



Mater Dei Primary School

Toowoomba

Catholic co-educational school

Diocese of Toowoomba

Annual report 2018

Address	53 Curzon Street Toowoomba QLD 4350	Phone number	07 4637 6100		
email	materdei@twb.catholic.edu.au	Principal	Chris Bartlett		
Year levels	Prep-Year 6	Enrolment	438		
Co-educational or single sex			co-educational		
Boarders	no	Outside hours school care	yes	Vacation care	yes
Contact person for information about the school and school policies		Chris Bartlett			

The school's mission

Mater Dei Primary School was founded by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. Our spirituality is formed by the Benedictine tradition, nourished by the parable of the Good Samaritan and expressed in our commitment to community life, prayer, justice, hospitality and compassionate service. Our philosophy focuses on supporting children to become lifelong learners and facilitating the development of a solid spiritual, social-emotional, physical and academic foundation to provide children with the best chance possible of reaching their individual potential.

We acknowledge

- parents as the primary educators of their children and believe learning is enhanced when parents foster their children's spiritual, social-emotional, physical and academic independence at home and at school
- teachers as co-educators who are encouraged to use their God-given talents to implement the curriculum using dynamic teaching practices, grounded by authoritative pedagogies.

Thus, our school is gifted with both opportunities and challenges to enable our students, and school community, to be life-long learners in an ever-changing world by

- valuing the dignity of each person
- fostering a love of learning
- embracing a holistic view of education which will challenge and grow creativity and initiative
- respecting individual differences so that "the strong have something to strive for and the weak nothing to run from" (Benedict Rule 64:9)
- integrating faith and life

- appreciating beauty and the diversity of cultural values
- balancing prayer and work
- offering hospitality of heart and place
- seeking peace.

Distinctive curriculum offerings

Our staff members strive to place the child at the centre of curriculum planning which implements the ACARA and QCAA documents. The Toowoomba Religion Curriculum is implemented with the guidance and support of Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office.

Mater Dei is implementing Visible Learning as a school wide pedagogical practice. The intent is for teachers to see learning through the eyes of students, so every student has clarity with what they need to learn and what learning comes next. As a result, our goal is to ensure every student achieves a year's growth of learning, regardless of their achievement. Socially responsible behaviour is a strong emphasis and our relationships are inspired by the Christian tradition. The student culture values academic achievement, encouraging high standards and highlighting the need to ensure each student is challenged.

Our five pedagogical principles reflect our Learning dispositions and provide an interpretation of the curriculum that we believe recognises the unique journey of each of our children. These principles are

- Listen
- Include
- Grow
- Honour
- Together.

These five principles have a profound effect on the life of the school. Areas that are influenced include the structural organisation of staff and students, whole school curriculum and professional development programs, the community's involvement in the generation of the Annual Action Plan, the recognition of the student's role in the learning process and a planned movement towards a Restorative Justice approach in behaviour expectations. There is a focus on involving the participation of the children in all phases of the learning cycle, engaging teachers in authentic collaborative practice, and gathering evidence that informs the delivery of a Catholic school curriculum.

This is delivered under the following school structure.

- Preparatory Year (Prep)
- Early Years (Year 1 and 2)
- Junior Years (Year 3 and 4)
- Middle Years (Year 5 and 6)

Extra-curricular activities

- chess
- choir
- instrumental music
- sporting events
- outreach to needy communities - Caritas and Mini-Vinnies
- school Camps for Years 4, 5 and 6
- leadership opportunities eg buddies, cross age activities, all Year 6 students are School Leaders

Social climate (including pastoral care and student behaviour support)

The values we have chosen to honour in our school are expressed in the following way. Illuminating the RANGE of Possibilities...

- R ight relationships
- A listening heart
- N urturing potential
- G rounded
- E mpowered to participate

The school social climate is influenced by our founding congregation, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, whose theology is grounded in Benedictine Tradition. A sense of peacefulness and hospitality is valued. One of our values 'a listening heart' echoes one of the defining features of the Good Samaritan Order. The Catholicity of the school is reflected in our Mission statement, values and pedagogical principles.

Our approach to bullying strives to allow our children to be proactive and self-empowered in addressing this prevailing issue by reporting procedures, consequences and self-reflection. This is evident in our student behaviour support plan. As the social and emotional development of our children is foundational to effective learning and positive behaviour, our staff embed this in the curriculum. As a result the "Zones of Regulation" is the school wide focus for Social Emotional skill development. This program is also supplemented by the "Go Strengths" program in Years 3-6.

Characteristics of the student body

Mater Dei Primary School is nestled in the leafy suburb of Toowoomba East, perched towards the top of Great Dividing Range. The area is characterised by large home blocks and well renovated homes. The family demographic is one of the higher SES categories in the diocese with many families in the professional field of employment or successfully running their own businesses. The school has a strong community dynamic with many events and functions organised during the school year. Students have a high readiness for school upon enrolment which enhances the opportunities for learning growth.

Parent/carer involvement

Parental Involvement is critical to our school's future. Formal forums including our School Board and P&F Association are essential to the smooth functioning of Mater Dei. Assistance in a variety of other settings is encouraged eg gardens and grounds, reading groups, musical programs, tuckshop and sporting events.

The staff endeavours to involve parents in curriculum expectations and new directional changes.

We embrace the understanding that a child's education is best served in a productive and informed partnership with parents.

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	34	20	2
Full-time equivalents	26.2	11	1.2

Teacher qualifications

Qualification	% of teaching
Doctoral / Post-Doctoral	0%
Masters	9%
Bachelor Degree	85%
Diploma	6%
Certificate	0%

Average staff attendance

95.6%

Staff retention (proportion of staff retained from the previous year)

93.0%

Professional Development (participation and expenditure)

2018 School Budget Allocation

Professional Learning Fees	\$ 20,560
Teacher Release	\$ 29,760
TOTAL	\$ 50,320

The following information is an overview of staff participation in professional development at Mater Dei Primary School for 2018.

Visible Learning – Corwin Consultants

- Whole staff (2 days)
- Impact Coaches and Leadership Team (4 Days additional)

Visible Learner school visits – Melbourne (Leadership and Impact Coaches)

Visible Learner Conference – Sydney (Leadership and Impact Coaches)

Student attendance

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

95.1%

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
94.8%	94.8%	955%	94.8%	95.1%	95.4%	95.1%	95.1%

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

Non-attendance is addressed by keeping accurate records of attendance. If daily absences are not reported by parents/carers, SMS contact is made with them on the day of the unexplained absence. Any prolonged or unexplained absences are followed-up by contact with parents/carers. If an explanation, from parents/carers, is evasive or unconvincing, contact is made with the Catholic Schools Office. The welfare of the child and legal obligations require the school to be vigilant in this area. Each day, an electronic roll is attended to at 9.00am and 1.40pm.

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	493.3	429.9	433.8	100%
Writing	437.0	397.7	407.1	100%
Spelling	447.6	410.8	417.6	100%
Grammar and Punctuation	470.7	429.4	431.8	100%
Numeracy	437.1	399.2	407.7	100%

Year 5 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading	560.8	506.1	509.3	100%
Writing	492.4	454.0	464.7	97.8%
Spelling	527.4	496.5	502.4	100%
Grammar and Punctuation	569.1	501.0	503.8	100%
Numeracy	519.2	487.5	494.0	100%

Parent, staff and student satisfaction

Each year Mater Dei 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 2018 are shown below.

Parents

94% of parents satisfied with children's educational progress at the school.

98% of parents satisfied that school's educational program enable children to learn.

Staff

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

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

Students

92% of Years 5 - 6 students satisfied with their learning at this school.