



**St Mary MacKillop Primary
School, BIRKDALE**

Annual Report 2020

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



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Catholic
Education**

teaching • challenging • transforming

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.

St Mary MacKillop Primary School is situated in the beautiful bayside suburb of Birkdale, 27 km from Brisbane CBD. Established in 1997, the school has expansive, manicured grounds that cater to the current 570 students from Prep to Year 6. Our school is named after Australia's first saint who founded the Sisters of St Joseph in 1866 in South Australia. Today, we are inspired by her life as we strive for excellence in contemporary and inclusive education, where God is sacred in our daily lives.

St Mary MacKillop School offers the latest in teaching and learning technologies, extra-curricular activities, and the benefits of being a high quality inclusive co-educational Catholic school. We offer students from Prep to Year 6 a rounded education that supports personal growth based on Christian values. We encourage students to develop a knowledge of other cultures, languages, and environmental and social issues.

School progress towards its goals in 2020

Throughout the 2020 school year the school progressed well to achieve most improvement priorities despite it being a disrupted year with COVID-19. The priority areas of Excellent Learning & Teaching; Strong Catholic Identity and Building a Sustainable Future guided the school's strategies for improvement.

In the area of Excellent Learning & Teaching:

- Staff were provided with ongoing professional learning around the practice of 'Guided Reading'. Human resourcing and timetabling were provided for Literacy Block time to align our habits and practices.
- The school invested in new Initial Lit resourcing and again, professional learning opportunities were provided to especially support literacy in the lower school.
- Mathematics professional learning was provided at the start of the year in problem solving and reasoning and specialist staff worked with teachers to create short-term planning cycles.
- An audit of exiting Mathematics resources was undertaken, and appropriate purchases were made to support the teaching of Mathematics.
- School leadership formally analysed student attendance rates and despite the COVID interruptions, the importance of regular attendance was promoted.

In the area of Strong Catholic Identity:

- Unit Planning in the Health area of the HPE curriculum was a focus with teachers incorporating a Catholic perspective into their planning.
- Initial work was undertaken to develop a Catholic Identity Formation plan.
- The school installed a significant icon (stylised cross) at the entrance to the school to promote our Catholic Identity in readiness for the school's 25th anniversary celebrations in 2022.

In the area of Building a Sustainable Future:

- The school undertook a process of analysing the recommendations in a report around our Energy Reduction & Management.
- Staff input was sourced in relation to possible projects to be incorporated into the School Master Plan.
- The school reception area was refurbished.

Future outlook

The future outlook for 2021 priorities were framed in the areas of Catholic Identity; Learning & Teaching; and Our People.

In the area of Catholic Identity:

- We aim to review current staff and student formation opportunities.
- Develop clear assessment tasks in Religious Education that provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge.

In the area of Learning & Teaching:

- We aim to have confident teachers, using consistent school-wide practices which are aligned to the Australian Curriculum to progress student learning.
- By the end of 2021 we will have researched approaches to Spelling in the Year 3-6 area with a view to developing our own consistent approach.

In the area of Our People:

- We are planning for sustainable enrolment numbers into the future with more focus on the use of social media to promote our community to current and prospective families.

Our school at a glance

School profile

St Mary MacKillop Primary 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	568	281	287	4

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

St Mary MacKillop School is located on the border of Birkdale and Wellington Point with almost all enrolments coming from the immediate local area. Many cultural backgrounds are represented within the school with seventeen students identified on the 2020 State Census as requiring English as Second Language assistance and twenty-four students verified under the Education Adjustment Program. St Mary MacKillop School does not have any full fee-paying students from overseas.

Enrolment trends within the school are very steady with very good demand for entry into Prep each year. On completion of school at St Mary MacKillop, many students transition to Carmel College at Thornlands.

Curriculum implementation

Curriculum overview

St Mary MacKillop School fully utilises the Australian Curriculum and provides significant additional programs within the teaching and learning program of the school. These programs add value and interest for students; supplementing and enriching the core curriculum program offered from Prep to Year Six. Several of these value added programs include: 1:1 Laptop Program, providing school and home access to quality technology; School Leadership Program for Year Six; A range of diversity of student care programs including Program Achieve and Buddy Program; Year 5 Beach Camp ; Year 6 Sydney/Canberra Immersion ; Detailed Behaviour Support Plan and associated programs.

Extra-curricular activities

St Mary MacKillop School is a vibrant community both before and after school. In addition to the formal Outside School Hours Care program that is available, the school formally offers either before or after school:

- Choir
- MakerSpace Technology (Upper School)
- Guitar, Drums and contemporary music
- Band
- Keyboard
- Singing lessons
- Chess
- Sports Aerobics

How information and communication technologies are used to assist learning

St Mary MacKillop School is very well resourced and particularly so, in Information & Communication Technologies. All classrooms are equipped with new interactive boards to aid teaching and learning. Students in the lower school have access to iPads and laptop computers in all classrooms to support student learning. The students in Year 4-6 enter our 1:1 student laptop program where they learn to become good digital citizens. An active ICLT committee exists within the school to make current and future decisions in this area. Our school additionally employs an ICLT support person to ensure that our systems and devices are well maintained and fully functional.

Social climate

Overview

Our school is an integral part of the St Mary MacKillop Parish, and we value positive relationships between all community members. Just as Jesus and St Mary MacKillop embraced and helped all people, we endeavour to be welcoming and promote a strong sense of belonging and involvement to all community members. Our parent pastoral care network provides activities for families to connect with each other in the true spirit of a Christian community. At St Mary MacKillop, we place the highest priority on the safety and care of our students. We have a comprehensive Behaviour Support Plan that is guided by the core beliefs of Respect, High Expectations for all and Consistency. Our anti-bullying processes support open education, communication, justice, and resolution.

