Principal’s Foreword

Introduction

St Rita's is a Catholic co-educational school for students from Prep to Year 7. Our school is located in the Redlands bayside suburb of Victoria Point in a pleasing physical environment of landscaped grounds and modern learning and teaching spaces. As a Catholic parish school we promote a welcoming and vibrant community where respectful and positive relationships are fostered with our parents, carers and the St Rita’s parish community. St Rita’s is a well-resourced school providing optimal conditions for learning.

We are committed to providing quality programs in Religious Education and are implementing the Australian Curriculum in English, Maths, History and Science. Through extensive technology resources our teachers implement an engaging curriculum using contemporary learning strategies. Specialist teachers in Student Support, Library Resourcing, The Arts, Physical Education, and Japanese along with choirs, drama, and social justice groups provide a rich variety of learning opportunities.

Student wellbeing is a priority and is promoted by implementing a co-ordinated and targeted range of programs that promote social and emotional learning, personal safety and protective behaviours, and personal development. Parent partnership within the school community is welcome and greatly strengthens our continuous improvements for learning and school achievements.

School Profile

St Rita's School 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 587
Total Enrolment 587 Girls 286 Boys 301
Characteristics of the student body

At St Rita’s School, we have 23 classes across 8 year levels. There is a relatively even mix of gender in each class throughout the school with a slightly higher number of boys.

As a Catholic School, the religious background of our students is Catholic.

St Rita’s is an inclusive school community that welcomes cultural and social diversity. 2% of students come from a non-English speaking background and 1% are Indigenous.

Our families predominantly live in the Redlands area covering Victoria Point, Thornlands, Redland Bay, Mt Cotton, Coochiemudlo Island and Stradbroke Island.

Our students enjoy the outdoors lifestyle that living in the Redlands promotes and are active in local sporting clubs and community groups eg environmental, music and dance.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

St Rita’s is a well-resourced school providing optimal conditions for learning. We are committed to providing quality programs in Religious Education, the Australian Curriculum (English, Maths, Science and History) and the QSA syllabus. Extensive technology resources ensures that the general capabilities for ICLT are embedded within our curriculum.

A Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support Program ensures positive behaviour expectations are taught to all students. Disruptions to learning are minimised and negative behaviours are replaced by positive behaviours through a process of learning and open communication with parents.

There is an emphasis on The Arts, Physical Education and Japanese through a specialist teacher program. Digital Citizenship is promoted throughout the school and in 2012 our eLearning Leaders have developed protocols for acceptable use of technology duties throughout the school.
Extra curricula activities

St Rita’s Catholic Primary School engages a number of specialist teachers and support staff to deliver programs to enhance the learning experiences of our students in the following areas:
The Arts: - Serendipity Art Classes; Choirs - Senior and Junior; Creative Kidz on Stage - singing and dance; Instrumental Music Program - including wind, percussion, guitar and keyboard. We stage an annual Student Variety Show - St Rita’s Got Talent at our school community fete. Students also enjoy performances through Arts Council twice per year. Student Wellbeing: Mini Vinnies Social Justice Group; Peer Mediation; Student Council; Buddy Classes and School Camps (Years 4-7). Academic Extension: Environmental and Sustainability Group; Maths Olympiad; Chess Club; Technology Club; Bilby Readers’ Club.Sport: Interschool Sports - one day each term for Years 5-7. School Carnival and Representative Sport - Athletics, Cross Country, Swimming. Swimming Lessons (Prep - Year 7), District Trials. Community Events: Family Fun and Harmony Day; Disco; Walk Safely to School Day; Prep and Year 1 Fairy Tale Ball; School and Parish Community Fete.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

St Rita’s School has moved from a centralised model of technology resourcing (Technology Lab) to a schoolwide integrative provision of technology resources. In 2012, the whole school infrastructure for networked wireless connectivity was utilised with Prep to Year 1 using LCD Interactive TVs in each of the six classrooms. Each classroom from Year 2 to Year 7 have interactive networked data projectors. This provides the option for interactivity to be at the student work level as opposed to teacher-led instruction.

