



St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald

2022 Annual School Report



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

Principal

Mrs Tegan Green

Address

6311 Gregory Highway
Emerald Qld 4720

Total enrolments

295

Year levels offered

Prep – Year 6

Type of School:

Co-educational

School Overview

St Brigid's Catholic Primary School is located in the Central Highlands town of Emerald and services Emerald and surrounding communities. The area is influenced predominantly by agricultural and mining industries. Opened in 2014, St Brigid's is a young and growing school with a vibrant school community. The school adopts the charism of the Congregation of St Brigid, or the Brigidine Sisters, which is supported by our motto "Gentleness and Strength" and displayed through our students' daily actions. The school caters for two streams of each year level, Prep to Year Six, and has an onsite Kindergarten. The partnership between the school and Kindergarten is strong, ensuring successful transitions for our youngest learners. The school grounds are spacious and well presented with very modern classrooms providing dynamic teaching spaces and innovative technologies. All students participate in specialist lessons in Physical Education and The Arts. A close link with St Patrick's Catholic Parish is developed through involvement of our school community in Masses, liturgical celebrations, morning teas and special events. We are committed to providing a welcoming, family atmosphere that fosters Gospel values, parent partnerships, student well-being and academic excellence to ensure all students are able to develop to their full potential socially, academically and spiritually.

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

Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Brigid's Catholic Primary School seeks to create a welcoming, respectful community where all learners feel safe and supported. Our school has integrated technology accessible across all year levels, including a 1:1 Chromebook hire program for years 4-6. Each year our Years 5 and 6 students participate in the "Minds @ Work" STEM program, where our students placed third across Central Queensland. St Brigid's participates in the "Readers Cup" each year, sending multiple teams to compete with other schools around the region. We also offer many sporting programs through Physical Education lessons, including netball, touch football and rugby league.

Extra Curricula Activities

- All students are involved in school liturgies and Masses, including Parish Masses throughout the year.
- Students compete in the speech and choir sections of the Central Highlands Eisteddfod.
- School choir for students in Years 3 – 6.
- AUSLAN choir for all students.
- Students are encouraged to gain representation in local and regional sporting teams.
- Students participate in fundraising projects for Caritas and other charities close to the school community.
- Students attend performances by visiting groups, e.g. Arts Council, authors, artists, musicians.
- Students run and participate in Under 8's Day as a celebration of the Early Years.
- Students attend sessions from visiting coaches such as NRL Development, AFL Queensland, QRU, QLD Cricket, QLD Tennis and the Greg Norman Foundation.
- Students participate in community-run celebrations such as Australia Day, ANZAC Day, and Sunflower festival.
- School involvement in cultural community events such as NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week.
- Upper school students participate in the Mayoral Summit for school leaders.
- Students participate in school camps to Magnetic Island, The Great Barrier Reef and Fairbairn Dam.
- Students go on school excursions to various parks and local facilities.
- Students assist the Neighbourhood Centre in varied appeals.
- Year 5 and 6 students volunteer at Avalon Aged Care home once a month.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

At St Brigid's, we believe that Technologies require contexts for purposeful inquiry about how systems work. Pedagogies for designing should develop differentiated knowledge, skills and processes to ensure high expectations to meet diverse student needs. Students need to engage with a range of technologies, including:

- Digital systems
- Critical and creative thinking
- Design and computational thinking
- Comprehensive understanding of traditional and emerging technologies.

St Brigid's has a variety of digital devices: Teacher laptops, iPads and sync boxes, year-level sets of student iPads and Chromebooks. Students in years 4 -6 are a part of the 1:1 Chromebook hire program, which sees every student with their own Chromebook, which can be taken home at the end of the day for study and homework. In addition, the school has class sets of 'Bee-Bot and Pro-bot' robotic devices, Dash robots, Lego WeDo, Sphero Indi's and Cosmo. All classrooms have internet access and interactive whiteboards or interactive panels. Students, teachers and parents use Seesaw and the Google classroom suite for online learning, feedback and communication. The school newsletter is electronic and emailed to families fortnightly. Parents can access Parent Lounge to update their child's information, complete permission notes for excursions and camp, pay school fees and access end of semester report cards. Furthermore, the school uses an SMS service, a School app and a Facebook page to provide relevant information regarding reminders, upcoming events or important news.