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	93%	99%
Teachers at this school have high expectations for my child	95%	94%
Staff at this school care about my child	98%	98%
I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns	96%	96%
Teachers at this school encourage me to take an active role in my child's education	83%	89%
My child feels safe at this school	98%	96%
The facilities at this school support my child's educational needs	NA	95%
This school looks for ways to improve	97%	93%
I am happy my child is at this school	93%	91%

Percentage of students who agree that:	2018	2020
My school helps me develop my relationship with God	81%	90%
I enjoy learning at my school	93%	94%
Teachers expect me to work to the best of my ability in all my learning	91%	100%
Feedback from my teacher helps me learn	94%	98%
Teachers treat students fairly at my school	87%	92%
If I was unhappy about something at school, I would talk to a school leader or teacher about it	85%	81%
I feel safe at school	92%	94%
I am happy to be at my school	90%	92%

Percentage of staff who agree that:	2018	2020
Working at this school helps me to have a deeper understanding of faith	98%	98%
School staff demonstrate this school's Catholic Christian values	100%	98%
This school acts on staff feedback	91%	92%
This school looks for ways to improve	98%	100%
I am recognised for my efforts at work	84%	85%
In general, students at this school respect staff members	97%	94%
This school makes student protection everyone's responsibility	100%	100%
I enjoy working at this school	95%	96%

Family and community engagement

Parent involvement in children's education and the general life of St Mary MacKillop School is both highly valued and a crucial component of the educational team, working together for the education of each child. Parent involvement can be as diverse as one wishes, ranging from direct involvement in classrooms (as co-ordinated by individual teachers), working bees, student assemblies and awards ceremonies, mowing rosters, excursions etc. Parent involvement is welcome and encouraged. All volunteers are required to be trained in Student Protection & Safety protocols before they can lend their skills and services within the community. Either through undertaking the training via a home-based module or attending school-based training... parents, grandparents and friends are asked to agree to a code of conduct and register as a volunteer in the school. Parents and caregivers who have children with diverse learning needs are asked to collaborate closely with the school support team in terms of planning for success in learning. This will include meetings with parents and allied health professionals to consider any adjustments to student learning that may be required. Open and honest communication between the school and parents is necessary.

Environmental footprint

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

In actioning the school's Energy Reduction Management Plan, 2020 saw the upgrade to LED efficient lighting into the Year 5 classrooms. The refurbishment of the school reception/office area also incorporated low-energy LED lighting. Addressing the conversion to LED lighting is the main priority of the school at this time. Some older less efficient air-conditioning units were also replaced in 2020.

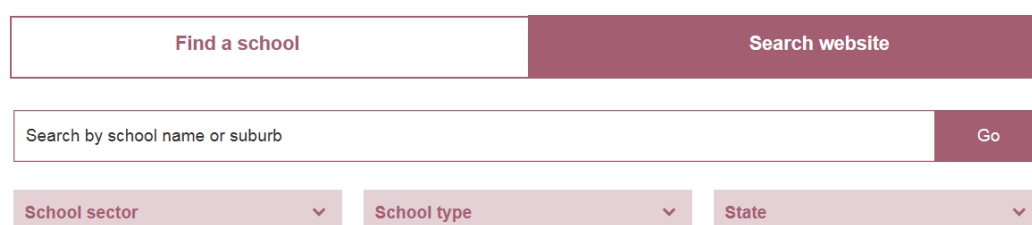
School funding

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	38	25
Full-time Equivalents	33.9	14.7

*Teaching staff includes School Leaders

Qualification of all teachers*

Highest level of qualification	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	
Masters	6

Graduate diploma etc.**	
Bachelor degree	32
Diploma	
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:

- Formal Mentoring of one Early Career Teacher
- Input regarding development of Unit Planning.... Health/HPE Curriculum
- Mathematics PD.... Professor Doug Clarke – Problem Solving and Reasoning.
- PLL working with teachers around Australian Curriculum and Short-Term Planning Cycles.
- English PD...The Why, What and How of Guided Reading.
- Key Teacher PD...Initial Lit Resource – supporting literacy development in the lower school.
- Senior First Aid and CPR Training
- Student Protection Training
- Health & Safety Online
- Code of Conduct Training
- Privacy and Data Breach Awareness Training
- Prevention of Workplace Bullying & Harassment Training
- First Response Fire & Evacuation Training

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	95.3%

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	93.9%
Attendance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at this school	91.9%

Average attendance rate per year level			
Prep attendance rate	93.6%	Year 4 attendance rate	93.4%
Year 1 attendance rate	94.1%	Year 5 attendance rate	93.8%
Year 2 attendance rate	94.1%	Year 6 attendance rate	94.0%
Year 3 attendance rate	94.4%		

*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

At St Mary MacKillop School it is the responsibility of all stakeholders to be aware of student attendance expectations. With assistance from staff, the school leadership team regularly monitors student attendance. In instances where a student's attendance is inconsistent, the school's leadership team works with parents to address concerns. In cases of unexplained absence, a daily automated SMS message is sent to the nominated primary caregiver of the student concerned. Classroom rolls are electronically marked at the start of the school day and again at the commencement of the afternoon session. The promotion of student attendance was a priority area for the school throughout 2020. Attendance data was regularly shared in the school newsletter.

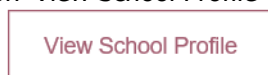
NAPLAN

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](http://www.myschool.edu.au/) 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.

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](http://www.naplan.edu.au/)) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.