



St Benedict's Catholic Primary School Yeppoon

2021 Annual School Report



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

Principal

Julie McLaughlin

Address

1 Laceys Road
Pacific Heights
Yeppoon Qld 4703

Total enrolments

351

Year levels offered

Prep – Year 6

Type of School:

Co-educational

School Overview

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School is a two-stream, Prep – Year Six school located at the northern end of the Capricorn Coast in Yeppoon. Opened in 2009, the school is part of the Capricorn Coast Parish and through its naming continues to develop strong links with the local Benedictine community. Our school mission statement emphasises these links to the Benedictine tradition as together we seek to create a welcoming, respectful community where all learners feel safe and supported. We strive to be reflective, self-directed, lifelong learners who grow as responsible global citizens living in ways that are aligned to the Benedictine values of love, prayer, discipline, humility, stewardship, hospitality, and community. We take Jesus Christ as our model and foundation, working as part of the church to bring about the harmony, fulfilment and satisfaction we believe God intends for all people.

St Benedict's offers an academic education of the highest standard in an environment guided by Christian values. Specialist lessons are provided for all students in Physical Education, Music and Drama. Instrumental music lessons are available and extra-curricular activities include choirs and sports teams. A vital aspect of student learning and development is the relationship between school and home. St Benedict's strives to be a community that is compassionate, just, respectful and where families and children feel important, are happy and experience success through holistic learning opportunities.

More information on our school can be accessed from myschool.edu.au

Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School is a community of learners inspired by the Benedictine vision. We make our Benedictine Charism central to all aspects of our learning, therefore, reflecting the message of Jesus Christ.

Together we seek to create a welcoming, respectful community where all learners feel safe and supported. We want all to be reflective and self-directed lifelong learners who grow as responsible global citizens living lives of hospitality.

Our teaching practices create an enjoyable, safe and supportive environment where all learners can grow. This is demonstrated through the implementation of our Genius Hour, which emphasises the teaching and learning of robotics, coding, problem solving, group initiatives and 3D printing. We also engage our students through a specialised Drama and Performance Hour.

Extra Curricula Activities

Our instrumental music program is broad and well attended with approximately 70 students undertaking the opportunity to extend their talents.

This program includes the teaching of piano, woodwind (clarinet, trumpet and saxophone), guitar and vocal sessions individually or in small groups. These musicians regularly participate in our school masses and are given the opportunity to partake in community events.

Multiple school teams are involved in the local club touch football competition. School netball teams participate in the Capricorn Coast Netball Association competition during Terms 2 and 3. These teams also nominate and participate in local and regional carnivals.

All students in Years Five and Six participate in the Gala Days, interschool sports program during Terms 2, 3 and 4. This includes netball, rugby league, soccer, t-ball, AFL, touch football and Oz Tag. The Year 6 children participate in beach activities including kite flying, fishing, surf lifesaving skills and surfing.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

ICTs are an integral part of the teaching and learning program from Prep through to Year 6. ICTs are used to enhance student learning by providing students with the opportunity to access a wide variety of learning tools to engage and communicate their learning. ICTs are used to encourage creativity and critical thinking, while providing additional purposes and audiences for learning.

Our Prep to Year 4 classrooms engage with programs such as Seesaw, Studyladder and Book Creator. These programs complement our classroom teaching as well as integrating ICT into everyday learning. Our Year 5 and 6 classes engage in multiple problem solving and investigative activities which involve robotics and coding.

With the exception of Prep and Year 1, all classes access their homework online via Google Classroom. This allows students to use their knowledge of digital technologies, practice skills involved with ICTs and continue to develop these skills whilst completing traditional homework activities.

All classes from Prep to Year 4 are provided with a specifically designed Genius Hour which targets the use of ICTs with a STEM investigative model. This occurs for one hour each fortnight. All students have the opportunity to design and they use 3D printers throughout the year.

Our Year 6 cohort are involved in a one to one iPad program where curriculum is delivered through the use of iPad technology.

Social Climate

Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

In the tradition of St Benedict, our community places an emphasis on learning for life, self-reflection and all learning experienced through academic, sporting and cultural endeavours.

In the Benedictine tradition of prayer, welcome, community and work, we listen, love and learn with Jesus, as we work and pray in the pursuit of peace.

