



Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

St Joseph's School, Parramatta Park

Motto	With Christ we Live, Love and Learn
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Phone Number	(07) 4038 5100
Email Address	secretary.parramatta@cns.catholic.edu.au
Website	www.stjosephscairns.qld.edu.au/
MySchool Profile	https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47842
Total Enrolments	377
Year Levels Offered	P-6
Student Population	Co-Educational
Principal	Mr Gavin Rick
Parish Priest	Fr Roy Neervelil
Parish Number	(07) 4051 1337



About our School

Our school is a sacred learnscape, where we are "all learning to live so that we can all live to learn."

Founded in 1927 by the Sisters of Mercy, St Joseph's School has at its very heart the values of Love, Learning, Community and Respect, as Jesus showed. Together with engaged and supportive parents, the staff of St Joseph's create a safe and innovative learning environment where each child has the opportunity to grow and thus achieve their potential.

A school for healthy minds, bodies and spirits, St Joseph's provides an authentic Catholic education with a strong focus on learning how to be better learners, and being socially and emotionally ready to learn. We believe that children learn more effectively when they feel connected and experience a sense of belonging.

Our school has and continues to undergo major capital redevelopment and now provides a world-class, state-of-the-art learning facility for our community. With flexible, comfortable and attractive learning spaces, our 'learning habitats' provide agency and agility for all learning situations.

Characteristics of Student Body

Male	Female	Unspecified	ESL	% Catholic	% First Nations	% NCCD	ICSEA
209	168		17	63.2%	10.1%	9.5%	1050

Enrolment Trend:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
392	389	385	383	392	377

School Annual Improvement

Priority 1: English (Writing)

Smart Goals: By the end of 2022, we have strong and sharp ‘whole of school effective pedagogical practices’ when teaching Literacy with clarity and consistency building across the school and expected student growth of a year.

Priority 2: Religious Education

Smart Goals: By the end of 2022, teachers have created year level sequence and scopes and religion planning that incorporate the St Joseph School story (e.g. the charisms of St Joseph and the Mercy tradition, school iconography, school traditions, First Nation perspectives.)

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

We remained solidly focused on our annual improvement priorities - Religious Education, English and the future introduction of V9 Mathematics and Health & Physical Education.

Our school proudly offered Chinese (Mandarin), Sports and The Arts (Music & Drama) as specialist areas. In addition, we offer:

- Dance
- Chess
- Running Club
- Choir
- Kitchen Garden
- Hockey
- Netball

Friendology – Social & Emotional Learning

Establishing and maintaining healthy friendships is a skill for life and one we will continue to prioritise. Our Friendology 101 work garnished positive results with students and provided staff and parents with a common language and practical skills in managing relationships. Joey’s Community Connect (JCC) supported our work by sponsoring the Parent Engagement workshops about the concepts of Friendology. We will emphasise partnering with families to strengthen the common language and practical skills of friendships. In addition, positive feedback from students, teachers, and parents has affirmed our commitment to a continued focus in 2023. We look forward to encouraging healthy and positive friendships and conflict resolution skills next year.

Well-being

The “Wellbeing Matters” parent communication hub (weekly email home) provided strategies for families in well-being and student safety. Topics explored included: eSafety, cyberbullying, online gaming, and time online. We used the student wellbeing survey data to inform our focus and resourcing, to enable greater support for all learners.

Partnering with *Pathways to Resilience*, we launched the year by providing students with information sessions about the brain. They learnt how the brain functions and its vital role in emotional regulation. This set the scene for the year and has been foundational to our approach.

Annual Mental Health initiatives

We continued to actively promote mental health initiatives within our school community throughout the year. We acknowledged and promoted RU Okay Day and Qld Mental Health Week.

English: Literacy

Focus: We engaged two expert consultants to lead staff development in the areas of English planning, teaching and assessing, with a focus on the reciprocal nature of literacy, encompassing oracy (speaking and listening), writing and reading, and acknowledging the foundational role of oral language.

Term 1–4 Jo Rossbridge, a consultant from Primary English Teachers Association Australia (PETAA), led staff in Using the Power of Talk to link Writing and Reading. This involved professional development each term focusing on analysing data, developing plans and building capacity in ‘teacher talk’ about texts.

Term 1–4 Alan Howe, a consultant from Oracy Cambridge, led staff in a complementary project called "St Joseph’s, a Talking School". This focused on oracy as an overt skill set: a focus on direct teaching to enable students to talk to get things done. Dialogic teaching focuses on teachers' use of talk so that students learn effectively through talk.

Learning Data

Our Year 3 and 5 students participated in NAPLAN online testing, with one exception for Year 3, who completed the Writing test on paper. The process ran smoothly with positive feedback from students and staff.

Overall, NAPLAN results were very pleasing, and the analysis has been completed.

Year 5 - All students achieved above the National Minimum Standard in the areas of Numeracy, Spelling, Writing and Reading. In Grammar and Punctuation, a very high percentage of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard.

Year 3 - A very high percentage of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard in the areas of Numeracy, Writing and Reading. In Spelling and Grammar, and Punctuation, a high percentage of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard.

Other valuable learning data has been gathered through standardised tests such as PAT Maths, Reading and Spelling. Also, in Maths, the Essential Assessment tool has enabled teachers to collect pre and post learning data and measure growth.

We were very excited that the JCC sponsored a parent workshop on the Maths Essential Assessment tool. As a result, families can now access their child's results and monitor their progress.

Religious Education

We continued the Religious Education units of work that inform and celebrate the story of St Joseph's and the Sisters of Mercy.

Leading in our mercy work were the Mercy Workers. Many of the religious events of the year are thanks to the tireless work of our Mercy Workers who contribute and model kindness and the spirit of humanity.

