



# Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Longreach

2016 Annual School Report



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## The School's story

System:

**Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton**

Principal:

**Mrs Tanya Lambley**

Address:

**85 Eagle Street  
Longreach, QLD  
4730**

Total enrolments:

**103**

Year levels offered:

**Prep to Year 6**

Type of School:

**Co-educational**

# Curriculum Offerings

## Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Our Lady's caters for students from Prep to Year 6 in a single stream setting. Our curriculum is based on the gospel values of the charism of the Presentation Sisters with an emphasis placed on compassion, courage, hospitality, justice and simplicity. Our Lady's School focuses on the whole child and places a large emphasis on the social and emotional wellbeing of the students.

## Extra Curricula Activities

The students have many sporting opportunities through Central West and North West Schools Sports Board. Many of our students have gained representation at both levels. We have members of our staff who assume responsibility for these teams as managers, selectors and coaches.

Our students participate in the Diocesan Challenge Cup on a yearly basis under the banner of The Western Wave with our school combining with St Joseph's Blackall and St Joseph's Barcaldine to participate.

The annual Longreach Show provides our students with opportunities to showcase their talents. Students are always amongst the prize winners of the schools' exhibits.

Our Prep- Year 2 students participate every year in Under 8's week. The school combines with Longreach State School and hosts the celebrations on a yearly rotational basis.

Prep- Year 3 also participates in the Bravehearts presentation alongside the State School. This presentation educates our students on how to keep safe and supports what we teach our students through the Daniel Morcombe Curriculum.

RREAP funding allows our students to participate in camps and events outside the Longreach area, including Reader's Cup and Optiminds.

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

There is a commitment to the integration of Information and Communication Technologies in all learning areas. Interactive whiteboards are in use in all classrooms from Prep to Year 6. As well as a traditional computer lab, students have access to computers in all classrooms and in the Enrichment Room. Each year level has a set of iPads which are used in a variety of curriculum areas. Teachers are consistently participating in professional development and learning to ensure that the students are given the best opportunity to learn using technology.

Each year the school participates in the Kids Connect Conference which promotes learning through technology. Upper years' students nominate to be part of this conference.

## Social Climate

All students regardless of their faith background participate in liturgical celebrations. Each class attends a parish mass once a term and whole school masses are held twice per term. Mass is held either in St Brigid's Church or in the Bush Chapel on the school grounds.

Our Lady's is a family-orientated school which emphasises care and concern for the individual: the teacher-pupil ratio makes for an intimate school environment.

A vital community exists which links the school community with the local Catholic Parish community. These strong links are sustained by the efforts of staff, parents, students and members of the parish community.

Events are marked and celebrated: Anzac Day, Catholic Education Week, feast days, leadership induction, special days including Mothers' and Fathers' Days, new arrivals at school, departures. Students in each year level participate in some form of community service e.g. Meals on Wheels, visits to the local aged care facility and caring for the garden areas and cleaning at the church.

## Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Our school has implemented diocesan policies on Acceptable Use Agreements and ICT Code of Practice for students and staff. The school regularly communicates to the school community about cyber safety issues. We also have appropriate policies in place to deal with the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices. Our school has a number of social/emotional learning programs in place to assist students in guarding against bullying at school. The school community is kept up to date about developments in this area. All diocesan and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis.

The school works in partnership with the local police and anti-bullying and cyber safety agencies to deliver information sessions to students and parents/carers in order to educate and prevent bullying and cyber safety issues.

We also use CEO personnel to work with our Year 5 and 6 students on the importance of cyber bullying through workshops.

## Strategies used for involving parents in their child's education

Parents are strongly encouraged and often personally invited to join the Board or P&F groups. Conferences are available for Board and P & F representatives.

Information sessions on learning areas, behaviour management and reporting procedures are offered to parents to support their child's development.

Parents are invited to attend and participate in liturgical celebrations and in general classroom activities including class assemblies.

Parent Information sessions are always offered when professional educators are in attendance at school.

The fortnightly electronic newsletter is an important forum for the exchange of information between the school and families.

Each fortnight a Class Newsletter is sent out to inform parents of the learning experiences and activities happening in each classroom.

## Reducing the school's environmental footprint

Our Lady's has introduced a number of initiatives to care for our environment. We participate in National Plant a Tree Day to reduce carbon dioxide in our atmosphere and Clean Up Australia Day. A compost system was introduced to assist in the fertilisation of the school garden using food scraps. The school has our own vegetable garden and chickens. These foods are used in our school tuckshop. Our Lady's now has an electronic newsletter to conserve the use of paper and text messaging has also been introduced to limit paper use. A variety of bins are used around the school to prevent rubbish; bins for bread scraps which go to the chooks and fruit/vege bins which go into the compost.

