



**St Stephen's School,
ALGESTER**

Annual Report 2020

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



**Brisbane
Catholic
Education**

teaching • challenging • transforming

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Principal's foreword

The 2020 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 Stephen's School is a Brisbane Archdiocesan, Catholic, co-educational, primary school located in Algester, Queensland, near the intersection of Algester and Ridgewood Roads. The core values of our school are embodied in our motto, "Growing in courage, wisdom and faith." We are a Collaborative/Contemporary school where all students are challenged to be the very best version of themselves.

Our facilities are divided into four teaching zones, the Prep and Year 1 pod, the Years 2 and 3 Pod, the Years 4 and 5 Pod and the Years 6 and 7 Pod. Other buildings include our sacred space, Administration Block, Music Room, Library, Multi-purpose Hall and SheepStation Gully Environmental Learning Centre. SheepStation Gully Environmental Learning Centre is a state-of-the-art science centre where children in all year levels have the opportunity to participate in hands-on science lessons.

We employ specialist teachers who provide lessons in the areas of Science, Physical Education, Spanish and Music. We also employ a Support teacher and a part time guidance counsellor. Our large oval provides a wonderful green space for children's lessons and play. Our school's educational program caters for the spiritual, social, physical, academic and developmental needs of our students. We plan for learning experiences which are meaningful, challenging, open-ended and responsive to the needs, interests and potential of each individual.

In accordance with Brisbane Catholic Education guidelines, we aim to build "foundations for learning which are life long and life giving". St Stephen's School provides a supportive learning environment. Our school has an active Parents and Friends Association and a supportive School Board. Before and after-school and vacation care are also available.

School progress towards its goals in 2020

Goal	Progress
In 2020, all staff are given opportunities to come together in prayer in a number of creative ways.	Achieved
By the end of 2020, St Stephen's School will have school wide Scope and Sequence for HPE including RSE	Achieved

Goal	Progress
The Living the Liturgy Plan is relevant and re-contextualised.	Achieved
By the end of 2020 there will be 90% of the students attending 90% of the time.	Not Achieved
In 2020, all cohorts are using a Contemporary Learning Approach to learning and teaching.	Achieved
By the end of 2020, a consistent school wide approach to Spelling will have been implemented.	Achieved
2020 Prep-2 Smart Goal: By the end of 2020 teachers are consistently using effective and expected practices in the teaching of reading resulting in 85% of students in Prep, 90% of students in Year 1 and 95% of students in Year 2 meeting or exceeding the BCE targets in the PM Benchmarking monitoring tool.	Not Achieved
2020 Year 3-6 Smart Goal: By the end of 2020 teachers are consistently using effective and expected practices in the teaching of writing resulting in 85% of students in Year 3, 85% of students in Year 4, 85 % of students in Year 5 and 90% of students in Year 6 meeting or exceeding the BCE targets in the Writing Analysis monitoring tool.	Not Achieved
By the end of 2020, Staff, Students and Parents will be able to identify and articulate how St Stephen's school is living Laudato Si	Achieved

Future outlook

Explicit improvement agenda for 2021 will focus on the use of manipulatives in Maths, Staff / Student Well-being and continuing to increase consistency of effective and expected practices around Reading and Writing in order to improve student learning data and move student learning forward.

Our Goals for 2021:

- For our students, staff, parents and the wider community to confidently agree that St Stephen's is a contemporary Catholic community who, driven by the life and teachings of Jesus, promote the love and dignity of every person.
- At St Stephen's we have practices in place which celebrate, value, and respond to the diversity of our community.
- By the end of 2021, teachers will have built upon their knowledge in Mathematics, namely around oral language and the use of manipulatives in daily practice.
- By the end of 2021, St Stephen's will have co-constructed a Vision for Learning and Teaching, which reflects teacher, student and parent/caregiver voice.
- By the end of 2021 teachers are consistently using effective and expected practices in the teaching of reading resulting in 90% of students in Prep - Year 2 meeting or exceeding the BCE targets in the PM Benchmarking monitoring tool.
- By the end of 2021 teachers are consistently using effective and expected practices in the teaching of writing resulting in 90% of students in Year 3 - 6 meeting or exceeding the BCE targets in the Writing Analysis monitoring tool.
- All people at Stephen's know that this is their community where they are valued and have a voice.

