



St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba

Catholic co-educational primary school

Diocese of Toowoomba

Annual report 2017

Address	PO Box 1145 14 Lawrence Street Toowoomba QLD 4350	Phone number	07 4637 1555
email	ssps@twb.catholic.edu.au	Principal	Donna Muir
Year levels	Prep-Year 6	Enrolment	409
Co-educational or single sex			co-educational
Boarders	no	Outside hours school care	yes
		Vacation care	no
Contact person for information about the school and school policies		Madonna Sleba	

The school's mission

St Saviour's Primary School is the oldest Catholic School in the diocese dedicated to educating boys and girls, and developing in them skills, attitudes and values that will enable them to participate as active and informed citizens. It does this within the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy where Christian values are an everyday lived experience.

The Mission of St Saviour's Primary School Community is to foster an environment where...

Each child is valued and respected by all striving to...

- show love and kindness
- act with compassion and justice
- express appreciation and gratitude
- treat all with dignity.

Each child's giftedness is recognised by all striving to...

- encourage each child to accept self as a gift
- celebrate the diversity of people's talents.
- recognise the uniqueness of the individual
- encourage and affirm people's efforts and achievements
- develop the whole child.

Each child's potential is realised by striving to...

- balance spiritual, moral, social and academic needs
- provide opportunities for individual growth
- develop a diverse curriculum
- be inclusive.

All in the community are striving to...

- offer service
- be cooperative, loving and just
- be merciful to others
- celebrate our Catholic faith.

Distinctive curriculum offerings

The school curriculum includes the following Learning Areas.

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- The Arts – Music, Drama, Media
- Technology
- Health and Physical Education
- HASS – Humanities and Social Science
- Languages other than English

The curriculum of St Saviour's is based upon the curriculum set by ACARA and QCAA documents, as well as Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office curriculum guidelines in Religious Education.

Integrating the curriculum with everyday life skills and events within the Catholic context is a priority. St Saviour's Primary is committed to educating students for the future. Our curriculum is designed to assist students to become learners for life with a firm grasp of basic numeracy and literacy skills. The school strives to develop in students the skills, attitudes and values that will enable them to reach their full potential as successful and responsible citizens.

At St Saviour's Primary School the following beliefs are held about learners and learning.

- The individuality of each student is recognised and it is acknowledged that each person learns differently.
- Most students are capable of learning basic skills.
- Literacy and Numeracy are basic to learning and are valued highly.
- A positive learning environment is necessary for students to learn.
- Students learn best when they are challenged at an appropriate level.
- Real life learning activities enable students to grasp concepts and processes.
- Learning is a process for life.

Extra-curricular activities

St Saviour's Primary School offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities including:

- choir
- instrumental music (Prep to 6)
- drama (Years Prep to 6)
- piano lessons
- Japanese lessons (Prep to 6 compulsory)

- AFL, ARL, golf, cricket and basketball coaching sessions
- chess club
- IT committee – lunch time activities
- Mini-Vinnies
- Readers' club
- Maths and English competitions
- annual camps – Years 5 and 6
- school excursions
- sports training

Social climate (including pastoral care and student behaviour support)

Our school acknowledges that parents are the first educators of their children. As a school we support, encourage and nurture the development of the whole child. We provide many opportunities for the wider school community to be part of the teaching, learning and celebration process as students grow and develop.

In supporting the social development of students and the wider community we

- involve parents and community members in class prayer gatherings and masses
- organise students in 'buddy systems' where older students are 'buddied' with younger students for games, reading and social support
- organise interschool activities with the other Catholic Schools to help build a stronger local community
- recognise all Year 6 children as school leaders; these children fulfil many leadership tasks during their final year at the school.
- organise social activities for the parent body (via the Parents and Friends) that are aimed at building community; these activities include the Welcome Barbecue, Race Day, Trivia Night and Fun Day
- support students in need with various programs including School Counsellor, Occupational Therapist and other specialist support
- organise the children in small groups and individually to discuss anti-bullying strategies and how to handle these situations; this is a part of our school learning support program
- administer the Anti-bullying policy and Behaviour Management policy where both are fully implemented in the school
- provide feedback and strategies to the children at assemblies and parade where applicable
- organise paid and professional presenters to perform a drama about anti-bullying eg Bully Busters
- organise National Buddy Day and other events that promote a safe environment against Bullying within the school environment
- share anti-bullying tips with the school community in the newsletter and address at meetings.
- host cyberbullying information nights
- have posters and other information that promotes a safe learning environment
- base our school policy and guidelines on the Lee Canter Assertive Discipline research (currently being reviewed and updated)
- Pastoral Care groups are organised to support students and families when in need.

These strategies ensure that we are developing the social and emotional wellbeing of our students in the Catholic tradition.

Characteristics of the student body

The students at St Saviour's Primary School are a diverse group of children and they are grouped in year levels. There are two classes in each year level from Prep through to Year Six accommodating both boys and girls.

