



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School Springsure 2021 Annual School Report



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School, Springsure

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

Principal

Mr Peter Smith

Address

Gap Street
Springsure Qld 4722

Total enrolments

19

Year levels offered

Prep – Year 6

Type of School:

Co-educational

School Overview

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School provides a holistic education for children from Prep to Year Six. A Kindergarten is provided on-site, and a strong educational partnership thrives between the school and the Kindergarten, ensuring successful transitions for our youngest learners. The school services the rural community of Springsure in the Central Highlands of Queensland, in which the beef, farming and mining industries flourish. Many of our parents are graziers, farmers or employed by local businesses. We are proud of the heritage of the Sisters of Mercy and, by being hospitable to and welcoming of all in our community, we strive to live out our school motto: Honesty, Respect, Care. We aim to develop a community spirit based on Gospel values in the Catholic tradition and are an integral part of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Parish.

Classes are multi-age, with Prep-Year 2, Years 3/4 and Years 5/6. Although a small school, we offer a holistic education through the implementation of contemporary Literacy and Numeracy practices, as well as offering a diverse range of specialist subjects including Robotics, Dance, Music and Drama. We work hard to ensure that all students are encouraged to reach their maximum potential in their learning and as caring and thoughtful members of the community. We encourage all parents to work in partnership with our staff, parish and wider community to maximise every child's growth and success. This supportive and productive environment helps build highly effective relationships, enabling our students to foster a love of learning and realise their potential.

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

Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is a co-educational school offering primary education from Kindergarten to Year 6. We offer a holistic and innovative educational program that leads the way in the Central Highlands. We have a wonderful partnership between staff, parents, students and the wider community to help create the foundation of a caring and inclusive culture which supports the growth of every student. Honesty, Respect and Care are the values that underpin our faith driven culture which develops well-grounded, respectful and community-minded individuals who are ready for bright futures.

Extra Curricula Activities

- Representative Sport – students are involved in a variety of sporting events at various levels (school, district, Central Highlands, Capricornia). Sports include athletics, swimming, cross country, rugby league, rugby union, soccer, tennis, and netball.
- Each term students are offered the opportunity to participate in 'Active Afterschool Sport' which is a program run by staff or external coaches in various sports and activities for an hour a week.
- The school runs a 'Mini Netball' competition for the district, inviting any girls or boys throughout the district to be involved in an active and team supportive afterschool activity.
- All Year 5 & 6 students can attend a camp of up to 5 days during the year. Every second year the children travel to Canberra for their camp. Every other grade has the opportunity to attend school excursions when they relate to and enhance classroom teachings.
- All students are encouraged and given the opportunities to take part in our School Masses and School Prayer Assemblies.
- Our School proudly supports the local tradition of marching in the town's ANZAC Day march each year and is always well represented by students, parents, and staff.
- Our school enters a display in the pavilion at the local show that provides an opportunity for students to show their work to the wider community.
- Our school is a Sun Smart school as well as an Asthma Friendly School and we provide education to our students on these two topics throughout the year.
- Our school runs a school art exhibition for the community at the local art gallery towards the end of the year.
- Every student from Years 3-6 has the opportunity to participate in an instrumental music program.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

In working through establishing the integrated curriculum process, OLSH School aims to make Information Communication Technologies integral to learning. To realise this, we aim to achieve a number of goals:

- To take full advantage of the possibilities of ICT to enhance student learning, create efficiencies in delivering education and school administration, and advance lifelong learning

- To empower teachers and students to make the most of new technologies to create new learning pathways that will equip students to learn for life
- To connect teachers with professional learning so they can create and employ meaningful and engaging strategies where ICT is integral to learning
- To support the effective use of ICT for learning by sharing and celebrating success, delivering an underpinning framework of ICT support and maintaining and extending ICT curriculum integration.

Social Climate

Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

The 'Making Jesus Real' (MJR) Program is a value-based educational program that aims to help students, staff and parents recognise the presence of goodness and Jesus in their everyday lives and aligns with the Gospel values that underpin our mission/vision. Students are encouraged to see the goodness in themselves and others and to recognise these as God-given gifts to be shared freely with all. MJR groups take place as a mixed class of all ages, helping to provide an avenue for peer support and mentoring across year levels. Religion is taught as a Learning Area for 2.5 hours per week. Religious education is at the core of our school and we continue to enjoy a very good relationship with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish. A whole-school Behaviour Management Policy is in place, with strategies across the school to assist staff in implementing a consistent approach. The aim of the Behaviour Management Plan is to ensure a safe and secure learning environment where all children have access to a range of learning opportunities.

Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Our school has implemented Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) policies on Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff. The school regularly communicates to parents and the school community about cyber safety issues. We also have appropriate policies in place to deal with the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices. Our school has social/emotional learning programs in place to assist students in guarding against bullying at school. We access CEDR representatives to give focused information sessions to parents, staff and students. The school community is kept up to date about developments in this area. All CEDR and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis.

Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

The P&F Association meetings are held on the first Monday of the month. This organisation conducts fundraising activities for the school to assist with purchasing resources. However, the P&F are primarily committed to generating events that promote a culture of family within the school, providing an avenue for families in the community to get together to share their thoughts, feelings and time together.

The School Board has been in operation for the past eight years with new members undergoing an induction program. The Board provides leadership with policy development, financial management, visioning, maintenance and capital works. Our parent body continues to work to provide a wide range of services for the school. These include tuckshop each Friday, school camps, sports days, working bees and other social events.