Our school at a glance

School profile

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

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Year levels offered in 2020: Primary

Student enrolments for this school:

	Total	Girls	Boys	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
2020	527	257	270	4

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

St Stephen's Catholic Archdiocesan co-educational primary school community consists of Catholic and non-Catholic students from families in the Algester, Parkinson, Calamvale, Sunnybank Hills, Sunnybank and Drewvale communities. The school commenced operations in 2004 with an enrolment of 94 students ranging from Preschool to Year 3. In 2019, our enrolment increased to 527 children with students from Prep to Year 6. According to our master plan, the school will eventually grow to become a three-stream primary school (P-6) catering for approximately 550 children. When our students have completed their primary school education, many of them continue their schooling at St Thomas More, secondary college at Sunnybank and Clair Vaux Mackillop secondary college at Upper Mt Gravatt. A small number of our students attend secondary schools in the inner-city suburbs.

Curriculum implementation

Our educational programs utilise current curriculum programs which are responsive to the spiritual, social, emotional, physical, academic, creative and cultural developmental needs of our students. National and State approved documents are used across the school including the Early Years Framework and the Australian Curriculum.

We plan for both student directed and teacher-directed learning experiences which are meaningful, active, play-based, flexible, integrated, challenging, openended and responsive to the needs, interests and potential of each individual. Catering for the needs of all learners is met through the use of a variety of teaching and learning strategies. We strive to develop individuals learning styles and higher order thinking skills through the use of a variety of pedagogical approaches including Bloom's taxonomy, Gardiner's Multiple Intelligences and Six 5 Thinking hats.

Planning for student learning is framed in using an inquiry or investigative approach that enables teachers to develop the curriculum intent throughout and across domains of learning. In addition, upper primary teachers work together to present a middle schooling approach to education which serves to provide support for different needs of learners as well as preparation for the practices and routines of secondary school.

Unique to the school is a purpose-built centre for education in science and environmental learning - "SheepStation Gully Environmental Learning Centre". A science specialist teacher conducts lessons on a weekly basis. In accordance with the Brisbane Catholic Education Guidelines, we aim to build "foundations for learning which are life long and life giving".

Co-curricular activities

Extra-curricular activities include:

- Private instrumental and keyboard lessons
- St Stephen's School band
- Junior and Senior choirs

- Interschool sports (swimming, netball, basketball, rugby, cross country, athletics, Futsal, softball)
- Whole school musical
- Coding Club / Robotic Club
- Fit Kids; Catchment Club
- Chess Club

How information and communication technologies are used to assist learning

St Stephen's has been a 1:1 Device school for a number of years. Once a student enters Year 4 they automatically join our ALT 1: 1 Program. The students and their parents enter into the program that enables the students to purchase a device and pay for it over the three years of the program. This device, currently an iPad Pro becomes a vital tool in the learning journey of our students. In Prep – Year 3 classes we have a mixture of iPads, Mac and Dell Laptops. The ICT general Capabilities are taught to ensure our students have the appropriate skills and foundations in ICT and in preparation for our NAPLAN On-line testing.

Social climate

Overview

St Stephen's School is a supportive learning environment arising from the interactions between students, staff, parents and wider community. The students, with their families and staff members, are encouraged to look beyond their own cultural context to develop an understanding of the lives of people in other communities. Children are involved in pastoral care and community activities such as:

- Buddy groups (established between the Years 6 & 7 classes and our prep classes). Program Achieve, i.e. "You Can Do It!" across the school
- Class and school liturgies and masses
- Our annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal
- Our annual support for a particular mission project
- Celebrating ANZAC and Remembrance days in partnership with our local RSL branch
- The development of a partnership with RSL Carrington Retirement Village

Parent, student and staff satisfaction

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

Percentage of parents/carers who agree that:	2018	2020
This school helps my child to develop their relationship with God	NA	98%
School staff demonstrate the school's Catholic Christian values	NA	96%
Teachers at this school have high expectations for my child	NA	90%
Staff at this school care about my child	NA	97%
I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns	NA	93%
Teachers at this school encourage me to take an active role in my child's education	NA	88%
My child feels safe at this school	NA	96%
The facilities at this school support my child's educational needs	NA	93%
This school looks for ways to improve	NA	91%
I am happy my child is at this school	NA	89%

