



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Wandal

2023 Annual School Report



**Catholic Education**  
Diocese of Rockhampton

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

## Principal

Bernadette Brennan

## Address

4 Herbert Street  
Wandal QLD 4700

## Total enrolments

362

## Year levels offered

Prep – Year Six

## 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 360 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**

St Joseph's Wandal students explore learning in a broad curriculum and follow the charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Specialist teachers support all students in The Arts, Physical Education, STEM (Science, Technologies, Engineering, and Mathematics), and AUSLAN. Whole-school and class-level rituals and experiences enhance the prayer and liturgical life of the school. All learners are supported to serve God, seek justice, accept responsibility and strive for excellence.

### **Extra Curricula Activities**

At St Joseph's, children are given many opportunities to participate in various additional activities. This involvement can be initiated at the class level, whole school level, or student initiated. Our community and parish involvement includes Mini Vinnies, NAIDOC Week, Anzac Day, performances for aged-care facilities, and parish events. We provide an education that includes supporting the wider community through initiatives for Caritas—Project Compassion, St Vincent de Paul, The Mary MacKillop Foundation, and Catholic Mission—Socktober. St Joseph's offers various cultural activities, including speech and vocal choirs that perform in the Eisteddfod and at school for the community, instrumental music lessons and performances, and visiting Arts performances. All Year Four students have weekly Instrumental Music lessons and participate in band rehearsal in partnership with The Cathedral College. Instruments are provided for the first year of this program. Students in Years Five and Six are offered the opportunity to continue participating in this program.

Our whole school participates in athletics and cross-country carnivals, and we offer an evening school swimming carnival after completing a five-week swimming program for all students. Students in Years Four, Five and Six travel around the city on Friday afternoons for three terms of the year to participate in an interschool sport, which includes playing soccer, tee-ball, AFL, hockey, netball and rugby league. St Joseph's also enters teams for touch football and oztag in community competitions for those students who wish to participate. Class excursions are provided 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 that has, as its focus, the further development of leadership skills, resilience and relationship building. The students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of regional, state and national competitions designed to enhance their learning experiences, e.g. QAMT Maths Teams Challenge. 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, and many classes participate in various 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 interact in information and technology-rich environments positively. Through our teaching and learning programs, we empower our learners to be discerning users of technology and information resources guided by the values of Catholic Education.

We have one-to-one Chromebooks from Year One to Year Six and one-to-two iPads in Prep. Digital pedagogies are embedded throughout the school, and robotics, coding, 3D printing, Google Classroom and Seesaw for Education enhance the learning experiences of all students.

## **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 school community members 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 three days per week. Student leadership is encouraged and fostered through the Year Six Student Council, which provides every child in Year Six with an opportunity to lead for a term in the year. Sporting occasions, public speaking, peer support, mentoring and charitable fundraising ventures also increase the scope for students to be proactive and live the school motto.

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

Pastoral Care is the visual 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 sense of self-worth and assisted in growing 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 programs are activities designed to support the social/emotional wellbeing of our students. St Joseph's Wandal has implemented Diocesan policies on Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff and has appropriate guidelines for using mobile phones and other electronic devices. All Diocesan and school policies regarding 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 parents' necessary engagement in the school's life. This translates into significant involvement in many projects designed to enhance the learning environment for all. The P&F Association is working towards developing distinct areas of interest for parental engagement to enhance the outcomes for all learners. The significance of parents being involved in student learning is acknowledged and encouraged. Parents are welcomed into the school and learning spaces to assist and support various activities. Ongoing liaison between staff and parents is vital. Strategies include open classrooms, information sessions, parent/teacher interviews and end-of-semester Report Cards. Parents are also informed of school and community activities through the weekly newsletter and class weekly emails. Social interactions, including P&F-hosted Family Movie Night, Picnic on the Grass, Mother's and Father's Day Breakfasts and Christmas Concert, allow students, parents, friends, and staff to gather informally as a community. The St Joseph's Wandal School Board is a pastoral board functioning under a shared wisdom model where the philosophy of collaborative ministry guides the decision-making. The board consists of various people, including a representation of parents, teachers and the wider faith community who are committed to the ministry of providing authentic education to those who seek an education that aligns with the Catholic Church's mission.

### **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 their responsibility as cocreators for its future. We provide learners with knowledge and understanding of environmental education, creational spirituality and sustainable living practices. Our teaching develops in learners the knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and commitment to initiate individual and collective responses that are environmentally, morally and ethically responsible. St Joseph's promotes the school-wide recycling system that incorporates general waste, recycling, food waste and composting and is involved with the Rockhampton Regional Council's waste facility staff to review and implement greater sustainable practices.

## Characteristics of the Student Body

Students at St Joseph's Wandal come from a variety of backgrounds with a diverse range of experiences that enhance our community. Students come from many faith backgrounds, and while most students do not come from language backgrounds other than English, a small group of students come from Malayalam, Vietnamese or Nepalese backgrounds. Approximately 7% of students identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. St Joseph's Wandal has a broadly stable population, with most students completing all primary school at the school. For the past few years, student enrolment has continued to grow to the capacity it is now.

### Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2023 was 89.85%.

