

School Name St Mary's School

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Principal's Foreword

Introduction

St Mary's School is a Catholic Archdiocesan co-educational primary school located in the fertile Lockyer Valley at Laidley. Laidley is just over an hours drive South-West of Brisbane and can be accessed via the Warrego Highway. Our school is located in a growing area that includes the suburbs of Hatton Vale, Grandchester, Summerholm, Glenore Grove, Kensington Grove, Brightview, Forest Hill and the Laidley Valleys. St Mary's School is located in the heart of Laidley with an amazing outlook over fields of cultivation up into the Mulgowie Valley. At present St Mary's has an enrolment of 314 students from Prep to Year 6.

St Mary's School is regarded highly for its focus on the individual and especially that each student is respected and valued. Our school culture is built around the understanding of respect. Respect for self, respect for others and respect for the environment in which we live and learn. It is these values that translate into the relationships between students, staff and parents. This culture of respect and being valued is strengthened through the modelled leadership of the school.

School Profile

St Mary's 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 314 Girls 148 Boys 166

Characteristics of the student body

St Mary's Catholic Primary School student body is represented by boys and girls aged five to thirteen years old. In 2014 the school had an enrolment of 318 students. The school is situated in the Lockyer Valley and students live on farms or in the town itself. The student body consists of students from a diverse range of backgrounds including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Vietnamese, Filipino and Chilean. This range of backgrounds provide an environment that is rich with culture and diversity. At St Mary's we have students with a variety of faiths including Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican and Uniting Church.

The interests of the students at St Mary's are many and varied. Many students enjoy outdoor activities relating to gardening, football, netball, equestrian pursuits. There are also students who show a keen interest in the arts. St Mary's has formed a Mini Vinnies group. Consisting of students from Yr 4 to Yr 6. At St Mary's the school curriculum is aligned to the National Curriculum and is specifically framed to meet the needs of the students in each class. It is focused on meeting the student's academic, spiritual, physical and social needs through a range of student-directed and teacher-directed learning experiences. These prepared learning experiences consider the needs of the individuals at St Mary's and are aimed to be meaningful, fun, challenging, play-based, integrated and flexible. In accordance with the Brisbane Catholic Education Guidelines, we aim to build "foundations for learning which, this group aims to help those in need within their school and local community. Mini Vinnies introduces children to social justice issues, to the St Vincent de Paul Society and to living faith through action.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

At St Mary's the school curriculum is aligned to the National Curriculum and is specifically framed to meet the needs of the students in each class. It is focused on meeting the student's academic, spiritual, physical and social needs through a range of student-directed and teacher-directed learning experiences. These prepared learning experiences consider the needs of the individuals at St Mary's and are aimed to be meaningful, fun, challenging, play-based, integrated and flexible. Throughout 2015 staff at St Mary's actively participated in professional development that enhanced student learning and development. This professional development broad ranging across the curriculum and included the areas of Mathematics, Literacy, History and Social and Emotional well being. In accordance with the Brisbane Catholic Education Guidelines, we aim to build "foundations for learning which are life long and life giving".

Extra curricula activities

At St Mary's School we provide a number of different activities that compliment the day to day teaching of students. These activities are an important part of school life here at St Mary's and would often not happen if it weren't for the generosity of many staff, parents and other community members. These community contributors through their willingness, generosity and talent allow our students to experience a wide range of other activities. We acknowledge their gifts and talents and thank them sincerely for their support. These activities include choir, chess club, inter-school sport, speed-soccer, cross country, athletics, swimming, Auskick, dance and homework club.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

Improving Information and Communication Technologies within St Mary's has been a key focus over the past few years. The use of technology is integrated and embedded in all curriculum areas at St Mary's. St Mary's now has a bank of over 140 laptop computers for student use within the school. These computers can be used within both a Computer Lab or taken into individual classroom and can connect wirelessly to the school's wireless network and internet in all areas of the school both inside and outside the classroom. St Mary's also has banks of Ipads for use in classrooms and also for student support. Digital camera's and digital video camera's are also used to develop photo stories, Powerpoint presentations and written reports within a variety of classrooms from Prep to Year 6. A number of software programs have also been purchased or subscribed to, too enhance student learning. All classrooms have Interactive Whiteboards that teachers and students use to engage and enhance learning. These resources provide up-to-date interesting, student centred learning activities and children thoroughly enjoy using the programs in their everyday school work.

Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

The St Mary's Learning Community prides itself on being supportive and welcoming. These attributes guide the interactions between students, staff, parents and the wider parish community. St Mary's is a Kidsmatter School and implements Kids Matter, Staff Matters and Sustainability Matters. Students, staff and parents have opportunities to be involved in pastoral care projects and activities such as: Buddy Groups, The Virtues Program, Catholic Mission Appeal, St Vincent De Paul, St Mary's Care and Concern and Rural Connect. St Mary's philosophy is based on respect and as this is the case does not tolerate bullying and promptly addresses disrespectful behaviour. St Mary's uses support staff to proactively support students with Positive Behaviour Support.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Overall Parents, Students and Staff are highly satisfied with the St Mary's Learning Community and this is shown through the highly positive feedback received through the St Mary's P&F, St Mary's School Board and also reflected through Internal and External Reviews. Each year we host a School Renewal Dinner to gain feedback from parents on components that were being reviewed. This review process was outstanding and all parents present were able to share their thoughts and discuss them fully whilst also having the opportunity to contribute to the overall rating of each component. This process is a means of collecting constructive, quality feedback. Students also have a voice through the Student Leadership Committees and also through the School Renewal Process. It is through everyday engagement and more formal settings that we are able to gain a good picture of the high level of student satisfaction.

Parent involvement in their child's education

At St Mary's we recognise that parents are and always will be the primary educators of their children. With this in mind we aim to support, promote and build on this foundation through encouraging parent involvement within the school.

At St Mary's we see parents as a key stakeholder in the three way partnership of student education and is therefore highly valued and appreciated. Parent help occurs in a variety of ways from direct support in Support-A-Reader, Perceptual Motor Programs, excursion helpers, swimming instructors through to indirect support including book covering, working bees, tuckshop, assistance with Munch and Crunch preparation and assisting with grounds maintenance. Along with these areas the St Mary's P&F also works hard to organise social activities for the St Mary's Learning Community. Parental assistance is both welcomed and encouraged as our school learning environment is enhanced through their ongoing support.

Staff Profile

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff
Headcounts	26	15
Full-time equivalents	24.60	9.32
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	3
Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate	1
Bachelors Degree	20
Diploma/Certificate	2

Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2015 was \$ 14941

The major professional development initiatives were as follows

Annual Goal Setting with Staff - \$6046

DELT - Delivering Excellent Learning and Teaching and Visible Learning - \$3894

Role M Maths Professional Development - \$1818

First Aid Training for Staff - \$1513

MultiLit Professional Development in MiniLit - \$861

Using ICT to know our students and their progression - \$491

Autism Professional Development with Sue Larkey - \$318

School Income by Funding Source

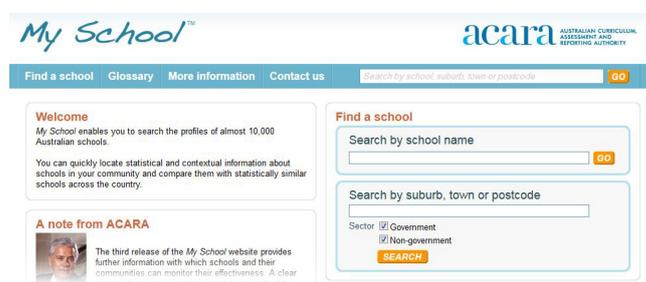
School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

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 97.21 % in 2015.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2014 school year, 92.7 % of staff were retained by the school for the 2015 year.

Key Student Outcomes

Whole School Attendance Rate	95.00 %
Prep Attendance Rate	96.00 %
Year 1 Attendance Rate	95.00 %
Year 2 Attendance Rate	96.00 %
Year 3 Attendance Rate	95.00 %

Year 4 Attendance Rate	94.00 %
Year 5 Attendance Rate	94.00 %
Year 6 Attendance Rate	96.00 %

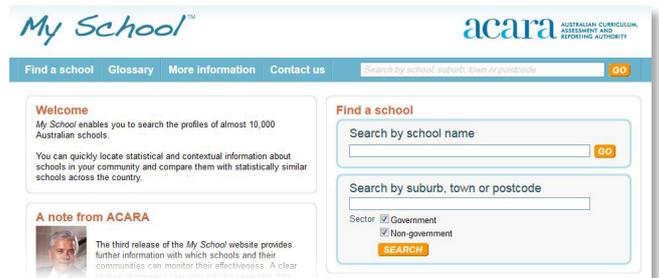
Policy and practice to manage student attendance

Staff mark rolls twice a day morning and afternoon in class. Office staff record notified absences as calls are received from parents as this is the expectation of parents if students are away. Parents are contacted on a daily basis for unexplained absences recorded at the morning marking of the roll. Administration and support staff monitor attendance and make contact or meet with families where attendance rates decline.

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 on the right side of the navigation bar, with the text 'Search by school, suburb, town or postcode' and a 'GO' button. Below the navigation bar, there are three main sections: 'Welcome', 'Find a school', and 'A note from ACARA'. The 'Welcome' section contains text about the website's purpose and a 'GO' button. The 'Find a school' section has two search boxes: 'Search by school name' and 'Search by suburb, town or postcode', both with 'GO' buttons. Below the search boxes, there are radio buttons for 'Sector' with 'Government' and 'Non-government' options, and a 'SEARCH' button. The 'A note from ACARA' section features a small profile picture and text about the website's third release.

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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Type in the name of the school whose NAPLAN results 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 able to access our NAPLAN data.