We have an open-door policy where parents are welcomed and encouraged to be actively engaged in the school community in a variety of ways depending on their time, talents and interests. Communication between staff and parents is given the highest priority and it is our belief that with open two-way communication our school will continue to flourish as a friendly learning environment. We have incorporated 'Celebration of Learning' days at school and invite families and community into our classrooms, providing an insight into the children's learning and the wonderful work the school does.

Our fortnightly newsletter also provides a vital communication link between the school and families and once a fortnight each class provides a comment for the Newsletter to keep parents informed. We also have a social media page to help inform parents of happenings in the school.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

The school has adopted the Assisi model that has been fundamental in the development of our school as a learning community for sustainability. This model constitutes the Australian Catholic Bishops' Sustainability initiative and is a strategic, systems-based, integrated sustainability initiative that invites all in our community to participate through inquiry, formation and conversation to implement processes for just and sustainable living. It is evident in our school

via whole school projects including: solar panels, nude food to reduce waste, recycling bins in eating areas, poultry to recycle food scraps, student led gardens, mission activities, Making Jesus Real Groups, paper recycling and whole school integration of social justice issues within school RE programs.

Characteristics of the Student Body

Current enrolment is 19 students from Prep to Year Six. In the last few years our numbers have decreased due to the fluctuation in the mining industry. Traditionally the school has serviced the rural community of Springsure in the Central Highlands, which is dependent on the beef, farming, and mining industries. Many of our parents are graziers, farmers, miners or employed by local businesses. The majority of families are middle-class, supportive and very involved in their child's education.

Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2021 was 98.16%.

Management of non-attendance

It is a statutory requirement that students attend school on each school day during the year. Parents/guardians are asked to notify the school via a telephone call, email or note whenever their child is absent. Text alerts are automatically sent each morning to families of children who are absent from the school but have not notified the office. Extended or repeated absence will be reported to the Principal who may require that the reason for absence be supported by a certificate from a medical practitioner. If no contact is made with the school after two days of a child's absence, the school office will telephone the home.

Staffing Information

Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	6.00	5.00	0.00
Full-time equivalents	4.80	2.67	0.00

Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	
Masters	
Bachelor Degree	100%
Diploma	
Certificate	

Major Professional Development Initiatives

Staff professional development initiatives included:

- Bishop's Inservice Day and Religious Education focusing on formation
- Workplace Health and Safety procedures and protocols
- Data collection and the efficient use for improving learning outcomes
- Catholic Education facilitated conferences (curriculum and leadership focus)
- Student Protection and Protective Behaviours including Safeguarding

- Staff members engage in professional sharing during staff meetings
- Staff attended several self-directed professional development activities, including literacy development and Early Years Curriculum.

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 \$1,900.

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 95.57%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 71.43%.

School Income

<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

(The School information below is available on the My School website).

The image shows a screenshot of the 'Find a school' search interface on the My School website. It contains two main search sections. The first section is titled 'Search by school name' and includes a text input field and a 'GO' button. The second section is titled 'Search by suburb, town or postcode' and includes a text input field, a 'SEARCH' button, and a 'Sector' section with two radio button options: 'Government' and '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

The 2019 NAPLAN test results in many categories were very encouraging, with nearly all areas above the State and National averages. During 2020 and 2021, our school continued a whole school focus on literacy practices, in particular writing and spelling, with cohorts reflecting consistent results in this area. The introduction of warmup and sight word spelling across the whole school, as well as our new spelling and writing program, has helped to build literacy skills. A review of our whole school numeracy program has led to the implementation of a whole school focus on number. This focus on both literacy and numeracy will continue into next year with strategies incorporated into our School Development Plan.

Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

Strategic progress in 2021

Even with the restrictions brought about by the effects of COVID-19 in 2021, staff of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart undertook personalised professional development to help strengthen their teaching and learning capacity. This included religious formation, leadership capacity building as well as early years training. Staff, with the help of CEDR staff, implemented a new spelling and writing program that saw the school engage with professional development for all teaching staff. The new spelling and writing program will guide our teachers in better pedagogical practices as well as strengthen the student writing and spelling capabilities, with early results very positive. The school has begun the stages of creating a very rich and context relevant curriculum that will see students offered learning opportunities that are pivotal to their contextual way of life. Staff have begun the journey of a new wellbeing and social emotional program that will continue into 2022, helping to provide students and staff with the strategies for a healthier and happier work/school life balance.

Strategic Priorities for 2022

In 2022, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart has developed the following priorities

- In Religious Education, to see an increase in the students' ability to articulate their thinking through dialogue
- For all students at OLSH to be able to recall the Mercy tradition and how OLSH school came to be
- To improve student outcomes in grammar and punctuation within writing
- To see an increase in practices and recognition of wellbeing as a priority in the school day for the whole community through Smiling Minds
- To improve students knowledge, connection and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' culture and to embed the principles and purpose of reconciliation within the school.

These priorities will be monitored throughout the year and adjusted as necessary, being reported to the parent body and wider community through newsletters, social media and P&F and Board meetings.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School has a very productive School Board and Parents & Friends Association. Last year we extended our Board membership to past families and community members to gain a better understanding of the community, its needs and how best these are supported by school. The school is blessed with many teachers and parents who give much time and effort to ensure that our school offers all that it can to the students and in doing so, have created a welcoming, positive school environment that is valued by all. We endeavour to provide the children of Springsure the best possible education on offer. We have a feedback system whereby the leadership team and staff consult with parents on a regular basis. Throughout the year, we encourage and welcome any feedback from staff, parents, students and the wider community through our open-door policy on all aspects of the school's operation. This year we participated in a parent satisfaction survey with results displaying overwhelmingly positive feedback.