Extra Curricular Activities

It was wonderful to see the return of extra-curricular activities. Notable Highlights of 2022:

- Community events: fete, movie night, Christmas concert.
- Choir achievements at the Eisteddfod.
- Face-to-face assemblies.
- Mercy Week focuses on the inspired life of Catherine McAuley.
- Kitchen Garden, including cooks.
- First Nations Family Cuppa.
- NAIDOC celebrations and Sorry Day prayer.
- Year 6 Easter Play and Year 5 Christmas Nativity Musical.
- Student personal achievements within and beyond the school, as highlighted on Facebook.
- High family engagement in the Partner With You Project.
- Opening of the new entrance and covered walkways.

Social Climate

The School provided resources and learning around personal safety, friendships, and healthy social interactions. The School employed Circle Solutions to enable voice, and to build listening and empathy.

The School counsellor continued to support teachers to teach Friendology to most year levels and provided a parent information session on this. The School promoted respectful relationships using the school values of love and respect. When there was conflict between students, restorative practices were employed. When there was 'mean on purpose' behaviour it was used as a learning opportunity and the Respectful Relationships Policy was enacted.

The School engaged with the Bravehearts Ditto personal safety presentation for Preps, Year 1, 2 and 3.

The Daniel Morcombe curriculum was taught, and Day for Daniel was celebrated.

The School acknowledged the contributions of First Nations people and involved students in the acknowledgement of country. We continued the First Nations family Cuppa to enable our families to gather informally, discuss important matters, and help plan cultural events.

Parish Connections

The School supported the St Joseph's Parish Sacramental Program and encouraged members' participation in the parish community's liturgical life. On occasion, the school choir sang at Mass.

Parent Engagement

Joey's Community Connect

Parents worked alongside school staff to further explore their complementary role of being partners with staff in children's wellbeing and learning.

We continued implementing powerful strategies identified through the Partner with You Project by reflecting on what we need and want as parents to enable us to be partners in wellbeing and learning.

Many families supported the JCC's activities of 2022. Contributions include:

- Mother's Day Messages
- Movie Night for families
- Fete incorporating a Father's Day raffle
- World Teachers Day Thank You Morning Tea and Raffle
- The organisation and running of the Second-hand Uniform Shop
- Year Level Family Connect Coordinators (FCC)
- The sale of school umbrellas and school supporter shirts
- Joey's Business Directory communication
- Parent Learning Engagement Workshops: Friendology, SSP, Essential Assessment

School Board

The School Board has engaged in many valuable discussions this year, always focussing on improving our school. Our diverse makeup has brought a richness of dialogue, and it is liberating to hear parent voices being considered by school leadership and staff.

We have seen many wonderful results, including the new Entrance and Covered Walkways and a renewed approach to student leadership. The Prep playdates, bump-up day, and Prep Parents Evening are excellent and provide incredible support for new Prep families. We can look with confidence to engage in our Non-State School Accreditation in 2023.

Parent Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with parents of St Joseph's School (Parramatta Park) commencing 18 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 194 out of a total of 686 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 28.3%. St Joseph's School (Parramatta Park) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 82% (4.08 out of 5).

- Best practice areas include: First Nations, Leadership, Resources, General, Improvement Processes, Catholic Identity + Religious Education, Learning + Teaching.
- Fair to good areas include: Bullying + Behaviour Management, Safeguarding Children.

Staff Reporting

Qualification Highest level of attainment	Doctoral / Post-doctoral	Masters	Bachelor degree	Diploma	Certificate
Number of staff with this qualification		6	23	11	7

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	28	23.6
Non-Teaching Staff	19	12.28944
Indigenous	1	0.5

Professional Development	
Funds expended	\$53246.35
Staff Involved	100%

Major Professional Development Initiatives

In 2022, the professional learning opportunities for staff focussed on their attainment of knowledge, skills and attitudes around our major improvement areas. The major focus for 2022 for staff professional learning included:

- Teaching Oracy in powerful ways.
- Learning the Six Human Social & Cognitive Needs through the RELISH program.
- Data-informed Teaching & Learning in Maths and English.
- Literacy teaching in systematic, reciprocal ways.
- Dialogic teaching approach in Religious Education.

Attendance and Retention

Average staff attendance rate for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to 5 days	96.33%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous year	86.21%

Staff Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with staff of St Joseph's School (Parramatta Park) commencing 18 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 34 out of a total of 45 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 75.6%. St Joseph's School (Parramatta Park) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 82% (4.08 out of 5).

- Best practice areas include: Safeguarding Children, First Nations, General, Resources, Catholic Identity + Religious Education, Staff Engagement, Leadership.
- Fair to good areas include: Improvement Processes, Bullying + Behaviour Management.

Student Reporting Data

Average student attendance rates

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
86.69%	86.36%	87.28%	86.15%	87.49%	87.61%	87.15%	86.96%

How non-attendance is managed by the School

Parents are asked to notify the School by either telephone, email or school portal by 9.00am on the day that any student will be away. Any pattern of non-attendance is followed up via various strategies, including telephone calls, letters and parent meetings. Late students are required to sign in at the office.

The strong visuals of attendance posters were installed to promote attendance.

The impact on wellbeing and learning of non-attendance or late arrivals is published in the school newsletter regularly throughout the year. A Student Attendance Officer role.

Student Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with students of St Joseph's School (Parramatta Park) commencing 18 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 135 out of a total of 161 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 83.9%. St Joseph's School (Parramatta Park) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 78% (3.89 out of 5).

- Best practice areas include: First Nations, Learning + Teaching.
- Fair to good areas include: General, Resources, Improvement Processes, Safeguarding Children, Leadership, Catholic Identity + Religious Education.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN results are available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47842>

Funding Reporting Data

School funding breakdown is available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47842>