



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Wandal

2020 Annual School Report



**Catholic Education**  
Diocese of Rockhampton

# **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal**

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

## **Principal**

Kellie Jenkinson

## **Address**

4 Herbert Street  
Wandal  
Rockhampton Qld 4700

## **Total enrolments**

349

## **Year levels offered**

Prep – Year 6

## **Type of School:**

Co-educational

## School Overview

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a Prep to Year Six co-educational school with an enrolment of approximately 350 students, located in the Rockhampton suburb of Wandal. St Joseph's Wandal was established by the Sisters of St Joseph in 1912. The school offers a quality Catholic education influenced by the charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and enacted through the school motto, 'To Love is to Serve'. Close links with the Cathedral Parish of St Joseph are maintained through school masses and celebrations.

Following a period of building and refurbishment, our school provides beautifully designed facilities and learning spaces where staff and students have access to the latest technology. The staff at St Joseph's is committed to providing the best possible learning environment for all students. In addition to our quality academic programs, our students are able to participate in a variety of academic, cultural and sporting activities. An Outside School Hours Care program provides leisure-based learning activities for children in a caring environment. We value the experience and rich culture that our students and their families bring to the learning environment, and opportunities are provided for the sharing and incorporation of this lived experience to inform and enrich our learning community. Our partnerships with families are strong and support successful learning for every student.

More information on our school can be accessed from [myschool.edu.au](http://myschool.edu.au)

## Curriculum Offerings

### Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

The students (Prep - Year 6) undertake formal study of Religious Education, as well as experiences of liturgy and prayer.

- Curriculum offerings – English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, Technologies and the Arts learning areas are fully accredited and aligned with ACARA.
- The behaviour support programme encourages personal responsibility for behaviour and learning
- S.T.E.M. - all students in P to 6 participate in specialist STEM Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics lessons.

### Extra Curricula Activities

- Community/parish involvement: Mini Vinnies, NAIDOC Week, Anzac Day and performances for aged-care facilities and parish events.
- Support for the wider community: Caritas, St Vincent de Paul and The Mary MacKillop Foundation.
- Cultural activities: eisteddfod participation (speech and vocal choirs); instrumental music, dance performances, Arts Council performances, interschool chess competitions.
- Instrumental Music Programme: Year 4 students receive lessons and participate in band rehearsal in partnership with The Cathedral College. Instruments are provided for the first year of this programme. Students in Years 5 and 6 are provided with the opportunity to continue participating in this programme.
- Sporting activities: school and district athletic carnivals, cross country, interschool hockey, netball, touch football and rugby league.
- Class excursions: students are provided with a broad range of activities to enhance their classroom learning. All activities are planned to be relevant, well organised and accessible.
- Students in their last year of primary school participate in a school camp which has, as its focus, the further development of leadership skills.
- Competitions: students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of regional, state and national competitions designed to enhance their learning experiences e.g. Writing, Science, Mathematics etc.
- Parish-based sacramental programmes: working in conjunction with the parish, students and families from St Joseph's Wandal are supported in their preparation for the sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Liturgical celebrations: students participate in a variety of parish, diocesan, regional and school-based liturgical celebrations.

### How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

At St Joseph's Wandal, we encourage technological literacy. As a school community, we foster the knowledge, skill processes and attitudes to positively interact in an information and technology-rich environment. Through our teaching and learning programmes we empower our learners to be discerning users of technology and information resources, guided by the values of Catholic Education.

## **Social Climate**

### **Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture**

At St Joseph's Wandal, we acknowledge that our mission is to respond to the developmental needs of each member of the school community, recognising that all individuals have inherent rights and responsibilities.

Religious Education is an integral part of school life at St Joseph's Wandal. The school motto, 'To Love is to Serve' provides a daily challenge for all members of our school community to live a life of service.

St Joseph's Wandal offers the members of our school community access to a school counsellor who is based at school two days per week.

Student leadership is encouraged and fostered through sporting occasions, public speaking opportunities, peer support, mentoring and charitable fundraising ventures.

### **Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies**

Pastoral Care is the observable expression of an attitude of Christian concern and care for each other. The St Joseph's Wandal school community values and fosters an environment of pastoral care. We believe that in a community that provides a strong sense of well-being, belonging and security, students and staff are given every opportunity to be affirmed in their dignity, confirmed in their own sense of self-worth and assisted to grow to their full potential.

This culture promotes positive relationships and assists in reducing the occurrences of bullying and anti-social behaviour. Incorporated into our curriculum programmes are activities designed to support the social/emotional well-being of our students. St Joseph's Wandal has implemented Diocesan policies on Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff and has appropriate guidelines in place for the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices. All Diocesan and school policies with regards to anti-bullying and cyber safety are implemented and regularly reviewed.

### **Strategies for involving parents in their child's education**

The Parents and Friends Association is an integral part of the St Joseph's Wandal school community providing the organisational structure to assist with the necessary participation of parents in the life of the school. This translates into significant involvement in many projects designed to enhance the learning environment for all.

The St Joseph's Wandal School Board is a pastoral board functioning under a shared wisdom model. A pre-service workshop is held annually allowing members of the community to gain insight into its responsibilities.

The significance of parents being involved in student learning is acknowledged and encouraged. Parents are welcomed into the school and classrooms to assist and support in a variety of activities.

Ongoing liaison between staff and parents is vital. Strategies include parent-teacher information evenings and interviews, parent/teacher interviews and end-of-semester Report Cards. Parents are also kept informed of school and community activities through the weekly newsletter.

Social interactions allow students, parents, friends and staff to gather informally as community.