Social Climate

Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

St Brigid's School is a family-oriented community focusing on gentleness, strength, compassion, and resilience. The school community is supportive and works to foster positive relationships at school and within the greater Emerald community. Our Parents and Friends Association provides a beautiful link between home and school and focuses on parent engagement. Close relationships with the other Catholic Schools in Emerald and working with the government and independent schools in the area have developed solid relationships and networking opportunities for students and staff. A close link with St Patrick's Parish and the involvement of our school community in Mass, morning teas and special events has further developed the school's place in the Emerald Catholic community.

St Brigid's employs one full-time and one part-time learning support teacher who works closely with staff, families and our children to implement individual and classroom-based programs that support learning. We also employ an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher two days a week to work with students individually and within the classroom.

Personal reflection and student well-being initiatives are implemented as part of a whole school program – "Well-being on Wednesday (WoW)", as well as in the individual classroom. In addition, several local community members, including our Parish Priests, play an integral part in the school community with regular classroom visits and reflection time with the school staff.

Counselling services are shared across the Catholic Schools, providing children access to one-on-one counselling and small group sessions. In addition, access to professional support services such as Speech/Language and Occupational Therapists is available through a reciprocal relationship between the school and professional practices.

St Brigid's implements the Child Safety Curriculum from Prep to Year 6 and strong ties have been established with the Queensland Police Adopt-a-Cop program.

Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Along with the Queensland Police Service and Diocesan personnel, St Brigid's is proactive in educating students on cyber safety and anti-bullying strategies. The Child Safety Curriculum is implemented at every year level. Students participate in learning the "ethical and social protocols" related to cyber safety throughout the Australian Curriculum - Digital Technologies subject. Students, parents and staff are required to sign and follow an Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) code of conduct. St Brigid's and other local Catholic Primary schools engage with third-party presenters and organisations, such as Brett Lee from Internet Safe Education, to provide up-to-date support, tools and education for our staff, students and parents.

Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

At St Brigid's, the parent body is involved in the school community through several initiatives:

- Parents and Friends Association – parents assist the school with resourcing, pastoral care, catering and much more. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month
- School Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month
- The school's learning improvement agenda is communicated through the newsletter
- The fortnightly e-newsletter outlines whole school and class learning goals/focuses, provides information regarding current educational news, communicates coming events and publishes student successes

- Parent/Teacher interviews, the Parent Handbook, curriculum information sessions, phone calls, regular emails, notes home, classroom billboards, the school Facebook page, the school app, and text messages help to keep the lines of communication open, resulting in strong bonds between school and home
- Immediate student feedback and communication is provided to parents through Seesaw
- Parents are encouraged to be involved in classroom activities such as individual and small group reading and math support, attending/ volunteering at sporting events, Masses and liturgies, assembly, curriculum-based celebrations; Book Week, Science Week, Literacy and Numeracy Week, Under 8s Day, Catholic Education Week, school concerts and class presentations
- Parent volunteers assist in the tuckshop.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

St Brigid's engages in recycling practices. Excess food scraps are sent home with families for their chickens, and recycling and general waste bins are used throughout the school. St Brigid's recycles paper and cardboard separately with different coloured containers for different recyclable materials. The school's gardens are predominantly native flora, which assists with water conservation. Students and staff can use a school garden, including citrus trees, fruit trees and a greenhouse, and we offer any produce to community groups who may use them. Through the Australian Curriculum students engage in learning about sustainability. Air conditioners have predetermined temperatures and are set to timers to avoid overuse. Practices such as turning off lights and fans during breaks are advocated in classrooms and using fresh air through the open windows when able. Solar panels are fitted to the school. The school uses bore water for the oval and main grassed areas around the school.

