Association. Many new families enrolling at Our Lady of Dolours note community sentiment and positive comments and feedback from existing families as one of their reasons for seeking enrollment at our school. There is an overall feeling and a widespread view that the school offers a supportive environment and that the staff are committed, caring, responsive and respectful of students and parents. Parents agree that the learning environment is supportive and most inclusive and believe that Our Lady of Dolours School should continue in its quest to achieve excellence in student learning. Through a process of Professional Learning and goal setting in collaboration with the Principal, staff report that they generally feel supportive and trusted to fulfill their responsibilities in the context of their work.

Parent involvement in their child's education

Parents are most welcome to be involved in their child's education. It is actively encouraged by staff and promoted within our school community. There are a range of opportunities for parents to be involved both formal and informal. Formal opportunities include participation in our Parent / Teacher interviews and meetings, Parents and Friends Association or on our School Pastoral Board. Each class has a Pastoral Parent who co-ordinates community building activities for families. Other opportunities for involvement include: Access to the school Website for a look into the learning life of the school; access to weekly school newsletter and term letters from teachers; invitation to complete the homework review survey; parent Education Sessions (1-1 iPad Program Preparation, Life Work in Progress Workshops); Individual Education Planning Meetings; attendance at weekly assemblies; general classroom help and parent participation at school based fundraisers.

Staff Profile

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff
Headcounts	17	13
Full-time equivalents	12.70	6.23
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	0	

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of Teaching Staff (teaching staff includes school leaders)
Doctorate	0
Masters	5
Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate	4
Bachelors Degree	8
Diploma/Certificate	0

Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2015 was \$ 26605

The major professional development initiatives were as follows

Charism of Our Lady of Dolours - Enhancing Our Catholic Identity

Meditative Practices for classroom teachers

Gradual Release of Responsibility Model in Literacy

Visible Learning and TEACH part of the BCE DELT Strategy

Media Arts, Geography and Technology Curriculum

First Aid Training

Understanding ASD professional development

Kids Matter - Social and Emotional Learning Component Two

Acceptance Cognitive Therapy Training for Key Staff

Language and Literacy for School Officers

Organisational Coaching and Training - Leadership

School Income by Funding Source

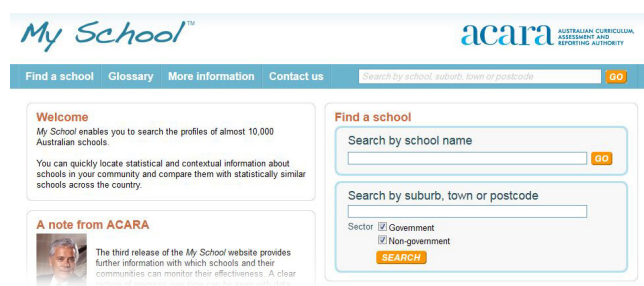
School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

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.



Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was 96.52 % in 2015.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2014 school year, 88.0 % of staff were retained by the school for the 2015 year.

Key Student Outcomes

Whole School Attendance Rate	96.00 %
Prep Attendance Rate	97.00 %
Year 1 Attendance Rate	95.00 %
Year 2 Attendance Rate	98.00 %
Year 3 Attendance Rate	95.00 %

Year 4 Attendance Rate	97.00 %
Year 5 Attendance Rate	94.00 %
Year 6 Attendance Rate	96.00 %

Policy and practice to manage student attendance

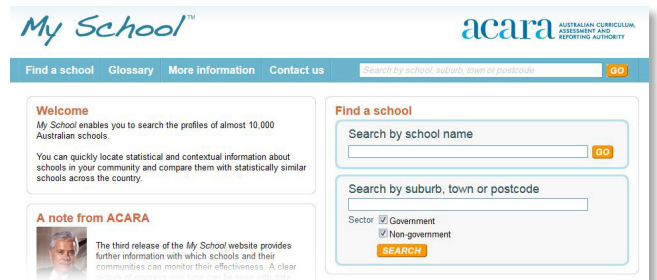
Parents may report an absence by phoning the school. An explanatory note/email is required when a child is absent from school. The note can be sent in prior to a known absence or following any absence, i.e. illness or leave for any reason must be specified. A note is also required if a child arrives late to school or needs to leave early. Class attendance rolls are marked prior to 8:45am each morning and again at 2:00pm. If the school does

not receive notification of an explained absence for a student, the school sends a SMS message to parents call to seek an explanation. When teachers are absent from the classroom for what ever reason, the relieving teacher receives a hard copy classroom roll and submits this back to the office for marking by administration.

Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.



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