



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba

A Catholic co-educational school of the Diocese of Toowoomba

"Strive for Goodness"

Address	PO Box 1145 14 Lawrence St Toowoomba QLD 4350	Phone	07 4637 1555
Year Levels	Prep – Year 6	Fax	07 4637 1556
Enrolment	394	Email	ssps@twb.catholic.edu.au
Principal	Mrs Donna Muir	Boarders	No
Vacation Care	No	After School Care	Yes

Our 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 recognized by all striving to:

- Encourage each child to accept self as a gift.
- Celebrate the diversity of people's talents.
- Recognize 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 co-operative, 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 enables students to grasp concepts and processes.
- Learning is a process for life.

Grouping of students

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



Specialisation among teachers

St Saviour's Primary School has specialist teachers for the areas of Music, LOTE (Japanese), Drama and Health & Physical Education. These teachers work with all classes from Prep to Six. The school also has a Teacher-Librarian, an English as Additional Language or Dialect teacher, an Information Communication Technology support teacher and two specialist Learning Support Teachers.

Information Communication Technology

The use of computers, interactive Whiteboards(IWB), iPads, iMac and other electronic devices and their associated software are integrated and embedded throughout the curriculum in all learning areas. Teachers and students view the use of electronic tools as part of their daily teaching and learning. Each teacher has their own computer and iPad in addition to ten computers for each cohort. Additionally, each learning space has its own data projector, IWB, classroom camera, microscopes and other electronic devices. The school has a class set of 30 laptops that are available to teachers and students in the multimedia classroom located in the library. There is also has an interactive LCD touch screen television for teachers to use. Computers and other electronic devices are seen as essential tools in developing, maintaining and extending student learning in all areas of the curriculum.

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, 6
- School Excursions
- Sports Training

Social Climate

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 is 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 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 e.g. 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 well-being of our students in the Catholic tradition.

Parental 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
- Learning Support pastoral group meeting, twice a term
- Parents sharing their expertise e.g. painting, scientist
- Information Technology Committee, Finance committee
- Classroom activities
- Pastoral Care Group
- Class Representatives – Parents and Friends' initiative
- School Board, Race Day Committee and other groups
- Taking an active role in the Parents and Friends' Association
- Sports Coaching
- Working Bees

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 Financial Information

The information on net recurrent income including:

- Federal Government recurrent funding
- Queensland Government recurrent funding
- Fee, charges and parent contributions
- Other private resources

is available from: www.myschool.edu.au

Staff Composition

Workforce Composition	Total Teaching Staff	Total Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	25	20	2
Full-time equivalents	20.8	12.1	1.3

Teacher Qualifications

Qualification	% of Teaching Staff
Doctoral / Post Doctoral	0%
Masters	11%
Bachelor Degree	71%
Diploma	0%
Certificate	18%

Professional Development

All staff members have access throughout the year to attend professional development in a variety of Key Learning Areas. Throughout each year the school budget expends funds to support staff professional development. In 2016 it was approximately \$20 000. Other Professional Development was supported through funding from Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office.

Professional Development opportunities included:

- Religious Education Inservice
- Special Needs Conference – including learning support teachers and school officers
- ICT inservices – iPads, IWB's
- Literacy and English
- Spelling – TCSO support, Literacy Solutions



Average Staff Attendance

97.22%

Staff Retention

90.00%

Average Student Attendance Rate

93.87%.

Student Attendance for Each Year Level (expressed as %)

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
93.86%	93.65%	94.13%	93.04%	94.20%	93.25%	95.03%

Description of How Non-Attendance 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 i.e. 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 (2016)				
	OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	STATE AVERAGE	Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark
Reading	453	426	420	100
Writing	431	421	409	100
Spelling	434	420	411	100
Grammar and Punctuation	468	436	433	100
Numeracy	406	402	397	98



Year 5 Test Results (2016)				
	OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	STATE AVERAGE	Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark
Reading	538	502	500	100
Writing	490	476	466	96
Spelling	504	493	486	98
Grammar and Punctuation	550	505	506	100
Numeracy	507	493	488	96

Reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3,5 (7 and 9) are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au>

Value Added

We are committed to providing an integrated and well-balanced Catholic education in a family atmosphere that reflects the values of the Gospels and the Mercy Sisters, who part of our foundation of the school. Our facilities have been fully renovated through government grants, providing students with facilities that reflect modern learning needs. We are well resourced with modern technology, which promotes an engaging and happy learning environment for our students.

The individual learning journey of each student is the focus, and learning needs are ascertained through analysis of data provided by diagnostic testing and NAPLAN results. This enables teachers to identify learning needs (class and individual) and ensure teaching and learning programs meet the needs of the students.

School Renewal and Improvement Process

School Renewal and Improvement is an on-going process of self-evaluation measured against a commonly agreed set of criteria known as Excellence in Catholic Education (EiCE) in the diocese. It informs action planning at the school level to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. Above all, Catholic schools must be good schools with a strong learning orientation and a strong sense of purpose. This process provides an opportunity for each school to reflect on the 4 domains of Catholic Life and Religious Education, Learning and Teaching, Leadership for School Improvement and Strategic Resourcing. Each of these domains has components (24 in total) which are reviewed on a cyclical basis and plans for improvement developed if necessary.

In 2016, the components reviewed were Pedagogical Processes, Religious Education, Partnership with Parish, Students and their Learning, Students with Additional Needs, Cultural Diversity, Community Partnerships and Ownership, Compliance and Accountability and Use of Resources, Facilities and the Learning Environment. From the reviews, strategies for improvement were included in the Annual Action Plan.



Parent Satisfaction

There are a number of areas where we can measure parent, student and teacher satisfaction. This is done through positive parent feedback to classroom teachers and through the Parents and Friends Association, which meets regularly throughout the year. Student satisfaction is measured through student attendance and the level of respect and caring displayed by all our students for others in the School community. Teacher satisfaction is measured through an open forum during staff meetings and the cooperation and professional courtesy displayed daily. Each year a parent, student and staff satisfaction survey known as RADII is administered through Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office to gather parent feedback about the school.

Data from the 2016 survey indicates that, overall, parents are satisfied with the academic, pastoral and religious aspects of the school.

A hardcopy of this report is available by request from the Principal.