A qualified counsellor provides counselling sessions every Tuesday and Thursday. This professional work includes working individually with students and parents, group skilling sessions and working within classrooms.

Our learning support program provides many opportunities for students to learn and practice social skills which assist in their overall learning and achievement.

Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

The Student Code of Conduct guides expectations for all behaviour at St Benedict's. The Catholic Education Anti-Bullying Policy is also implemented at St Benedict's. Cyber safety is included in the learning program for our Year Five and Six students. This is also reiterated exclusively with the Year 6 cohort with contractual conditions taught as part of their one to one iPad program.

Annual Staff student protection training includes information, updates and expectations in these areas.

Information is regularly provided to parents for their own education and to enable them to discuss with their children the importance of online safety.

The Child Safety (Daniel Morcombe) Curriculum is implemented across all year levels during Term 1 each year.

Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

All parents at St Benedict's are automatic members of the Parents and Friends Association upon their child/ren's enrolment at the school. Following the election of an executive, the Association and School invite all parents to the monthly meeting of the Association.

St Benedict's School has a School Board that includes parent members. Parents interested in Board membership are invited to the annual pre-service training. This provides parents with the opportunity to examine their gifts and offer their service to the Board through their monthly meetings.

Each class holds an information evening in week 3 of the school year to assist parents understand the year ahead. During this session parents are also invited to assist in the classroom. Parents are encouraged to volunteer in our school tuckshop and at other community events.

Parent education sessions are provided at Parents and Friends Association meetings and on other occasions outside of these meetings.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

St Benedict's is aware of its environmental footprint and has introduced several initiatives to reduce our impact on the environment both local and global.

The school installed four large tanks to reduce our water consumption. Two tanks harvest water from our buildings and this is stored for use in our toilets and gardens. Another two tanks store recycled water from our local council which is used for the irrigation of our school oval.

We have an active gardening group who plant and tend a variety of fruits and vegetables. The garden promotes the use of a worm farm and recycled cardboard and food scraps. Children involved with this group collect recyclable items daily and place them in composting bins.

We have begun to clear an area of the school which is adjacent to our local creek. The removal of lantana and other noxious weeds is being conducted by our grounds staff and we intend to then re-establish native vegetation which will enhance the environment, improve water quality and allow students to study this environment over time. We have engaged a number of local groups to assist with the rehabilitation of this area and received a \$5000 grant from Landcare Australia in 2021 allowing us to establish a Junior Landcare Group. We have purchased and installed four native bee hives which enhances the local flora and assists with the growth of fruit and vegetables.

We have approximately 90 solar panels installed and from this we have greatly reduced our power consumption across the whole school. All classrooms have timer switches installed which automatically turn off air conditioners after a period of time. LED lighting has been installed throughout the school. These dim when not being used and they have proved to be very efficient especially those used to power security lighting at night.

Characteristics of the Student Body

Our school is a part of the Capricorn Coast Parish and through its naming has developed strong links with Benedictine community. Our Benedictine Sister, Kym Harris plays an active role in the spiritual and broader community life of St Benedict's Catholic Primary School. Sr Kym Harris is an active member of our school as a member of our school board and through providing regular professional development opportunities for our teaching and ancillary staff.

St Benedict's has continued to be a vibrant and welcoming learning community. This culture can be attributed to the close, complementary relationship enjoyed amongst the staff, students, parents and parish community.

As part of the parish, our school endeavours to be involved with parish activities and to maintain open lines of communication with the wider parish community. Our Parish Priest, Fr Andrew Hogan continues to play a valuable role within the school as we develop our Benedictine charism. A parish representative is also a member of the school board. Our Principal and staff are members of various parish committees ensuring ongoing communication between all groups.

St Benedict's is a part of the wider Yeppoon community and maintains strong links with Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, St Ursula's College, St Brendan's College and other local schools. Along with these schools, St Benedict's enjoys close ties with local community groups such as St Vincent de Paul and the local RSL.

As a Catholic School, we at St Benedict's strive to witness to the mission of the Catholic Church - to proclaim the Good News. By offering a learning environment that encourages all to work together in a challenging environment, we strive to empower all members of our community to become reflective and self-directed learners who are actively involved in their communities.

Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2021 was 94.61%.

Management of non-attendance

All student absences from school require notification to the school via phone, email or note. Unexplained absences are communicated to parents each morning via SMS by 10.00am. Unexplained absences greater than two days are followed up by a member of the administration via phone.