Characteristics of the Student Body

The students at St Brigid's are from a broad range of families, generally belonging to one of four demographics: rural, mining, small business and town services. The remote location of Emerald ensures the town is self-sufficient, thus creating a wonderful country town atmosphere. In the school's inaugural year, many students with different stories from varied walks of life combined to form the first student body. The result was a group of compassionate and hardworking students with high levels of determination and resilience and has seen our student numbers increase by 20% in the past five years. Our school welcomes families from all over Australia and the world to our school community. This is evident in the number of children enrolled from language-speaking backgrounds other than English. We cater for a diverse range of physical, emotional and social needs and provide support across all these areas for students and families.

Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2022 was 89.26%.

Management of non-attendance

Our student attendance processes fall in line with systemic requirements. Following the roll being marked in the morning, an SMS is sent to families who have students away with unexplained absences, and a second roll is taken in the afternoon. If no contact is made for two days, a Leadership Team member follows up with a phone call. In addition, leadership Team members regularly review attendance data. Parents can report absences to the school through email, phone, Parent Lounge or using the school absentee phone line.

Staffing Information

Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	23.00	14.00	1.00
Full-time equivalents	21.40	9.52	1.00

Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – the highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	
Masters	5.26%
Bachelor Degree	94.74%
Diploma	
Certificate	

Major Professional Development Initiatives

Major professional development initiatives include:

- Collaborating in developing teacher pedagogy and best practice regarding the teaching of writing and spelling through professional development, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and walk-throughs
- Applying the NAPLAN writing criteria to writing samples to make judgements and inform learning goals
- Analysing the data in PLCs
- Creating focus goals for each year level
- Sharing focus goals and teaching strategies with Teacher Assistants to support reading and writing development within the classroom
- Developing non-negotiables for the literacy block
- Engaging in the Leading Mathematics project in 2022 and continuing in 2023
- Development of number talk progressions in mathematics across all year levels
- Using data triangulation to assist with data analysis and planning
- Providing Student Protection and Workplace Health and Safety training and utilising 'Riskman' as a central recording portal
- Working alongside the Diocesan FIARE team to up-skill and build teacher knowledge in religion and Catholic Identity
- Attending Bishop's In-service Day
- Providing In-school Early Career teacher support program
- Ensuring Individual teacher goals setting and professional development opportunities
- Professional Development sessions run by Catholic Education Office via Zoom
- Kagan Cooperative Learning.
- Engaging with QCAA to develop teacher awareness and understanding of ACARA Australian Curriculum Vs9, ready for implementation in 2024.

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 \$33,000.

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 95.43%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 90.91%.

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

Our school motto, "Gentleness and Strength", is central to all things at St Brigid's. At St Brigid's, the education of the whole student is the focus. The educational and spiritual development of each student is the priority. We are continually using data to drive quality teaching and monitoring learning growth using various sources, including NAPLAN data and trends, standardised Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) for reading, spelling and mathematics, the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), and summative and formative assessment within the classroom.

2022 NAPLAN data has identified that St Brigid's had 100% of their Year 3 cohort at or above the National Minimum Standard for Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy. In Year 5, 100% of the cohort was at or above National Minimum Standard in Reading and Writing.

St Brigid's continues to use this data to identify areas of need within the school and to respond through resourcing and professional development.

Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

Strategic progress in 2022

In 2022 the school improvement goals were guided by the National School Improvement Tool audit and the Enhancing Catholic School Identity Survey, which identified several areas for development and improvement across different domains: Catholic Identity and Ethos, Effective Teaching and Learning, Pastoral Support and well-being, and Leadership, Partnership and Resourcing.

Our 2022 goals were:

- Continue to develop teachers' religious pedagogy through Kagan Cooperative Learning – teaching staff were provided with a full day face-to-face interactive professional development day and a dedicated Kagan team to work with the staff on-site and provide mini PD sessions within staff meetings.
- Implement systematic collection, analysis and use of student achievement data in literacy and numeracy – development of a data collection and analyse framework with dedicated meetings to collect and analyse students' achievement across the year.

