



# St John's Catholic Primary School Walkerston

2022 Annual School Report



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

# St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

## Principal

Nathaniel Rice

## Address

23 Creek Street  
Walkerston Qld 4751

## Total enrolments

322

## Year levels offered

Prep - 6

## Type of School:

Co-educational

## **School Overview**

St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston, situated 17 km from Mackay in the Pioneer Valley, was established in 1924 by the Sisters of Mercy. Families attending the school come from a variety of work backgrounds including farming, professional, local business and industry and mining sectors. As the population has increased in Walkerston and surrounds, the school has grown to an enrolment of approximately 300 students in Prep to Year Six. St John's is a well-resourced school with modern facilities. The school's mission is based on core Gospel values and is committed to the education of the whole child with each student being challenged to reach their full potential spiritually, academically, culturally, physically, socially and emotionally. The school motto, 'Love one another as I have loved you' is embedded in our community and sets the tone for how we strive to work together at St John's. The school provides programs for academic, sporting, the arts and public speaking achievement through the engagement of specialist teachers in physical education and the arts and the significant skills of staff. Students are provided with opportunities to participate in local and regional academic, cultural and sporting competitions. Students' wellbeing is catered for with access to counsellors and curriculum specific whole school programs. The parents and wider community are involved with regular school-based programs for literacy, numeracy, extra-curricular sport, physical activities and the arts.

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

## **Curriculum Offerings**

### **Distinctive Curriculum Offerings**

St John's is a Catholic Primary School providing quality and affordable Catholic education, based on Gospel values, from Prep to Year 6. As such, we are open to all who support and seek the ethos of Catholic Education. We are committed to the education of the whole child and each student is challenged to reach their full potential in spiritual, academic, cultural, physical, social, and emotional areas of development.

### **Extra Curricula Activities**

St John's promotes excellence in teaching and learning. Classes utilise current local contexts to promote learning in a way that students can make links to their own lives and that of the community.

Our school actively supports major community events such as the Walkerston Children's Book Week Parade and the RSL in Anzac Day and Remembrance Day commemorations as well as the RSL public speaking bursary. We also engage with local businesses for student excursions to support learning.

The school works closely with St John's Parish, supporting students and families in their faith formation through preparation of students for the Sacraments, participation in weekend masses (including altar serving and scripture reading) and school liturgies. Our students lead parish liturgical celebrations. Our school also joins with the local parish for Anointing and Parish masses, when possible, each Friday.

Academically, students are challenged as groups and individuals to participate in regional, state, and national competitions. These include mathematics and literacy. Staff members give their time to support students in competitions and bring other competitions and challenges to the attention of students for individual pursuit.

Students are challenged as groups and individuals to participate in regional, state, and national sporting competitions. Our school works closely within our Pioneer Valley sub-district to provide students in years 5 and 6 opportunities to participate with peers from other schools at "Friday sport".

The school employs a specialist teacher in Music and Drama. St John's is very proud of its tradition of excellence in the annual Mackay Eisteddfod, with classes participating in Choral Verse Speaking. Musicorp Australia offers instrumental Music lessons [and instrument hire] during school hours for individual and / or small group tuition. Lessons are rotated so students can maintain their personal learning of class work.

The school employs specialist teachers to teach Physical Education as well as Mental Health and Wellbeing curriculum.

Students can enter the annual School Art Competition which is judged by a guest artist from the local community. Art work is proudly added to the gallery in the library.

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

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are integrated into all teaching and learning. Chromebooks and iPads are the main devices used. These are used for digital media lessons as well as class-based learning. Each

classroom has an Interactive White Board which is used efficiently and purposefully across all learning areas. Recent improvement to the wireless network has allowed for greater reliability and access to learning online. All teaching staff are provided with a laptop and iPad and these are used to create innovative programs and activities as well as accessing online resources to enhance the delivery of the Australian Curriculum.

## **Social Climate**

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

St John's is blessed with enthusiastic people; parents, staff, and students, who are actively involved in creating a happy, vibrant, accepting, family atmosphere, which enhances learning. The school is small enough for staff and students to know and care for each other, yet large enough to provide students with the resources and opportunities necessary for life in a 21st century world.

All enrolments are individually considered as to how St John's can support the child's development. It is the view of the school community that all members contribute to the social and emotional development of all.

The school staff is a genuine team, exercising collaborative leadership, sharing expertise and responsibility and concern for student welfare.

St John's is a pastoral school, with the welfare of all families in the school is important.

