



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

Annual Report 2020

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



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Contact information

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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.

School progress towards its goals in 2020

In 2020 the whole school community worked hard to progress and achieve our Annual Goals in an extra-ordinary year due to the effects of Coronavirus and the implementation of Alternative Educational Provisions (AEP) to support learners during lockdowns. Due to the challenges faced by all educators in 2020, Mater Dei Catholic Primary School was still able to achieve seven of our eight Annual Goals. The reading goal was only partially achieved. In Prep, 94.3% or 33 out of 35 children exceeded the required Brisbane Catholic Education targeted benchmarks in reading. In Year 1, 96.7% of children exceeded the required Brisbane Catholic Education targeted benchmarks in reading. In Year 2, six children out of the cohort of 42 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 2020, 95% or more of students in Prep to Year 2 will have demonstrated BCE targetted benchmarks in Reading achieved through regular, consistent application of the Effective and Expected practices to advance student progress and achievement in literacy.	In progress
By the end of 2020, 95% or more of children in Years 3 to 6 will have demonstrated the BCE writing benchmark of between 20-24 achieved through embedding the BCE Expected and Effective practices.	Achieved
In collaboration with our school's Primary Learning Leader (PLL) begin to engage with an Inquiry Learning model (during planning) to increase student engagement, progress and achievement in the learning process.	Achieved
In 2020, Mater Dei will strengthen a culture which values student engagement and participation for full day attendance at school, to achieve a level of at least 90% of students attending school 90% of the time.	Achieved
To develop a Technology vision that is future-focused, supports learning and teaching and continues to transform pedagogical practices that improve student learning outcomes and student engagement.	Achieved

Goal	Progress
Continue to consult with all stakeholders (students, staff and parent/carers) by seeking feedback on the draft Outdoor learning and play Master Plan and begin to organise a staging process.	Achieved
To continue to develop a strong Catholic Identity through staff spiritual formation and building teacher capacity in implementing BCE's Expected and Effective practices in the teaching and learning of Religious Education.	Achieved
To develop a deeper understanding of embedding a Catholic Perspective across all curriculum areas, with a focus on teaching RSE within the Health Curriculum.	Achieved

Future outlook

The explicit improvement agenda for 2021 will focus on gaining improvements in developing a:

- Strong Catholic Identity** by deepening the spiritual, scriptural, and theological capacity of our children, staff and parents; building teacher capacity in implementing Brisbane Catholic Education's Expected and Effective practices in the teaching and planning of Religious Education; developing a Scope and Sequence of the teaching of religion for each year level; and begin to engage in "Catholic Identity Formation modules" as part of our staff and student formation plan.
- Excellent Learning and Teaching** with an explicit focus on developing consistent pedagogical practices within the area of reading across the school; a commitment to implementing evidence-based teaching strategies that will stretch and challenge every student; and improve all students' learning and well-being by continuing to focus on growing the engagement, progress and achievement of all students in their reading.
- 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 continue 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 a co-educational Catholic primary school administered through Cat 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	224	125	99	0

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

Mater Dei Catholic Primary School is an inner city, co-educational, Catholic primary school situated in the suburb of Ashgrove West. The Mater Dei school 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 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.

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 from Prep to Year 6. Japanese is taught in Senior Primary (Year 6) and French has been introduced in Junior and Middle Primary (Years 1 to 5). 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, 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 1:3 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 Centre and iHub supported by our Teacher-Librarian.

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;
- Dance;
- Speech & Drama;
- 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 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;
- Mini-Vinnie's Junior branch of St Vincent de Paul (Years 5 and 6); and
- Outreach to our local Respite Care Centre at Rangeview.

Unfortunately, in 2020 many of these activities were not available due to the restrictions and protocols associated with COVID-19.

How information and communication technologies are used to assist learning

In 2020, 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 TV's; iPads with external keyboards; Lego Mindstorms EV3's; Lego Wedos 2.0; BeeBots; and Makey Makey's. We have a 1:1 ratio of iPads from Years 3 to 6 and a 1:3 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. Our students are 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 each week;
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; **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 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 (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 undertakings at the school; and opportunities to lead the school in raising awareness for those individuals less fortunate than us through 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. The Mater Dei Art Cart led by children in Year 6 and our Art teacher offers art and craft activities during lunch break once a week;
8. Participation in Pastoral group activities; and
9. 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.

