

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

Annual Report 2019

**Brisbane Catholic Education is
a faith-filled learning community
creating a better future.**



Contact information

School	Mater Dei Catholic Primary School
Postal address	7 Lynwood Crescent, ASHGROVE WEST, QLD, 4060
Phone	(07) 3514 4100
Email	pashgrovest@bne.catholic.edu.au
School website	www.materdei.qld.edu.au
Contact Person	Donna Jones - Principal

Principal's foreword

The 2019 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.

School progress towards its goals in 2019

In 2019, the whole school community worked hard to progress and achieve the 2019 improvement goals. Three of the four learning goals were achieved successfully in 2019. However, the reading goal was only partially achieved. Prep and Year 2 exceeded the required Brisbane Catholic Education targeted benchmarks in reading by achieving 100% in each cohort. In Year 1, five children out of the cohort of 43 children did not achieve the targeted benchmark. However, it is important to note that these children still made significant progress in their reading throughout the year and their results can be explained.

Goal	Progress
By the end of 2019, 95% of Prep to Year 2 students will have demonstrated BCE target benchmarks in Reading achieved through regular, consistent monitoring of the Effective and Expected practices.	Not Achieved
Enhance teacher capacity and confidence in engaging with the RSE perspectives in the HPE curriculum.	Achieved
To use design thinking pedagogy, to embed digital technologies and transform teaching and learning practices across the curriculum	Achieved
To clarify our school's charisms within a contemporary, re-contextualised Catholic world view.	Achieved

Future Outlook

The explicit improvement agenda for 2020 will focus on gaining improvements in developing a:

- Strong Catholic Identity** by embedding theological and scriptural learnings of our school's charisms at school-based Feast days and Catholic Education celebrations, in our class and whole school prayer experiences and liturgies; and to focus on building teacher capacity in implementing Brisbane Catholic Education's Expected and Effective practices in the teaching and planning of Religious Education.
- Excellent Learning and Teaching** by continuing to focus on growing the engagement, progress and achievement of all students in their reading in Prep to Year 2 and in their writing in Years 3 to 6 by embedding Brisbane Catholic Education's Expected and Effective practices into short term teaching and learning cycles; and
- Building a Sustainable Future** by embedding research-based, design thinking pedagogies in planning which supports the integration of digital tools in teaching and learning cycles across the curriculum; and to begin exploring Inquiry learning as a framework to support deeper learning opportunities for all children.

Our school at a glance

School profile

Mater Dei Catholic Primary School is an inner city Catholic primary school situated in the leafy suburb of Ashgrove West, administered through the Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane. The Mater Dei school community is made up 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 which empowers our children to develop the knowledge, skills and Christian values needed for life's journey. 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 their world.

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Year levels offered in 2019: Primary

Student enrolments for this school:

	Total	Girls	Boys	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
2019	236	133	103	0

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

Characteristics of the student body

Our student body consists of several catholic families who have had a long association with Mater Dei including parents and grandparents who also attended our school as students. Many of our children come from a middle to high SES background and are well travelled. They are highly motivated and achieve excellent results in their learning. At Mater Dei there are two classes of Prep, Year 1 and Year 2. Together these classes are known as Junior Primary. There are three multi-age classes of Years 3 and Years 4 children. These classes are called Middle Primary; and Senior Primary consists of one year level for Years 5 and 6 with our Year 6 children referred to as our Senior Leaders. There are 11 classes in total at the school. Mater Dei caters for families in the Ashgrove West, Ashgrove, The Gap, Bardon and Mitchelton areas although we are currently experiencing a small growth of enrolments from interstate families. Although 97% of our children are Australian born, we have a small percentage of children born overseas in England, Jersey, Estonia, USA, South Africa, Scotland, the Philippines and Colombia. Our children typically transition to Catholic Independent Religious Institute schools in the area namely Marist College and Gregory Terrace for our boys and Mount St Michael's, Stuartholme School and All Hallows for our girls.

Curriculum delivery

Approach to curriculum delivery

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 from Prep to Year 6. Japanese is taught in Senior Primary (Years 5 and 6) and French has been introduced in Junior and Middle Primary (Years 2 to 4). Physical Education and The Arts also expand on classroom programs by focussing on specific skill development. Our curriculum incorporates the Learning Areas of Religion, Maths, English, Science, The Arts, Technology, LOTE, Health and Physical Education, Geography and History. Each unit is planned collaboratively with differentiated learning outcomes to cater for individual differences, preferences and the specific needs of our learners. Our students' learning is supported by a variety of digital devices. In Prep to Yr 2 we have a (ratio of 1:3 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 Resource and Media centre supported by our Teacher- Librarian.