Staffing Information

Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	27.00	16.00	1.00
Full-time equivalents	22.69	8.51	0.45

Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	
Masters	7.41%
Bachelor Degree	85.19%
Diploma	7.41%
Certificate	

Major Professional Development Initiatives

St Benedict's continues to provide quality professional development opportunities including:

1. Catholic Ethos & Identity

- Benedictine Charism and the history of its development education
- Engaging with Prep, Year 1, 2, 3 & 4 teachers for Religious Education Curriculum planning and assessing

2. Teaching and Learning

- Spelling Project: continue professional development around Effective Spelling
- Maths Project: begin professional learning conversations with assistance from the Diocesan
- Consultant - Primary Mathematics and through engaging Back to Front Maths professionals to improve the teaching of mathematics.

3. Improvement Practices and Processes

- Engage teachers in professional learning experiences based on their teacher goals which are set and reviewed at the beginning of each year. These include Qsite workshops around robotics and coding and Literacy Workshops based around Reading and Writing Hour.

The percentage of teachers engaged in professional development was 100%.

Total funds expended on Professional Development

The total of funds expended on teacher professional development was \$32,000.

Average Staff Attendance and Retention

The average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to five days, was 94.28%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 96.55%.

School Income

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

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

Find a school

Search by school name

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector Government
 Non-government

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy Results

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for Years 3 and 5 are available via the My School website at www.myschool.edu.au.

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 and Value Added

St Benedict's has a clear focus on providing academic, cultural, physical, relational and spiritual experiences and opportunities for all students.

NAPLAN was not conducted in 2020, however, St Benedict's maintained a targeted approach for Reading, Writing and Numeracy through specifically planned 'hours'. Individual student goals and needs are planned for during this time. We engaged with CEDR for both Literacy and Numeracy, focusing heavily on the adjustments which were being made for all student to specifically target their individual needs. This focus required teachers and support staff to have a clear understanding of the purpose of our Reading and Writing Hours, to focus on how these were written and employed to ensure planning was suitable, matched students' needs and clearly articulated, particularly for those students who were listed on our NCCD data, the adjustments which were being made. This will continue as we move into 2022, with our Mathematics Hour and teaching strategies becoming our major focus.

In addition to programs implemented for our focus areas (e.g. teaching, instrumental, sporting, prayer), our school strives to include an outward focus where students support and serve the school, local and wider communities.

Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

Strategic progress in 2021

The key goals for 2021 from our School Improvement Plan included:

- Building our knowledge of Benedictine Charism
- Enhancing knowledge and delivery of new Religion Curriculum P - 2
- Developing the analysis and documentation of individual students' needs
- Developing student driven planning through Reading, Writing and Maths Hours

Along with these goals, teachers continued to engage with ongoing reviews of their planning. Regular leadership led discussions are held at least three times per term. This was complemented with discussions around the planning for and documenting of teaching and learning for those students who were included in NCCD data.

Strategic Priorities for 2022

As we reviewed and improved the teaching of reading, we saw a need to focus on the improvement of our students writing. NAPLAN results, while not conducted in 2020, do demonstrate a lack of quality growth. Our students remain above the State and National average for writing; however, we have not witnessed the same growth as that which is evident in reading. Therefore, we will trial in 2022 the following:

Development of a writing running record

- ongoing recording of student progress under headings of grammar, punctuation, fluency
- implemented each period/session when guided writing occurs with students
- simple ongoing record needed to build direct individual teaching

We will also focus on the teaching of Mathematics, growth mindset education and how this complements students' ability to tackle problem solving and all tasks.

Our Benedictine Charism is a continual focus as it underpins all that we are. We will participate, for a second time, in the Enhancing Catholic School Project through a survey and use these results to reflect on how we teach and project our beliefs and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

St Benedict's enjoys an active parent community who support the cultural, spiritual, sporting and academic pursuits of the school. Parents are well represented at many school events and activities in which students are involved.

Our holistic approach to education and the development of individuals continues to provide positive feedback to the school. This was evident as we participated in a satisfaction survey during 2021. Across all domains we had an average overall satisfaction rating of over 85%.

The teaching and support staff have remained very stable and this contributes to the confirmation of their satisfaction with St Benedict's as a learning community.