



**Brisbane  
Catholic  
Education**

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# ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORTING – 2015

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION, ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

School Name St Rita's Primary School

Postal address 39 Benfer Road, VICTORIA POINT, QLD, 4165

Phone (07) 3207 6628 Fax (07) 3207 6734

Email pvictoriapoint@bne.catholic.edu.au

School website www.stritasvp.qld.edu.au

Contact Person Brian Mason (Acting Principal) for Anne McKenny (Principal)

### Principal's Foreword

Introduction

#### PRINCIPALS FORWARD - INTRODUCTION

St Rita's is a Catholic co-educational school for students from Prep to Year 6. Our school is located in the Redlands bayside suburb of Victoria Point in a pleasing physical environment of landscaped grounds and contemporary learning and teaching spaces. As a Catholic parish school we promote a welcoming and vibrant community where respectful and positive relationships are fostered with our parents, carers and the St Rita's parish community. St Rita's is a well-resourced school providing optimal conditions for learning. We are committed to providing quality programs in Religious Education and are implementing the Australian Curriculum. Through extensive technology resources our teachers implement an engaging curriculum using contemporary learning strategies. Specialist teachers in Student Support, Library Resourcing, The Arts, Physical Education, and Japanese along with choirs, drama, and social justice groups provide a rich variety of learning opportunities. Student wellbeing is promoted by implementing a targeted range of programs that promote social and emotional learning, personal safety and protective behaviours, and personal development. Parent partnership within the school community is welcome and greatly strengthens our continuous improvements for learning and school achievements.

### School Profile

St Rita's Primary 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 542 Girls 270 Boys 272

## Characteristics of the student body

At St Rita's School, in 2015 we had 21 classes across 7 year levels. There is a relatively even mix of gender in each class throughout the school with a slightly higher number of boys.

As a Catholic School, the religious background of our students is mostly Catholic and families from other Christian denominations and a small number of families from other world faith traditions.

St Rita's is an inclusive school community that welcomes cultural and social diversity. 2% of students come from a non-English speaking background and 2% are from Indigenous backgrounds.

Our families predominantly live in the Redlands area covering Victoria Point, Thornlands, Redland Bay, Mt Cotton, Coochiemudloo Island and Stradbroke Island.

Our students enjoy the outdoors lifestyle that living in the Redlands promotes and are active in local sporting clubs and community groups – eg. environmental, music and dance.

## Our distinctive curriculum offerings

St Rita's is a well-resourced school providing optimal conditions for learning. We are committed to providing quality programs in Religious Education, the Australian Curriculum. We have a strong Early Years Program that has a clear emphasis on Oral Language and best practice in Early Years pedagogy to ensure all students acquire a comprehensive acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills required for future academic learning. Extensive technology resources ensures that the general capabilities for ICLT are embedded within our curriculum. A Positive Behaviour Support Program (PB4L) ensures positive behaviour expectations are taught to all students. Disruptions to learning are minimised and negative behaviours are replaced by positive behaviours through a process of learning and open communication with parents. A school wide pedagogy was developed in 2013 and embedded into educational practice in 2014 and 2015. This is a teacher generated document to bring life to our vision that our students come each day to Know More, Do More and Be More. The Student Support Team provides intervention programs to support and extend students with unique learning capabilities. This includes short term interventions that are evidence based and continually monitored for improvements. St Rita's also introduced targeted programs for students identified with Gifted and Talented capabilities to extend and inspire their learning. There is an emphasis on The Arts, Physical Education and Japanese through a specialist teacher program. Digital Citizenship is promoted throughout the school and in 2015 our eLearning Leaders have implemented protocols for acceptable use of technology duties throughout the school.

## Extra curricula activities

St Rita's Catholic Primary School engages a number of specialists to deliver programs to enhance the learning experiences of our students in the following areas:

The Arts: - Serendipity Art Classes; Choirs - Senior and Junior; Creative Kidz on Stage - singing and dance; Instrumental Music Program - including wind, percussion, guitar and keyboard. We stage an annual Student Variety Show - St Rita's Got Talent at our school community fete. Students also enjoy performances through Arts Council twice per year. Student Wellbeing: Mini Vinnies Social Justice Group; Peer Mediation; Student Council; Buddy Classes and School Camps (Years 4-6). Academic Extension: Environmental and Sustainability Group; Maths Olympiad; Bilby Readers' Club. Sport: Interschool Sports - one day each term for Years 5-6. School Carnival and Representative Sport - Athletics, Cross Country, Swimming. Swimming Lessons (Prep - Year 6), District Trials. Community events included Family Fun and Harmony Day ; Discos ; Walk Safely to School Day ; Prep and Year 1 Fairy Tale Ball ; School and Parish Community Fete.

## How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

In 2015, the whole school infrastructure for networked wireless connectivity was utilised with Prep to Year 1 using LCD Interactive TVs in each of the six classrooms. Each classroom from Year 2 to Year 6 have interactive networked data projectors. This provides the option for learning interactivity to be at the student work level as opposed to teacher led instruction. In 2015 St Rita's School entered its third year of the 1:1 computer program (Yr 4-6) that provides individual take home access to a notebook computer for each student.

Our teachers continued to lead curriculum development for ICT through membership of our eLearning Leaders team and Curriculum team. These teams focused on improving learning outcomes for students through access to technology and teaching student digital citizenship. Students have access to a range of devices. Students engage in technology based activities such as Reading Eggs, Manga High Maths, Maths Olympiad, Study Ladder, Class Blogs, Ning and Skype to communicate across schools - internationally.

## Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

Student wellbeing is promoted at St Rita's by implementing a co-ordinated and targetted range of programs well supported by research that promote social and emotional learning. These include ARK (Awesome Rita Kids) program providing a daily check in check out process recognising positive behaviours across all year levels, Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation training for Year 5 students in preparation for implementation in Year 6. Peer Mediators support and assist with students experiencing difficulties and/or isolation in the playground settings. St Rita's implements PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning). Inclusive in these processes are the explicit teaching of expected behaviours through the schoolwide and classroom matrix for expected behaviours. PB4L also promotes consistent consequences to problem behaviour, including bullying. All reports of bullying and / or bully-type behaviour are investigated. Should bullying be identified, parents are contacted. The school leadership, teachers, parents and students involved in the bullying episode work through a process to determine a response that will replace the bullying behaviour with positive behaviours.

## Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

St Rita's School has developed a positive reputation in the local community. Parent satisfaction with the school is noted through a collection of formal and informal processes and forums. All of these are responded to and generate a spirit of goodwill and genuine partnership between home and school. Feedback is sought through enrolment interviews for new and current families and the school is being recognised for positive teacher parent relationships.

Teacher satisfaction with the school is high with the creation of a collaborative culture of professional learning, shared leadership and strengths based performance development. (BCE Staff Survey shows significant strengths in provision of leadership opportunities, resourcing, professional goal setting, capability development and professional learning for all staff - compared with other and similar BCE schools). Students take great pride in our school. We receive recognition from the general public for the high standard of behaviour at excursions and sporting events.

## Parent involvement in their child's education

Parents are involved in their child's education at St Rita's in a spirit of partnership. Involvement occurs through assistance in class activities, class excursions and where needed, school camp. Parents are encouraged to share their expertise from fields of work and professional experience.

The parent partnership is founded at the start of each year with a parent / teacher enquiry meeting over the first three weeks of the school year.

The School Parent Network sponsored a number of education initiatives such as Student Protection/Safety activities. Reporting on student achievement involves parents in a three way conference between student, teacher and parents. A range and variety of communication methods are encouraged - emails, Keep in Touch books, student diaries and regular meetings through Concern for a Learner processes.

Encouragement for participation and partnership is promoted through the weekly school newsletter. A School Twitter account now has over 500 followers on Twitter / Facebook.

## Staff Profile

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff
Headcounts	36	27
Full-time equivalents	32.53	14.47
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders		

## Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of Teaching Staff (teaching staff includes school leaders)
Doctorate	0
Masters	9
Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate	4
Bachelors Degree	20
Diploma/Certificate	3

## Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2015 was \$ 84 439

The major professional development initiatives were as follows

Religious Education – Implementation of New Curriculum aligning with ACARA format

Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support (PB4L) – Coaching

1:1 Computer Program implementation for 3 teachers;

MSSD – More Support for Students with Disability.

Action Research; Positive Partnership – Action Research project for 3 teachers with students with ASD;

EY Toolkit – Developing effective strategies for students in Early Years presenting with behaviour difficulties that impact on learning;

DELT Strategy Learning Collaborative – All teaching staff; PD for Diverse Learners – School Officers.

Brendan Spillane – Cultures of High Performance – All Staff; Dadirri Experience – All Staff

## School Income by Funding Source

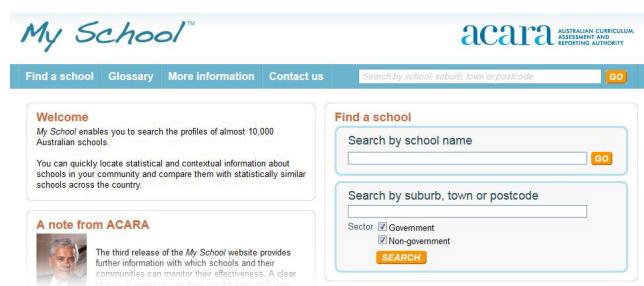
School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

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 95.31 % in 2015.

## Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2014 school year, 94.54 % of staff were retained by the school for the 2015 year.

## Key Student Outcomes

Whole School Attendance Rate	94.00 %
Prep Attendance Rate	93.00 %
Year 1 Attendance Rate	93.00 %
Year 2 Attendance Rate	94.00 %
Year 3 Attendance Rate	93.00 %

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

## Policy and practice to manage student attendance

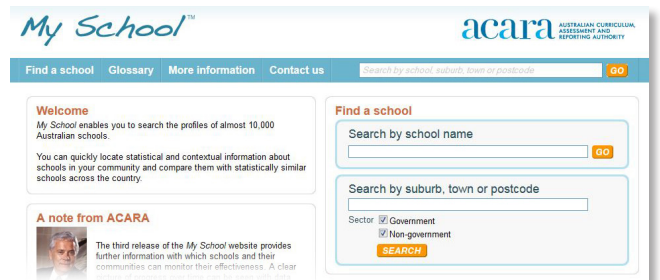
Class rolls are marked electronically twice per day before 9 am each morning and again by 2pm. Data is analysed for late attendance, unexplained attendance or excessive absenteeism. Concerns are addressed through parent/teacher dialogue and/or direct contact with parents. The introduction of the BI (Business Intelligence) Tool by Brisbane Catholic Education has also enabled effective and efficient data analysis for explained and unexplained absences.

Students arriving late are directed to sign in at school office and this is noted in student data system.

## 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/>.



The screenshot shows the My School website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Find a school', 'Glossary', 'More information', and 'Contact us'. A search bar is located to the right of the navigation bar, with the text 'Search by school, suburb, town or postcode' and a 'GO' button. Below the navigation bar, there is a 'Welcome' section with a brief description of the website's purpose. To the right of the welcome section is a 'Find a school' section with two search boxes: 'Search by school name' and 'Search by suburb, town or postcode'. Below these search boxes are radio buttons for 'Sector' with options for 'Government' and 'Non-government', and a 'SEARCH' button.

To access our NAPLAN results, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following

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