Co-curricular activities

Mater Dei offers a range of extra curricula activities for our students to engage in such as:

- 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 Years 3 to 6;
- Chess, Dance, and Speech & Drama (supported by the school's P&F);
- Robotics club;
- Public Speaking;
- Debating;
- Reader's Cup;
- UNSW Science, Maths and English competitions;
- Camps for Years 4 & 5 and Year 6 travel to Canberra;
- Leadership retreats for Year 6 are also offered 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 march and choir performance at Memorial Park;
- Mini-Vinnie's Junior branch of St Vincent de Paul (Senior Primary: Years 5 and 6); and
- Outreach to our local Respite Care Centre at Rangeview.

How information and communication technologies are used to assist learning

In 2019, the school spent significant funds on upgrading the digital tools and technology at the school. Teachers and students now have access to a variety of digital resources that will support learning. The Middle Primary and Senior Primary classrooms were installed with short throw projectors and whiteboard screens. In Junior Primary all classrooms had 70-inch smart televisions installed. In addition, Apple TV's were installed in all classrooms. All teaching staff were provided with a new iPad and a MacBook Air to enable a seamless integration of technology across the school. New iPads with an external keyboard were also purchased for Middle Primary and Senior Primary. We have a 1:1 ratio of iPads in these classes. Teachers continue to engage with the Digital Technologies and the Design and Technologies curriculums. One teacher from the Junior, Middle and Senior primary hubs also engaged in a collaborative project with experts from QUT using design pedagogies to transform learning using digital tools. Our students continue to be encouraged to use these devices to communicate, create, collaborate and apply critical thinking skills while engaging in their learning.

Social climate

Overview

At Mater Dei we pride ourselves as being a safe, welcoming and inclusive community. We achieve this through the following initiatives:

1. Implementing the 'Play is the Way' Program which assists in developing strong, emotional and social capabilities and resilience in our students. This program is taught across the whole school during three designated sessions each week;
2. Further development of our five behaviour expectations which are explicitly taught in an ongoing manner throughout the year and support "*The Mater Dei Way*";
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 and functions;
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. These activities include: Prep and Year 1 buddies; Debating and Public Speaking; leading assemblies and whole school Monday morning Prayer; Peer Mediators; Bokashi collection; and leading sport, social and academic undertakings at the school. Mini-Vinnies is another opportunity for our Year 5 and 6 students to lead the school in raising awareness for those individuals less fortunate than us;
6. Participation in Bullying No Way initiatives; Daniel Morcombe Day; Harmony Day; Naidoc Week; and National Reconciliation Day is also planned;
7. Introduction of the Mater Dei Art Cart led by children in Year 6 and our Art teacher, offer art and craft activities during lunch break once a week; and

8. The introduction of Pastoral groups across the whole school to further develop a whole school family culture.

BCE Listens Survey - Parent satisfaction

Performance measure	
Percentage of parents/carers who agree# that:	2018
This school helps my child to develop their relationship with God	98.1%
My child is encouraged to participate in spiritual and religious activities and projects outside of the classroom	89.1%
Religious Education at this school is comprehensive and engaging	94.2%
I see school staff practising the values and beliefs of the school	98.1%
This school looks for ways to improve	87.0%
The school is well managed	90.7%
My child is making good progress at this school	87.5%
This school is a safe place for my child	96.4%
This school helps students respect the needs of others	96.3%
Teachers and staff are caring and supportive	92.6%
Teachers at this school expect my child to do their best	100.0%
Teachers and staff relate to students as individuals	91.1%
The teachers help my child to be responsible for their own learning	94.9%
My child is motivated to learn at this school	91.5%
I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns	93.1%
This school offers me opportunities to get involved in my child's education	94.7%
My child's learning needs are being met at this school	82.8%
I am happy with my decision to send my child to this school	89.1%

BCE Listens Survey - Student satisfaction

Performance measure	
Percentage of students who agree# that:	2018
At my school, I can express my beliefs	93.4%
My school encourages all students to participate in spiritual and religious activities and projects outside of the classroom	89.1%
Religious Education at my school is interesting and engaging	78.7%
I see school staff practising the values and beliefs of my school	80.4%
My school looks for ways to improve	96.7%
Students at my school are encouraged to voice their concerns or complaints	87.5%
Teachers treat students fairly at my school	95.2%
Teachers recognise my efforts at school	60.0%
I feel safe at school	93.5%
My school helps me to respect the needs of others	98.4%
I am happy to be at my school	90.3%