Our teachers continued to lead curriculum development for ICT through membership of our eLearning Leaders team and Curriculum team. These teams focused on improving learning outcomes for students through access to technology and teaching student digital citizenship. Students have access to a range of devices - laptops, iPods, iPads, digital camera, claymation. Students engage in technology based activities such as Reading Eggs, Maths Olympiad, Study Ladder, Class Blogs, Ning and Skype to communicate across schools.

A significant project in 2012 was whole school preparation for a 1:1 computer program commencing in 2013 in year 4.

Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

Student wellbeing is promoted at St Rita’s by implementing a co-ordinated and targeted range of programs well supported by research that promote social and emotional learning. These include the You Can Do It program throughout the school, Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation training for Year 6 students in preparation for implementation in Year 7. Peer Mediators support and assist with students experiencing difficulties and/or isolation in the playground settings. In 2012, St Rita’s implemented the second year of SWPBS (Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support). Inclusive in these processes are the explicit teaching of expected behaviours through the schoolwide and classroom matrix for expected behaviours. SWPBS also promotes consistent consequences to problem behaviour, including bullying. All reports of bullying and / or bulliesh behaviour are investigated. Should bullying be identified, parents are contacted. The school leadership, teachers, parents and students involved in the bullying episode work through a process to determine a response that will replace the bullying behaviour with positive behaviours. Data collected shows reduction in problem behaviours across the school in all settings.
Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

St Rita’s School has developed a positive reputation in the local community. Parent satisfaction with the school is noted through a collection of formal and informal processes and forums. A regular feature of the weekly newsletter is a “Compliments, Comments and Complaint” forms. All of these are responded to and generate a spirit of goodwill and genuine partnership between home and school. Feedback is sought through enrolment interviews for new and current families and the school is being recognised for recent initiatives such as air-conditioning classrooms and improving technology resources. Teacher satisfaction with the school is high with the creation of a collaborative culture of professional learning, shared leadership and strengths based performance development. (BCE Staff Survey shows strengths in staff engagement, role clarity, job efficacy and professional learning - compared with others) Students take great pride in our school. We receive recognition from the general public for the high standard of behaviour at excursions and sporting events.

Parent involvement in their child’s education

Parents are involved in their child’s education at St Rita’s in a spirit of partnership. Involvement occurs through assistance in class activities, class excursions and where needed, school camp. Parents are encouraged to share their expertise from fields of work and professional experience. The School Parent Network meets each month and, in 2012, sponsored a number of education initiatives such as Student Protection/Safety activities. The SPN also promote community events such as Family Fun Day, Walk Safely to School, Mother’s Day Liturgy, Prep Orientation, School Disco. Reporting on student achievement involves parents in a three way conference between student, teacher and parents. A range and variety of communication methods are encouraged - emails, Keep in Touch books, student diaries and regular meetings through Concern for a Learner processes. Encouragement for participation and partnership is promoted through the weekly school newsletter. A School Twitter account was established in 2012 and be the end of the year approximately 13-150 families were following St Rita’s on Twitter.

Staff Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Non-teaching Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcounts</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time equivalents</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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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>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelors Degree</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2012 was $70921.

The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

- Religion and Evangelising Mission Catching Fire Program
- Staff Spirituality Day
- SWPBS - Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support
- ICLT Implementation
- Reading to Learn - 5 Teachers participated (8 days + material)
- Oral Language Project
- SRS - School Reporting System
- Australian Curriculum Implementation

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 94.71% in 2012.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2011 school year, 94.5% 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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Attendance Rate</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy and practice to manage student attendance

Class rolls are marked electronically before 9 am each morning. Data is analysed for late attendance, unexplained attendance or excessive absenteeism. Concerns are addressed through parent/teacher dialogue.

Students arriving late are directed to sign in at school office and this is recorded.

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.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years are available via the My School website at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.

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