Percentage of students who agree that:	2018	2020
My school helps me develop my relationship with God	92%	95%
I enjoy learning at my school	93%	89%
Teachers expect me to work to the best of my ability in all my learning	NA	94%
Feedback from my teacher helps me learn	NA	92%
Teachers treat students fairly at my school	94%	86%
If I was unhappy about something at school I would talk to a school leader or teacher about it	80%	75%
I feel safe at school	95%	86%
I am happy to be at my school	95%	88%

Percentage of staff who agree that:	2018	2020
Working at this school helps me to have a deeper understanding of faith	100%	90%
School staff demonstrate this school's Catholic Christian values	97%	88%
This school acts on staff feedback	86%	68%
This school looks for ways to improve	93%	90%
I am recognised for my efforts at work	69%	76%
In general, students at this school respect staff members	97%	98%
This school makes student protection everyone's responsibility	100%	98%
I enjoy working at this school	97%	90%

Family and community engagement

At St Stephen's School, we endeavour to develop and sustain positive partnerships in our community to enhance student learning. We encourage the participation of parents and members of the community to continue our tradition of parent involvement and collaboration. Parent involvement in children's education and the general life of St Stephen's School is both highly valued and crucial to a team approach in working together for the education of each child. This involvement ranges from direct assistance in classrooms, e.g. classroom and excursion helpers through to working bees and class and school social activities. Parent/Teacher Interviews, at which time teachers report to parents on the progress of students, are scheduled twice each year, at the end of Terms 1 & 3. Written reports are sent home at the end of Terms 2 & 4. There is a "Showcase Evening" in Term 2 where parents can come and view student's work in the classroom. Parental involvement is welcomed and encouraged. Our school is enhanced by the active participation of parents and staff volunteers.

Environmental footprint

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

Responsible energy usage supports the school's efforts towards a living response to Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'* Care for our Common Home.

Over the Christmas holiday a 95kw Solar system was installed at St Stephen's. This system became fully operational at the beginning of 2020. We are looking forward to seeing the impact that this system will have on our overall carbon footprint.

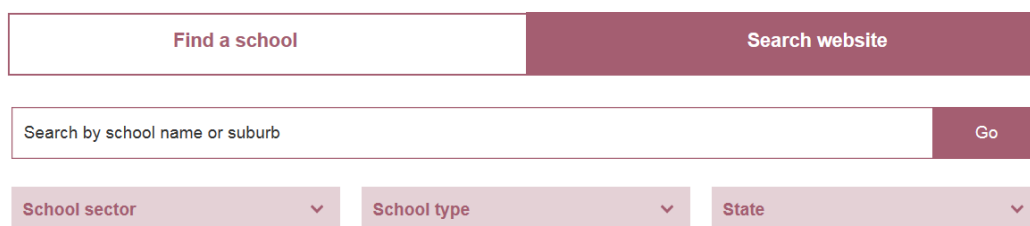
School funding

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.



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	37	19
Full-time Equivalents	33.4	11.3

*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	7
Graduate diploma etc.**	4
Bachelor degree	25
Diploma	1
Certificate	

*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:

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2020 were \$110000

The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

- Contemporary Learning Approach to Learning and Teaching

- Staff Theology
- Laudato si engagement
- ICT General Capabilities
- On-line Learning
- NCCD

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	96.2%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 98% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2020.

Performance of our students

Key student outcomes

Student attendance

The overall student attendance rate in 2020 for all Brisbane Catholic Education schools across years Prep-6 was 92.1%.

Description	%
The overall attendance rate* for the students at this school	90.8%
Attendance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at this school	90.5%

Average attendance rate per year level			
Prep attendance rate	91.8%	Year 4 attendance rate	91.0%
Year 1 attendance rate	88.6%	Year 5 attendance rate	90.5%
Year 2 attendance rate	90.0%	Year 6 attendance rate	92.0%
Year 3 attendance rate	91.6%		

*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

The following procedures are in place to manage and support student attendance at St Stephen's School:

- Class rolls are marked electronically every morning and afternoon
- Students who arrive late or leave early are electronically checked in / out at the front office and a personalised slip is printed as a record their names and times in register at front office
- A BLINK text is sent to parents if there is an unexplained absence identified by our system
- Unexplained absences for more than 2 days results in communication with parents to support student attendance. Communication is via telephone and/or email.

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.



A screenshot of the My School search interface. It features 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 positioned to the right of the "State" dropdown.

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