BCE Listens Survey - Staff satisfaction

Performance measure	
Percentage of staff who agree# that:	2018
This school helps me to develop my relationship with God	100.0%
My school encourages all students to participate in spiritual and religious activities and projects outside of the classroom	100.0%
Religious Education at this school is comprehensive and engaging	95.2%
I see school staff practising the values and beliefs of this school	100.0%
This school is well managed	81.8%
My concerns are taken seriously by the school	86.4%
This school is a safe place to work	100.0%
This school has an inclusive culture	100.0%
This school has a culture of striving for excellence	100.0%
All my students know I have high expectations of them	100.0%
I am proud to be a member of this school	100.0%
Overall, I am happy with my decision to work 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 in all school activities. We have a very active P&F group and social events are well attended by both parents, staff and children. We welcome parents to take a keen interest in our school and encourage them to become involved on a regular basis in the following activities:

- Parent /Teacher Meetings and Parent Information evenings;
- Mater Dei Parents & Friends;
- Assisting with our Tuckshop service;
- Volunteering in classrooms;
- Assisting with special day activities or offering support at school carnival days for Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics;
- Volunteering as a Class Parent Representative;
- Helping at Working Bees;
- Developing grant applications for the school; and
- Assisting with fundraising for school events such as Music in the Moonlight, Trivia night, Beginning of the Year Fun Day; other Community Fun Days during the year; and the end of year Christmas Concert.

Active parent engagement in our school is a recognisable feature of the Mater Dei community. We encourage parents to participate in surveys and informal chats to share ideas and for the school to receive feedback on initiatives. In 2019, we worked with the Ashgrove and The Gap, Lions Club for whole school events and get-togethers as well as we began working with a landscape architect to help design an Outdoor learning and Play space Master Plan for the school.

Environmental footprint

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

This is the first year of reporting on the school's electricity usage. Responsible energy usage supports the school's efforts towards a living response to Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si' Care for our Common Home.

At Mater Dei we have endeavoured to lower our environmental footprint by replacing light bulbs with more energy efficient LED lights. At the beginning of each term, all staff are reminded about our school's air conditioning protocols and at the end of each term, our grounds person powers down the school to save energy.

Environmental footprint indicators	
Years	Electricity kWh
2019	77173

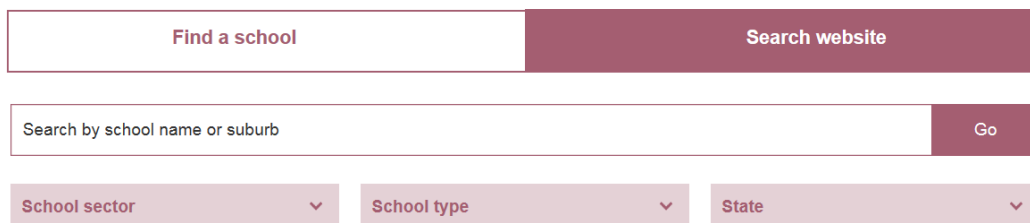
School funding

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 our 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.



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



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



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	21	15
Full-time Equivalent	16.8	6.7

Qualifications of all teachers*

Highest level of qualification	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	3
Graduate diploma etc.**	4
Bachelor degree	13
Diploma	1
Certificate	0

*Teaching staff includes School Leaders

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

Professional development

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2019 was \$5,800.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Building teacher capacity in embedding ICT technologies into teaching and learning;
- Supporting teachers in implementing three weekly teaching and learning literacy cycles;
- Building teacher capacity in using BCE's Expected and Effective practices in the teaching of literacy;
- Spiritual development of staff in developing a deeper understanding of our school's charisms;

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2019 was 100%.

Staff attendance and retention

Average staff attendance

Description	%
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders	95.5%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the previous school year, 100% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2019.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

Description	%
The overall attendance rate* for the students at this school	93.5%
Attendance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at this school	0.0%

Average attendance rate per year level			
Prep attendance rate	94.8%	Year 4 attendance rate	95.4%
Year 1 attendance rate	93.4%	Year 5 attendance rate	91.1%
Year 2 attendance rate	93.2%	Year 6 attendance rate	87.5%
Year 3 attendance rate	94.8%		

*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.

The overall student attendance rate in 2019 for all Brisbane Catholic Education schools across years Prep-6 was 91.9%.

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 and once immediately after lunch (2:00pm). Our process is that if any child remains 'unexplained' on their class roll at 9:30am, a SMS is sent to the child's main contact asking parent/guardians to contact the school immediately. If a student is going to be absent from school, parents/carers are required to notify the class teacher (by written note, phone call, email, parent portal or by phoning the school 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 and Carers are reminded regularly in the school's newsletter the importance of children attending school each day. Posters were also displayed in prominent areas around the school highlighting the importance of all children attending school each day.

NAPLAN

Average NAPLAN results

	Year 3		Year 5	
	School	Australia	School	Australia
Reading	465.9	432.3	530.4	506.0
Writing	446.5	423.1	485.8	473.9
Spelling	439.4	418.7	522.7	500.7
Grammar and punctuation	470.8	439.8	519.8	499.1
Numeracy	457.1	408.1	513.1	495.8