- Improve student learning in numeracy by increasing consistency around school-wide pedagogical practices and data analysis (Leading Mathematics Project commencing in 2022) – the school participated in the first year of the Leading Mathematics Project and worked with CEO to upskill and assist staff with implementation in the classrooms and as our Monitoring Learning Growth focus for 2022.
- Improve the mental health and well-being of the whole learning community integrating with the school behaviour policy, including well-being data collected through BeYou surveys – Students in Years 4-6 all completed the BeYou surveys, and the data was presented to staff and the school community. Professional development and well-being program ideas are to be continued in 2023.
- Implement the technical rollout of the Chromebook hire scheme to the year 4 2022 cohort and develop a school-wide checklist to support the implementation of 1:1 Chromebook – including support and development in the area of ICT capabilities – the 1:1 Chromebook hire scheme has been implemented effectively with highly positive feedback from staff, students and parents. As a result, this hire scheme will now be embedded as part of our Technology plan; moving forward (2024) will see the rollout in its entirety.

Strategic Priorities for 2023

Reflecting on the 2022 goals and the events of the school year, termly reviews were conducted, and new goals were set for 2023. Strong consideration had to be taken into account with a high number of early-career teachers commencing and continuing in 2023 and through the reflection of responses collected through student, parent and staff school surveys and our Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ESCI) report. As a result, the following goals for 2023 were prioritised:

- Improve our Catholic School Identity through the inspiration of Jesus Christ
- Analysing reading data and using this to inform planning within the classroom
- Student growth in numeracy in the areas of problem-solving and reasoning
- An increase in student knowledge and school-wide practices that support student well-being identified through strategies from a trauma-informed model
- All students will be able to engage with residents and staff of Avalon through school activities and initiatives to build a culture of community engagement.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

The staff, students, families and community are very supportive and appreciative of our school's contributions to our student's academic, emotional, social and physical well-being. Through past satisfaction surveys and review processes, specific areas highlighted were the individual care children receive, the happy, welcoming and supportive atmosphere and the professionalism of the staff.

Parental involvement in the school community is high, and the continued support of school events, the Parents and Friends Association and the general support of the school are continuing to grow.

In 2021 we completed our student, parent and staff satisfaction surveys. Some of the results are below:

Students:

- 92.7% of students agreed: The school has the technology and equipment needed to support their learning.
- 80.2% of students agreed: The school has the equipment they need to enjoy activities and programs outside the classroom.
- 90.6% of students agreed: At St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald, they are encouraged to do the best they can.
- 90.6% of students agreed: Teachers help them to understand what they need to do to succeed in school.
- 90.6% of students agreed: They feel safe at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald.

Parents

- 90.2% of parents agreed that St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald is a welcoming and caring community where everyone is treated with respect.
- 87.0% of parents agreed: St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald has a good reputation in the local community.
- 82.9% of parents agreed: Teachers have high expectations that all students will learn successfully.
- 81.3% of parents agreed: Teachers at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald are highly skilled and knowledgeable.

- 85.4% of parents agreed: St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald celebrates successes and improvements in results.
- 85.4% of parents agreed: There is a high priority on student wellbeing at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald.
- 90.2% of parents agreed: There is a happy, positive atmosphere at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald.

Staff

- 93.8% of staff agreed: Teachers have high expectations that all students will learn successfully.
- 96.9% of staff agreed: St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald encourages students to reach their full potential.
- 90.6% of staff agreed: Teachers cater for the individual needs of students.
- 87.5% of staff agreed: There is a high priority on student wellbeing at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald.
- 93.8% of staff agreed: Student Protection processes are clearly communicated to all staff at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald.

In 2023 our students, families and staff will all have the opportunity once again to participate in the School Satisfaction Surveys, where the data will be used to guide school practices, processes and improvement plans moving forward.