Principal’s Foreword

Introduction

Star of the Sea is a Catholic primary school located in the suburb of Torquay, in the Queensland coastal city of Hervey Bay. Our school offers the latest in teaching and learning, technology, extra curricular activities, and offers the benefits of being a high quality inclusive Catholic school. We offer our students a holistic education, following the new Australian Curriculum, that encourages personal growth, based on Christian values. We encourage students to develop a knowledge of other cultures, languages, and environmental and social issues. We encourage our students to participate as fully as they can in all aspects of school life. Our vision for Star of the Sea School is to provide a quality education within our Australian Catholic tradition where children are happy, motivated and challenged to do their best.

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 435

Total Enrolment 435 Girls 214 Boys 221
Characteristics of the student body

Star of the Sea students come from the small coastal city of Hervey Bay, with most students living within 10km of the school. Generally, students at our school are happy and enthusiastic primary children who are proud to be a part of Star of the Sea School. They noticeably project a friendly, welcoming and well mannered presence and they are often commended by outside organisations for their cooperative behaviour and enthusiasm for learning. Being a Catholic school, we seek to enrol students from families who want a Christian education and who share common values and expectations. The school has two classes in each year level from Prep to Year 7 and a relatively stable student population. The school has a Child Care Centre, incorporating a Kindy, with many of these students enrolling in our Prep year level.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Literacy and Numeracy blocks
- Specialist Music teacher teaching all classes P-7
- Specialist PE teacher teaching all classes P-7
- Mandarin Chinese as a LOTE (Language Other Than English) in Years 4-7 with a specialist language teacher
- Leadership Program in Year 7
- Outdoor Education Camp Program in Year 5, 6 and 7
- Personal Development and Social Awareness Program following the 'You Can Do It' program
- School Wide Positive Behaviour Program
- Individual education programs for students with identified special needs
Extra curricula activities
- high level of participation in a variety of sports including rugby league, cricket, AFL, netball, basketball, soccer, tennis, athletics and cross country.
- opportunities to be involved in alternative sports.
- instrumental tutors in keyboard, guitar, strings, woodwind, percussion and vocals.
- choir for junior and senior students, with opportunities to perform at school functions and eisteddfod
- student participation in strings ensemble and band
- opportunities for students to enter competitions in learning areas, group eisteddfod items, etc
- the students visit nursing homes, attend healing masses, participate in Grandparents’ Day, ANZAC Day march, and participate in social justice activities at school.
- the students attend cultural performances that support the curriculum

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning
Star of the Sea is committed to embedding Information and Communication Technologies into teaching and learning in all learning areas, in order to enrich learning experiences, motivate students and develop student capabilities in the use of technology. Each classroom has a bank of computers and ipads for student use and is equipped with an interactive whiteboard to enhance teaching and learning. Our technology room has a bank of 30 laptops for whole class use and also has an interactive whiteboard. The library, music room and LOTE room have interactive whiteboards for whole class instructional learning and small group inquiry based learning. All teachers are supplied with notebook computers and ipads to monitor student achievements, plan and prepare lessons. Teachers are provided with professional development in using technology to enhance teaching and learning.

Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying
Star of the Sea fosters an inclusive climate, where all students have a sense of belonging and self-worth. Students are encouraged to participate with enthusiasm in all areas of school life including academic, social, sporting, cultural and spiritual. Through the teaching and modeling of Christian values, students are taught to respect and care for each other through tolerance and an appreciation of differences. Star of the Sea has an active Care and Concern group, led by our school chaplain, that assists families and individuals in times of hardship. This group consists of parents, staff and students and holds regular social get-togethers and welcomes new families into our community. Our school is a family-orientated school and fosters parent involvement, both socially and in building relationships and community. Parents work in partnership with staff to assist the school in its mission. Our school is proactive in educating students against bullying and follows the School Wide Positive Behaviour philosophy, rewarding positive and appropriate behaviours and having clearly stated school rules and appropriate consequences.
Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Surveys done show a very high satisfaction level by the parent community. The school's P&F and School Board express a very high level of satisfaction and belonging with the school. There is high morale within the staff at Star of the Sea, they are supportive of each other and very dedicated teachers. Many staff are actively involved in leadership and engaged in extra-curricular activities. A number of staff are also involved in Parish ministries, such as children's liturgies, the sacramental program, reading and eucharistic ministries. There is a real sense of belonging and ownership among staff.

Students are genuinely very happy and proud of their school, and represent the school with pride. They positively contribute to a welcoming atmosphere within the school. Our students are well respected in the wider community and receive positive feedback from visitors to our school, as well as people involved in excursions, sports, cultural activities and camps. The children are complimented on their behaviour, manners and enthusiastic participation when they represent our school in the wider community.

Parent involvement in their child’s education

Partnership with parents is highly valued at Star of the Sea school. Strategies for involving parents are:
- encouraging participation of community members on our School Board
- working with an active Parents and Friends association and involving parents in school directions
- parental involvement with our Care and Concern group, and assistance for families in need
- parents are invited to volunteer in a range of areas, tuckshop, classroom learning, reading assistance, and special events
- support for parents who are studying child care related courses to undergo their practicums
- providing parents with opportunities to attend parent information evenings, and personal development opportunities and parent/teacher interviews
- communicating with parents through weekly newsletters, assemblies, emails and our website
- holding liturgies, masses, assemblies and social events for our school community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Non-teaching Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcounts</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time equivalents</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Qualifications of all teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Percentage of teachers and leaders at the school attaining this level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors Degree</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>16%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2012 was $51,607. The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

- Release of staff for PD in improving literacy across the school and in planning for the teaching and learning of English
- Whole staff PD in personal development/self esteem program ‘You Can Do It’
- Focus on planning in the History learning area, whole staff PD and planning sessions
- PD for whole staff on School Wide Positive Behaviour approach
- PD for whole staff on whole school data and data collection in the area of English
- RE professional development with Musicfire group
- PD for all teaching staff for the introduction of SRS (online Student Reporting System)

School Income by Funding Source

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.

To access our school income details, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following:

‘Find a school’ text box.

Where it says ‘Search by school name’, type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select <GO>. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school’s My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting ‘School finances’ in the menu box in the top left corner of the school’s entry web page.

Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was 97.2% in 2012.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2011 school year, 89% of staff were retained by the school for the 2012 year.

Key Student Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whole School Attendance Rate</th>
<th>93.8%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Attendance Rate</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>93.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>96.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy and practice to manage student attendance

Student attendance is closely monitored by teachers and administration. Class roles are marked at the beginning of the school day, as well as after the second break in the afternoon. Parents are requested to ring the office before 9am if their child will be absent that day. If a child is marked as an unexplained absence on the roll, and there has been no communication from the parent/s, the office staff phone the parent/s that morning to confirm the reason for the absence. Should there be frequent absences from school due to medical conditions, then the teacher meets with the parent/s to see if any catch-up work can be done at home. Should there be frequent absences from school for other or unexplained reasons, the principal contacts the parent/s to discuss the issues around the absences.

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 relevant years.

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