The school encourages a growth mindset in all learning areas. Students understand that mistakes are valued, and everyone can learn to the highest levels.

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

Our school has implemented Diocesan policies on anti-bullying and has school-based procedures to support students, staff, and parents with behaviour concerns. The School Board, in consultation with staff and the community, have developed an information brochure outlining the school's procedure for handling instances where bullying may occur. This brochure also serves to offer information and support ideas to parents and their child.

The school regularly communicates with parents and the school community about cyber safety issues. We enlisted the expertise of Sergeant Nigel Dalton, from the Mackay police, and our school Adopt-a-Cop to present to students and parents on the topic of cyber safety. To raise awareness of the annual National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, classes participate in a variety of activities.

Our Year 3 class also participated in Safety Circus which was initiated by the Mackay police. We also have appropriate practices in place to deal with the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices.

All Diocesan and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis.

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

St John's has an open-door policy, where parents are welcomed and encouraged to actively engage with the school community in a wide variety of ways, depending on their time, talents, and interests.

All parents are engaged in their child's education through formal and informal parent/teacher meetings, formal written reports to parents, and through regular class and school newsletters.

The School Board also plays a vital role in the life of the school. Parent members are commissioned following a discernment process and receive pre-service education. The School Board assists with the development of policy to maintain the integrity and special religious character.

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

Recycling bins are a prominent feature both within and outside of the classroom. The school has also implemented the "Containers for Change" program to support our recycling program. The tuckshop promotes the use of reusable bags and these are becoming more popular with parents. We have also commenced staff professional learning with the Popes encyclical, Laudato Si, and through PD through "Little Earthies". Our Mercy Council also works closely with staff to give student voice to ways we can reduce our environment footprint.

To conserve water and energy our sprinkling system is set to a timer and uses bore water. Classes are encouraged to turn off lights and fans when leaving for lengthy periods of time. Water tanks gather water from roofs which is used to flush toilets. It is a requirement that air conditioners not be used in terms 2 and 3 each year.

## Characteristics of the Student Body

Families attending St John's come from a variety of backgrounds. Some are multi-generational attendees at the school. Some families are continuing the business of family cane farms. Some have transferred from Mackay Catholic schools as families seek a semi-rural life. Many have moved to the Walkerston area to live at a closer distance to work on mine sites. Some parents experience work commitments involving long hours, shift work or being away for extended periods on mining sites. As an outcome, the students of St John's come with rich experiences including some who began schooling in other regional centres or interstate. Most students from St John's continue their secondary schooling at Mercy College Mackay or Holy Spirit College. In 2022, Catherine McAuley College opened and provides an additional secondary education option for families seeking a Catholic education. Some students attend neighbouring State high schools.

### Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2022 was 88.08%.

### Management of non-attendance

Our Diocesan procedure is followed to manage student non-attendance. Parents of absentees who have not provided the school with notification of an absence are sent an SMS in the morning. Teachers monitor student absenteeism and discuss concerns with parents and/or the principal. Semester absentees are printed on student report cards.

## Staffing Information

### Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	27.00	25.00	1.00
Full-time equivalents	22.59	15.15	1.00

### 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

CEDR: Bishop's Inservice Day, Intra and Inter-school moderation.

SCHOOL: Mandatory annual training in Student protection; School-based development of staff in matters of curriculum, faith education.

WH&S – Fire training, continuing professional development framework and teachers' Code of Conduct.

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 \$35,200.

## Average Staff Attendance and Retention

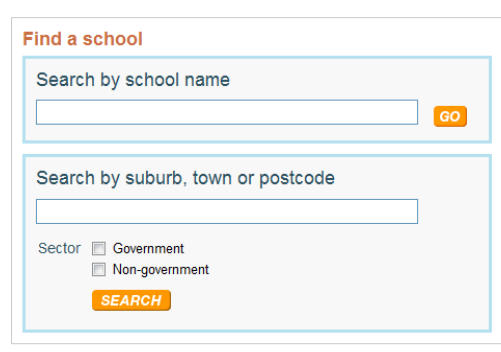
The average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to five days, was 91.56%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 96.3%.

