



ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORTING - 2011

CATHOLIC EDUCATION, ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

School Name **St Bernard's School**

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Principal's Foreword

Introduction

St Bernard's Catholic Primary School, founded by the Sisters of St Joseph, share in the educational mission of the church as part of the Upper Mt Gravatt / Wishart parish.

Our vision is that learning is child-centred where children are prepared as life-long learners to meet challenges as compassionate Christian members of our community.

Our mission is to develop and nurture an environment where children learn about themselves, their world and God by working in partnership with families, staff and the parish community, by valuing the diversity of all members of our community, and by experiencing and living a Christian life in the Catholic faith.

Our school motto - Your Light Guides - describes both the path to life as shown to us by Jesus Christ as well as the guiding light of knowledge.

Each year priorities from our School Renewal Plan are developed and implemented throughout the year.

School Profile

_____ is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Coeducational or Single Sex

Year levels offered: Primary Secondary P-12

Total student enrolments for this school 407

Total Enrolment 407 Girls 202 Boys 205

Characteristics of the student body

Of particular note regarding the student body is its multicultural nature. Many students are from families which have English as their second language or if not the third language. They bring a diversity of cultures to the school community thus creating a vibrant group.

Within the student body there are students from differing religious backgrounds. This adds to the richness within their class and across the school.

Due to the location of the school at the intersection of two (2) busy roads there are students who travel considerable distances to attend the school.

With the location of Clairvaux MacKillop College adjacent to the school there are many students with older siblings attending the nearby College.

As the school is located within a growth area of the city there are increasing enrolment numbers in the lower school.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

While religious education is a priority the Key Learning Areas of English, Maths, Science, Health and Physical Education, SOSE/History, Art (Prep - Yr 5), Music (all years), and LOTE (Japanese Yrs 6 & 7) are taught.

Information Communication Technologies integrated throughout all year levels

I.T. teacher to support the development of skills

Employment of part-time teaching staff in the areas of Library and ESL (English as a Second Language)

Part-time Support Teacher Inclusive Education teacher and Guidance Counsellor employed

First Steps - Reading inservice continued to be undertaken by teachers as a way of improving teaching pedagogy

Part-time Literacy Support Teacher employed

Part-time School Chaplain

An outdoor education program undertaken by Year 7 students

All year level participated in a dance program during one term

Extra curricula activities

- Instrumental music / band program
- Junior and Senior choirs
- Drama lessons
- Netball
- Touch football
- Soccer
- Cross-country training
- Interschool sports
- Faith Friends with parish

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

- Data projector and laptops in each classroom
- Electronic Interactive Whiteboards in each classroom
- Laptop program for each teacher
- Weekly ICLT lessons in computer lab with specialist teacher
- Whole school wireless network
- Integration of ICLT learning activities across all Key Learning Areas and embedded in planning
- Creation of Learning Objects and multimedia projects
- Flexible use of laptops with students

Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

St Bernard's is a welcoming community with many families of various cultural backgrounds. Staff are highly supportive of the school as both a learning environment and a community. With the employment of a part-time Guidance Counsellor and part-time School Chaplain there is much support for both students and parents. Focus is on promoting school-wide positive behaviour with friendship group activities for some students on a regular basis. Homework support occurs one afternoon a week to support students by members of the parish.

Other activities occurring throughout the year include:

P and F Association meetings, School Board monthly meetings, Welcome BBQ, Working Bees, annual Spring Fair, Trivia Nights, Christmas celebration, Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day celebrations, morning teas after class celebrations, annual Athletics, Swimming and Cross-Country carnivals, Band introduction and performance nights, combined band night, Under 8's Week, whole school assemblies

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Satisfaction of the school is gathered by various methods. Data gathered from internal reviews and during an external review of the school provides valuable information indicating a high level of satisfaction by parents, teachers and students in the upper year levels. At Parent/Teacher information evenings and parent/teacher interview information is gained. Parents and Friends Association and School Board meetings are utilised to gain information. Student Council (Year 7) meetings are utilised to gather information. Constructive comments by school community members highlight areas requiring attention. Parental support of the school is high with each class having at least one parent class convenor. Interaction by staff with parents is demonstrated by various means with teachers attending Working Bees and working on stalls at the Spring Fair.

Parent involvement in their child's education

Parental involvement at the school is encouraged. Processes to involve parents in their child's learning is frequently initiated by the class teacher with an invitation to an evening information session giving an outline of the coming year. School newsletters are forwarded home each week regarding activities at the school. These newsletters are also available on the school website. Class teachers forward home a monthly newsletter pertaining to activities of their class. While written communication to parents occurs frequently there are many other informal opportunities to inform parents of activities.

Other ways to involve parents include: class convenor role, teacher availability for other meetings, class newsletter, reading helpers, craft activities, sporting activities or coaching, classroom helpers, homework helpers, assisting on excursions, group rotational activities, Under 8's Week, and special class events. Parents are also encouraged to join the whole school at liturgical celebrations and to attend weekly whole school assemblies or other events.

Staff Profile

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff
Headcounts	26	15
Full-time equivalents	21.1	7.7
Indigenous		

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Proportion of classroom teachers and leaders at the school attaining this level
Doctorate	
Masters	2
Post Graduate Diploma	7
Bachelors Degree	14
Diploma	3
Certificate	

Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2011 was \$ 45014

The major professional development initiatives were as follows

Australian Curriculum - English
Australian Curriculum - Maths
Australian Curriculum - Science
First Steps - Reading (continuation)
ICLT - Use of interactive strategies in the classroom / integration of activities in KLA's
School Wide Positive Behaviour
Student Reporting and Assessment
Religious Life of the School
Whole School Vision for Teaching and Learning

Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was 97.79 % in 2011.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2010 school year, 91 % of staff were retained by the school for the 2011 year.

Key Student Outcomes

Whole School Attendance Rate	94.0	%
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Prep Attendance Rate	N/A	%	Year 4 Attendance Rate	95.2	%
Year 1 Attendance Rate	91.6	%	Year 5 Attendance Rate	93.8	%
Year 2 Attendance Rate	96.3	%	Year 6 Attendance Rate	93.6	%
Year 3 Attendance Rate	94.5	%	Year 7 Attendance Rate	94.2	%

Policy and practice to manage student attendance

Class rolls are marked electronically by teachers twice daily as per the requirement.

A dedicated School Absentee phone line added to school phone system for parents to leave details of student absence.

SMS text messages forwarded to parents at 10.00 a.m. if school not already notified of student absence.

Office monitoring of roll marking.

If a student is absent on a regular basis a medical certificate is required to be provided by parent.

Phone calls or personal contact is made in first instance by class teacher and then by Principal if regular absences occur. Regular monitoring of particular students occurs with contact made with parents.

Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7.

Domain	Measures		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school in 2011		391	476	529
	Average score for Australia in 2011		415.7	488.1	540.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2011	86.7 %	89.5 %	94.1 %
Writing	Average score for the school in 2011		391	468	544
	Average score for Australia in 2011		415.9	482.6	529.1
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2011	96.7 %	96.5 %	96.0 %
Spelling	Average score for the school in 2011		382	487	548
	Average score for Australia in 2011		405.9	484.1	537.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2011	91.7 %	94.7 %	93.9 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school in 2011		407	504	528
	Average score for Australia in 2011		421.2	499.1	532.4
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2011	95.0 %	98.2 %	93.9 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school in 2011		382	479	546
	Average score for Australia in 2011		398.1	487.8	544.6
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2011	93.1 %	98.2 %	96.1 %