Percentage of parents/carers who agree that:	2018	2020
This school helps my child to develop their relationship with God	98%	100%
School staff demonstrate the school's Catholic Christian values	98%	94%
Teachers at this school have high expectations for my child	100%	92%
Staff at this school care about my child	93%	96%
I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns	93%	94%
Teachers at this school encourage me to take an active role in my child's education	95%	94%
My child feels safe at this school	96%	96%
The facilities at this school support my child's educational needs	NA	98%
This school looks for ways to improve	87%	98%
I am happy my child is at this school	89%	94%

Percentage of students who agree that:	2018	2020
My school helps me develop my relationship with God	88%	93%
I enjoy learning at my school	97%	94%
Teachers expect me to work to the best of my ability in all my learning	100%	100%
Feedback from my teacher helps me learn	80%	97%
Teachers treat students fairly at my school	95%	88%
If I was unhappy about something at school I would talk to a school leader or teacher about it	88%	76%
I feel safe at school	94%	96%
I am happy to be at my school	90%	87%

Percentage of staff who agree that:	2018	2020
Working at this school helps me to have a deeper understanding of faith	100%	96%
School staff demonstrate this school's Catholic Christian values	100%	100%
This school acts on staff feedback	86%	82%
This school looks for ways to improve	100%	96%
I am recognised for my efforts at work	86%	83%
In general, students at this school respect staff members	91%	91%
This school makes student protection everyone's responsibility	100%	100%
I enjoy working at this school	91%	100%

Family and community engagement

At Mater Dei Catholic Primary School, we have a strong culture of parental involvement and engagement in all school activities. In 2020 parental involvement was impacted by restrictions and protocols implemented due to COVID-19. We have a very active P&F group and social events are well attended by both parents, staff and children. We encourage our parents and carers to take a keen interest in our school and encourage our families to become involved on a regular basis in the following activities:

- Parent /Teacher Meetings and Parent Information evenings;
- Mater Dei Parents & Friends Association;
- 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;
- Developing grant applications for the school; and
- Assisting with fundraising for school events such as Music in the Moonlight, Trivia night, Begnning of the Year Fun Day; other Community Fun Days during the year (Mother's Day and Father's Day); 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 2020, we continued working with a landscape architect to help design an Outdoor learning and Play space Master Plan for the school. We also began to reach out to our local C&K Kindergartens and begin to build connections with these educational providers.

Environmental footprint

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

This is the second year of monitoring 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 continuing to replace 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. Regular maintenance and servicing of all air conditioners occurs to ensure efficient operation of the equipment. At whole school assemblies our Senior Leaders remind students and staff about the correct use of the (general and recycled) rubbish bins. Posters are regularly displayed around the school providing instructions on how to dispose of rubbish correctly. The school promotes "Litter-Less Lunches" and encourages families to store food in small containers in lunch boxes.

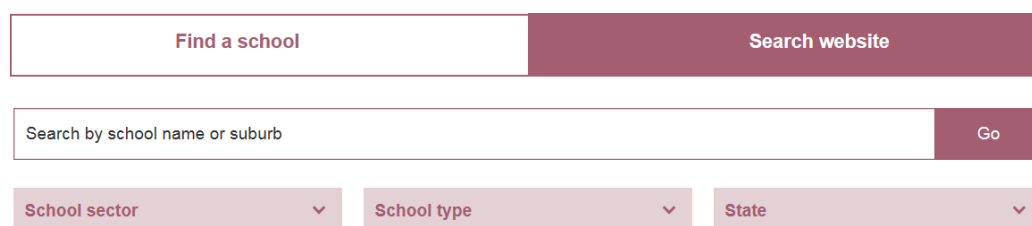
School funding

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	20	15
Full-time Equivalents	16.1	6.9

*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.**	3
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

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2020 was \$3149. This amount was less than previous years due to restrictions and protocols in place due to COVID-19 and limited opportunity for professional development.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Building teacher capacity in the use of digital technologies (eg. Microsoft Office 365 suite especially One note and Teams) to support student learning during Alternative Educational Provisions.
- Spiritual development of staff in developing a deeper understanding of our school's charisms;
- Guided Reading
- High Potential Learners

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2020 was **100%**.

Staff attendance and retention

Average staff attendance

Description	%
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders	96.0%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, **99%** 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	94.4%
Attendance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at this school	0.0%

Average attendance rate per year level			
Prep attendance rate	93.7%	Year 4 attendance rate	95.0%
Year 1 attendance rate	94.7%	Year 5 attendance rate	95.3%
Year 2 attendance rate	93.5%	Year 6 attendance rate	95.1%
Year 3 attendance rate	94.2%		

*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 (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 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 class teacher (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. Posters were also displayed in prominent areas around the school highlighting the importance of school attendance. Students are also 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 interface with a search bar containing the 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.

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 navigation menu with several options: "School profile", "NAPLAN", "Attendance", "Finances", "VET in schools", "Senior secondary", and "Schools map". The "NAPLAN" option is highlighted with a dropdown arrow.

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.