## Characteristics of the Student Body

All students are impacted on, particularly culturally, by the isolation of our town. The continued down-turn in Australia's agricultural sector impacts significantly on Longreach and our school. This impact is somewhat offset by the growing tourism industry in the region. Drought continues to be a major impacting factor on our families. Most families in our school community have at least one income earner in the family. A small percentage of student families are involved in the grazing industry. They bring a different perspective on life. Experience with students of other ethnic backgrounds is increasing with an increase in enrolments of students from other ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Over the past few years we have had an increase in enrolment of indigenous students some of whom do not have Standard Australian English as their first language.

## Staffing composition, including Indigenous staff

### Workforce Composition of all teachers

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	14	8	0
Full-time equivalents	13.4	4.09	0

## Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	
Masters	
Bachelor Degree	100 %
Diploma	
Certificate	

## Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

**TOTAL FUNDS** expended on teacher professional development according to Australian Government Quality Teacher Program reporting requirements.

\$ 29,100

### MAJOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

All members of staff have participated in English and Mathematics PD presented by specialists in the fields. The key focus has been differentiation and how teachers can accommodate all students in their class. Spelling and phonological awareness continue to be a priority along with the development of Literacy blocks and rotations. Staff also participate in the Bishop's In-service Day and religious Education PD provided by CEO and the local Parish Priest. HASS and Technology PD is something that the school will focus on in the future.

The percentage of the **TEACHING STAFF INVOLVED IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
100 %

## Average staff attendance

Average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to 5 days.

97.01 %

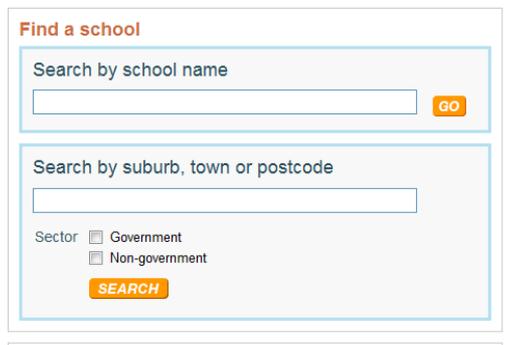
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year

76.92 %

## School Income

<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

(The School information below is available on the My School website).



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## National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy Results

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, and 7 are available via the My School website at [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au).

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 NAPLAN data.

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of our school's NAPLAN results.

## Key Student Outcomes

At Our Lady's we use a number of factors to assist us in determining curriculum development. NAPLAN results, oral language testing, DRA testing, PatMaths interviews are some of the criteria we use to determine curriculum development across the school. Student's needs, educational trends and research are taken into account when making decisions about adjustments to curriculum and teaching pedagogy. Data walls have been introduced for teachers and leadership to analyse and make appropriate changes to the literacy and numeracy needs of the school.

## Student Attendance

### Average student attendance rate (%)

85.4 %

### Describe how non-attendance is managed by the school

Families are expected to advise the school of any non-attendance by their children. Families are contacted through a text message at 9am if the child is not present at school and this has not been communicated. If a parent has not responded to the text message a follow up phone call is done. From time to time, articles which focus on school attendance are placed in the school newsletter. If non-attendance is a continuous concern the principal will meet with families and devise an attendance plan and strategies to support the family.

## Value Added

### The story of distance travelled

At Our Lady's School there is a continual major focus on literacy and numeracy development. Our Lady's has re-shaped our reading, spelling and oral language programs and believe that this will enhance results in the areas of reading, spelling and writing. Developing the whole child is something we value at Our Lady's and we strive to achieve this by producing learning experiences both within the curriculum and through co-curricular activities.

### The story of where you are going

While we continue with our major focus of literacy and numeracy development there will also be considerable time spent on how we can best cater for the individual needs of all of our students regardless of where they are in the development phase. Mathematics and English specialists will work with the staff and students to ensure that we are delivering what is considered to be best practice.

## Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

At Our Lady's School the parent, teacher and student satisfaction levels appear to be high due to a number of indicators. Support from parents on educational issues and from the wider community is always forthcoming. Participation of students and families in all school activities including activities outside school hours is usually very positive. We have an increased number of family and community members on our Board and attending P&F meetings. Many prospective families present to Our Lady's due to the reputation that it has in the community.