### Management of non-attendance

Parents/carers are advised via the school newsletter and weekly emails 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 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 contact the family. Truancy has not been identified as a problem at St Joseph's Wandal. The number of absent days is noted on the individual student's Semester Report that is distributed to families.

## Staffing Information

### Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	30.00	22.00	1.00
Full-time equivalents	23.10	15.24	0.69

### Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	3%
Masters	7%
Bachelor Degree	86%
Diploma	3%
Certificate	

### Major Professional Development Initiatives

Trauma-informed practices education – Berry Street Education Model  
The New Art and Science of Teaching – Janelle Willis  
Enhancing Catholic School Identity  
QCAA Australian Curriculum Version 9.0

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 \$54,700.

## Average Staff Attendance and Retention

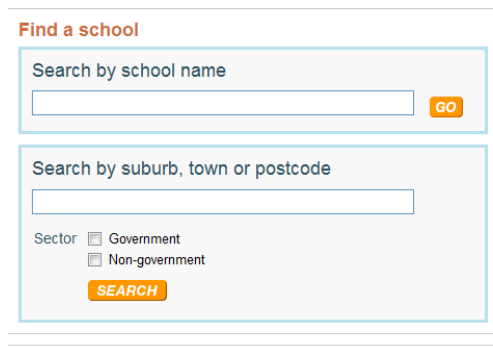
The average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to five days, was 90.55%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 93.75%.

## School Income

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

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



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Find a school". It features two search options: "Search by school name" with a text input field and a "GO" button, and "Search by suburb, town or postcode" with a text input field. Below these is a "Sector" section with checkboxes for "Government" and "Non-government", and a "SEARCH" button.

## 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](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 is committed to improving student learning through effective data gathering and analysis, responsive teaching catering to our diverse learners, and fostering a culture where learning success is celebrated. The teaching staff and leadership team are a thriving professional learning community that 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. All students have individual learning goals and are explicitly taught learner dispositions to increase their learning success. 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 2023

#### Catholic Identity and Ethos:

1. To create opportunities through dialogue for students to have a deeper understanding of why/how Catholic Social Teachings and Catholic Tradition are interconnected.

2. To improve critical thinking skills to develop a more symbolic believing attitude (post-critical belief). Following the 2023 Catholic Identity Conversation and the subsequent recommendations, particular emphasis needs to be given to the importance of the core story of Jesus Christ as we commit to developing a deeper understanding of how CSTs and Catholic Tradition are interconnected.

3. *To cherish and nurture confessional elements present to affirm Catholic affiliation.* An audit of the signs and symbols that reflect the school's charism was conducted and a QR Code with relevant information about the founders is available.

#### **Effective Teaching and Learning:**

1. *To embed learner dispositions in teaching and learning practices.* Across the year the school learner dispositions were explicitly introduced to the students and the wider community. The dispositions were reflected in the student report cards to inform families about student development.

#### **Pastoral Support and Wellbeing:**

1. *To enhance and support student wellbeing.* All staff have participated in the first two days of the Berry Street Education Model training for trauma-informed schools and have agreed to established practices that students will participate in.

#### **Leadership, Partnerships and Resourcing:**

1. *To enhance family engagement within the school community to enhance student outcomes and school culture.* A new model for the Parents and Friends Association is being explored and some new initiatives to encourage family engagement have been established, including Movie Night and Fine Motor Friday.

### **Strategic Priorities for 2024**

#### **Catholic Identity and Ethos:**

1. *To create opportunities through dialogue for students to have a deeper understanding of why/how Catholic Social Teachings and Catholic Tradition are interconnected.* Student-led social justice initiatives will be planned in each cohort raising awareness.

2. *To improve critical thinking skills to develop a more symbolic believing attitude (post-critical belief).* A more explicit connection will be made between discourse strategies and dialogue in Religious Education.

#### **Effective Teaching and Learning:**

1. *To embed learner dispositions in teaching and learning practices.* Students will engage in targeted learning experiences that foster the development of the learner dispositions.

2. *To continue to embed an explicit improvement agenda throughout the school.* Students will continue to set learning goals that they can articulate and identify strategies required to achieve these goals.

#### **Pastoral Support and Wellbeing:**

1. *To enhance and support student wellbeing.* All staff will complete the Berry Street training. Student wellbeing data will be gathered, analysed and evaluated to provide insight for next steps.

#### **Leadership, Partnerships and Resourcing:**

1. *To enhance family engagement within the school community to enhance student outcomes and school culture.* Review of the 2023 Parent Engagement sessions and the information gathered to assist with the development of the future approach of the P&F Association.

### **Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction**

To discern the possibilities for family engagement, several Parent Engagement Sessions were promoted over several weeks at various times. These sessions were well received, and attendees were invited to brainstorm or use this time to discuss the current state of the school and where they can see improvement in the areas of Catholic Identity, Teaching and Learning, Communication, Events, Sustainability, and Sport. This process has helped inform the structure of the future of Parent Engagement at St Joseph's. Students participate in surveys that allow them to reflect

on the teaching and learning in their learning spaces and complete Ready to Learn Surveys. The Year Five students participate in sessions toward the end of the year that invite them to consider school improvement and the role they play in leadership and upholding our school mission.