### **Reducing the school's environmental footprint**

St Joseph's Wandal is actively promoting sustainable futures by:

- Fostering in learners an appreciation of creation as a gift, their relationship with it and responsibility as co-creators for its future
- Providing learners with knowledge and understandings in environmental education, creational spirituality and sustainable living practices through all Key Learning Areas
- Developing in learners the knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and commitment to initiate individual and collective responses that are environmentally, morally and ethically responsible
- Inspiring learners to actively decrease their ecological footprint and increase their spiritual one, as creatures made in the image and likeness of God

- Promoting awareness and respect for cultural diversity, spirituality, values and the traditions of other cultures, especially our own Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

## Characteristics of the Student Body

Students at St Joseph's Wandal come from a variety of backgrounds and have lived a diverse range of experiences to offer to our community.

### Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2020 was 96.99%.

### Management of non-attendance

Parents/carers are advised via the School Handbook and Parent Information Evenings to contact the school via phone, email, school app or in person should their child be absent. Text alerts are automatically sent each morning to families of children who are absent from the school but have not notified the office. Should there be a prolonged absence of three days without confirmation from the parents/carers, the school will make contact with the family. Truancy has not been identified as a problem at St Joseph's Wandal.

## Staffing Information

### Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	24.00	23.00	1.00
Full-time equivalents	19.90	13.62	0.53

### Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	4.17%
Masters	4.17%
Bachelor Degree	91.67%
Diploma	
Certificate	

### Major Professional Development Initiatives

- Australian Curriculum development
- Assessment and reporting in light of the Australian Curriculum
- Student Protection and Protective Behaviours
- Workplace Health and Safety procedures and protocols
- Whole school focus on the teaching of Numeracy and Literacy particularly in the early years
- The importance of the early years of education, with a focus on the Prep year
- Religious Education including faith formation opportunities.

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 \$48,200.

## Average Staff Attendance and Retention

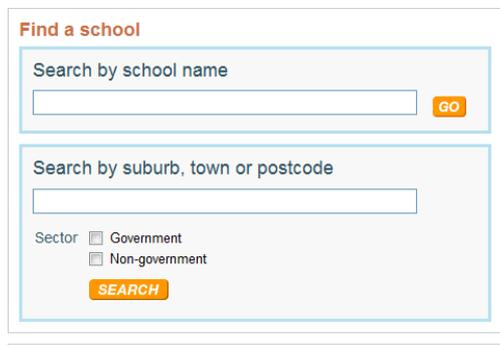
The average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to five days, was 93.03 %.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 97.27%.

## School Income

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

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



The image shows a search interface titled "Find a school". It contains two search boxes: "Search by school name" with a "GO" button, and "Search by suburb, town or postcode" with a "SEARCH" button. Below the second search box, there are two radio buttons for "Sector": "Government" and "Non-government".

## National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy Results

In 2020, NAPLAN did not proceed as a result of the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Previous NAPLAN results are available via the My School website at [www.myschool.edu.au](http://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

St Joseph's Wandal has a commitment to improving student learning through effective data gathering and analysis, responsive teaching catering to our diverse learners and the fostering of a culture where learning success is celebrated. The teaching staff and leadership team are a successful professional learning community, who see that working and learning together is the most effective way to improve learning outcomes for all students. At St Joseph's Wandal, we believe that high expectations for all learners are vital. We also believe that a vibrant and engaging learning environment that explores the Australian Curriculum using a variety of quality resources provides our learners with the best opportunity for success.

## Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

### Strategic progress in 2020

The St Joseph's Wandal staff identified improving student outcomes, especially in literacy, through enhanced teacher analysis of data and the planning and implementation of targeted teaching and learning programmes as a specific area of focus. There was a specific emphasis on the teaching of English and the core skills of reading and writing. An analysis of available NAPLAN data shows that there were improvements in the areas of reading and writing at both the Year Three and Five level.

To build upon these results, in 2020 we identified our strategic goals as:

- Numeracy – Students will engage in problem-solving tasks using effective strategies and mathematical language
- Literacy – Students will engage in spelling inquiry and pattern finding to develop effective spelling behaviours
- Mission - In 2020 the voice of the student body will inform well-being initiatives and practices.

The 2020 School Improvement Plan outlines the following as our key goals and directions:

- Review recommendations from the Enhancing Catholic School Identity Program (ECSIP) through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching to enhance dialogue with other faith traditions and ensure relevance in today's world.
- Use data-informed practice to enhance high impact teaching strategies so that every student is engaged and learning successfully in their own way at their own pace
- To enhance student learning and well-being outcomes through deliberate and strategic school community partnerships
- To ensure that all school stakeholders have a shared understanding of and are committed to the explicit improvement agenda.

### Strategic Priorities for 2021

School strategic priorities for 2021 were established post the 2020 remote learning period, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was determined, through a range of indicative data collection, and through staff, parent (P and F meetings) and school board dialogue, that in 2021, strategic priorities would build upon those established in 2020 in an effort to refine the explicit improvement agenda and enable students to further enhance learning and wellbeing outcomes:

- Whole School Literacy Goal: By the end of 2021, 90% of students will, through using a spelling inquiry model ('Guiding Thinking for Effective Spelling' - Christine Topfer) be achieving at or above their chronological age as identified using the 'South Australian Spelling Test'.
- Whole School Mathematics Goal: By the end of 2021, through the explicit teaching and learning of problem-solving strategies, and through the consistent school-wide use of mathematical language, all students will demonstrate learning growth, with 80% of learners (in each class) achieving Stanine 5 or higher in annual PAT M assessments.
- Whole School Mission Goal: Throughout 2021 every student will have the opportunity to contribute to the academic and social life of the school.

### Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

St Joseph's Wandal gathers indicative data to gauge parent and student satisfaction in a variety of ways including: P and F, school board and staff meeting agendas and feedback, student feedback, 'school renewal' feedback and online surveys via our school App.