In 2017, 409 boys and girls were enrolled at St Saviour's Primary, with two classes of each level from Prep to Year 6.

The school community consists of students from a wide variety of socio-economic, cultural and religious backgrounds, enriching the inclusive nature of the school.

According to the 2017 My School website, the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) value for the school is 1064 (1000 is the average) taken from student background information. The distribution of students in the top quartile of social advantage is 31%, the bottom quartile is 9% with 26% and 34% in other two quartiles.

St Saviour's Primary values the cultural diversity within the student population and the breakdown is as follows.

- 56.23% of children are Catholic
- 16.87% of children are other Christian Affiliation
- 4% indigenous
- 4% language other than English

Parent/carer involvement

We encourage parents to take a keen interest in the school and to support the school community by becoming involved on a regular basis. Listed below are some areas in which parental support is particularly appreciated.

- listening to children read
- helping in Art and Crafts
- assisting in the tuckshop
- Monday morning assembly
- parents sharing their expertise eg painting, scientist
- Information Technology Committee, Finance committee
- classroom activities
- Pastoral Care group
- Parents and Friends Association
- School Board, Race Day Committee and other groups
- sports coaching
- working bees
- sports events: athletics, cross country, swimming

We urge parents to continue to be actively involved in the education of their child/children at home as well. The single most important way parents can do this is to model positive attitudes towards school and learning.

School income by funding source

School income reported by the financial year accounting cycle using standardised national methodologies and broken down by funding source is available via the *MySchool* website at www.myschool.edu.au.

Staff

Workforce composition

	Total teaching staff	Total non-teaching staff	Indigenous staff
Headcount	25	19	3
Full-time equivalents	20.6	8.7	1.5

Teacher qualifications

Qualification	% of teaching
Doctoral / Post-Doctoral	0%
Masters	16%
Bachelor Degree	64%
Diploma	20%
Certificate	0%

Average staff attendance

96.6

Staff retention

91%

Professional Development (participation and expenditure)

All staff members have accessed throughout the school year professional development in a variety of Key Learning Areas and Workplace Health and Safety. In 2017 approximately \$23,000 was funded towards professional development.

Other Professional development was supported through funding from Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office.

Professional Development opportunities included

- Religious Education
- Learning Support Education – including teachers and school officers
- Literacy: Reading Improvement Strategy
- Workplace Health and Safety
- First Aid
- Numeracy workshop
- Student Protection
- Behaviour Management

Student attendance

Average whole of school student attendance rate (expressed as %): 93%

Student attendance for each year level (expressed as %)

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Average student attendance rate
92.6%	92.60%	93.00%	92.90%	92.25%	92.36%	90.96%	92.34%

Description of how non-attendance of students is managed by the school

Rolls are marked twice a day, morning and afternoon. The families of any students with an unexplained absence are phoned by 9:30am each morning. Late slips are provided to the principal to monitor late arrivals. Parents are expected to inform the school prior to known absences ie family holiday, doctor's appointment, etc. If students leave the school during the day, parents must sign them out at the school office.

Families of students with long term unexplained absences are required to meet with the principal.

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results

Year 3 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading	461	425	431	100%
Writing	415	402	413	100%
Spelling	436	408	416	100%
Grammar and Punctuation	454	437	439	96%
Numeracy	409	402	409	100%

Year 5 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading	526	502	505	100%
Writing	487	461	472	98%
Spelling	512	496	500	98%
Grammar and Punctuation	543	496	499	97%
Numeracy	506	490	493	100%

School renewal and improvement

Overview of procedures

St Saviour's engaged in the Excellence in Catholic Education (EiCE) school improvement process that has been in place in Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic schools since 2012.

EiCE involves the school reflecting on its effectiveness, making plans for improved teaching and learning and acting upon those. EiCE envisages the school taking five years to work its way through 24 components in the four areas of Catholic Life and Religious Education; Learning and Teaching; Leadership for School Improvement; Strategic Resourcing.

In 2017, the EiCE components on which our school focused were Compliance and Accountability; Use of Resource, Facilities and The Learning Environment; Community Partnerships and Ownership; Cultural Diversity.

Parent, staff and student satisfaction

Each year St Saviour's engages in data gathering from parents, staff and students to assist it in evaluating the effectiveness of its educational program.

Materials provided by Research Australia Development & Innovation Institute (RADII) are used. Part of the RADII process is the collection of data regarding the overall satisfaction of parents, staff and students. Overall satisfaction responses for 2017 are shown below.

Parents

90% of parents satisfied with children's educational progress at the school.

93% of parents satisfied that school's educational program enable children to learn.

Staff

100% of staff satisfied overall with educational progress of students.

100% of staff satisfied that school's educational programs enable students to learn.

Students

82% of Years 5 - 6 students satisfied with their learning at this school.