## 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 contains two main search sections. The first section is "Search by school name" with a text input field and a "GO" button. The second section is "Search by suburb, town or postcode" with a text input field. Below this, there is a "Sector" section with two radio button options: "Government" and "Non-government". At the bottom of the second section is 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

We celebrate the God given gifts of our students and staff and utilise these gifts to inspire learning and excellence in education. As a school we have achieved at the National benchmark in all areas of NAPLAN testing. In every year of NAPLAN testing our school has obtained results that have been comparable to state, Catholic and independent schools in our region regardless of size. There are many contributing factors as to why a school our size has achieved such results:

- Analysing previous results and trends to determine whole school programs, early intervention, staff in-service and learning support programs
- We implement CEO initiatives in a way that best suits our school's needs
- We have strong networking amongst colleagues
- Resources are continually updated to accommodate the Australian Curriculum and current pedagogy

- We organise special consideration to enable children with a diagnosis to access the test conditions which mirrors their classroom support and IEP goals
- Our teachers, in all year levels, have high expectations of their children throughout the course of the year
- At our school, NAPLAN is seen as a point in time test and therefore does not dictate curriculum implementation or teacher demands.





## Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

### Strategic progress in 2022

#### St John's Walkerston



#### Strategic Priorities for 2022





<b>1. Catholic Identity</b> 	<b>2. Effective Teaching and Learning</b> (NSIT Domains 2,5,6,7,8) 		
PRIORITY	GOAL	PRIORITY	GOAL
1.1: Strengthen the school's Catholic identity through dialogue, recontextualising the school's religious life, and encouraging staff to be witnesses to their faith.	Continue to implement the new Religion curriculum to strengthen Catholic Identity through a focus on dialogical pedagogy.	2.1: Continue implementation and develop school-wide agreed practices that are evidence-based, and with a focus on progressing student learning.  2.2: Implement a school-wide process for collection and regular analysis of data to inform teaching and learning for continued growth.	Build on problem solving pedagogical practices for all learners.  Use data informed practices in teaching and learning to support student growth in DRA.
<b>3. Pastoral Support and Wellbeing</b> (NSIT Domain 3) 	<b>4. Leadership, Partnerships and Resourcing</b> (NSIT Domains 1,4,9) 		
PRIORITY	GOAL	PRIORITY	GOAL
3.1: Develop and define school-based Mental Health and Wellbeing learning to support students, staff, and parents	Review current school practices to align with Mental Health and Wellbeing framework.	4.1: Create and strengthen parent partnerships within our school community to enhance student outcomes and school culture	Explore ways to enable parents to engage with their child's learning and be involved with school activities.

### Strategic Priorities for 2023

#### St John's Walkerston



#### Strategic Priorities for 2023

<b>1. Catholic Identity</b> 	<b>2. Effective Teaching and Learning</b> (NSIT Domains 2,5,6,7,8) 		
PRIORITY	GOAL	PRIORITY	GOAL
Strengthen the school's Catholic identity through dialogue and recontextualisation.	To enhance understanding of Catholic Social Teaching through stewardship of God's creation.	To support continuous improvement in the quality of teaching and learning.	2.1 To improve student growth in reading.  2.2 To improve student learning outcomes in Mathematics (Big Ideas in numeracy).
<b>3. Pastoral Support and Wellbeing</b> (NSIT Domain 3) 	<b>4. Leadership, Partnerships and Resourcing</b> (NSIT Domains 1,4,9) 		
PRIORITY	GOAL	PRIORITY	GOAL
To enhance the safety and wellbeing of the school community.	3.1 To support a school environment that enhances a student's <i>readiness to learn</i> .	Build authentic relationships to nurture and improve opportunities and outcomes for students, staff, and parents	a. To develop parents' understanding of student engagement and <i>readiness to learn</i> .

## Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

Twice every 5 years the school seeks feedback from parents, students and staff on school matters. Below are results from our 2021 Satisfaction survey period:

### Parent Summary

Key Area	Satisfaction	Variance
Catholic Ethos + Identity	4.41	3%
Pastoral Support + Wellbeing	4.39	2%
Leadership, Partnership + Resourcing	4.32	0%
Effective Teaching + Learning	4.22	-2%
General	4.20	-2%
Average Score	4.30	



### Student Summary

Key Area	Satisfaction	Variance
Effective Teaching + Learning	4.20	3%
Catholic Ethos + Identity	4.13	2%
Pastoral Support + Wellbeing	4.10	1%
General	4.00	-1%
Leadership, Partnership + Resourcing	3.92	-3%
Average Score	4.06	



### Staff Summary

Key Area	Satisfaction	Variance
Catholic Ethos + Identity	4.50	6%
Pastoral Support + Wellbeing	4.34	2%
Leadership, Partnership + Resourcing	4.25	0%
Staff Engagement	4.19	-2%
General	4.13	-3%
Average Score	4.26	

