



Mary MacKillop Catholic College Highfields

Catholic co-educational P-9 school

Diocese of Toowoomba

Annual report 2017

Address	PO Box 15 Highfields Road Highfields QLD 4352		Phone number	07 4698 7777	
email	highfields@twb.catholic.edu.au		Principal	Peter Murphy	
Year levels	Prep-Year 9		Enrolment	642	
Co-educational or single sex				co-educational	
Boarders	no	Outside hours school care	yes	Vacation care	yes
Contact person for information about the school and school policies			Peter Murphy		

The school's mission

The Mary MacKillop Catholic College credo expresses our fundamental commitment to human flourishing and underpins all aspects of college life. The credo is the watermark that washes through all College behaviours, documents and processes. All College artefacts contain links to the credo as aligned reminders of our integrity.

Mary MacKillop Catholic College Credo

Vision

We are a Christ-centred educational community – engaging minds, igniting hearts, and serving others.

Mission

We form faith filled people of integrity who strive for excellence.

Values

We value spirituality, wisdom, justice, respect and resilience.

Motto

We celebrate God in all things.

Distinctive curriculum offerings

At Mary MacKillop Catholic College teachers work cooperatively to implement the full suite of Australian Curriculum Learning Areas, and the Toowoomba Catholic Education Religious Education curriculum, across Prep to Year 9.

In Year 9, the College also offers a range of elective subjects, drawn from the Australian Curriculum, to allow students to explore interests, and to consider pathways of study through Years 11 and 12.

Throughout the year the Senior School teachers have also undertaken professional development and have engaged in school level curriculum development in preparation for the full implementation of the new QCAA Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) syllabuses in 2019, which builds on the work undertaken already to implement Year 10 in 2018.

The introduction of the new QCAA QCE is timely and will coincide with the College commencing Year 11 in 2019.

Extra-curricular activities

The College offers an extensive range of sports and cultural experiences for students outside of the regular times for classroom education. A range of additional activities have been included here as examples.

- celebration for school feast day
- Buddy program for Prep and Year 6 and Years 1 and 5
- interschool sport
- Mini Vinnies (Junior St Vincent de Paul) group (Year 5)
- St Vincent de Paul Chapter for senior school students
- fundraising activities for Caritas, Mission Australia, and St Vincent de Paul
- senior and junior vocal ensembles
- band
- instrumental tuition
- ICAS Digital Technologies, Math, English and Science Tests (Years 3 to 8)
- Maths Teams Challenge (Year 7)
- enrichment groups – Opti-minds
- after school Art, Drama, and Dance
- musical production
- school camps – Years 4 to 8
- extra-curricular sport
- chess
- after school homework support
- immersion experience
- retreat and reflection days
- Need for Feed program
- twilight winter and summer concerts

The College is a foundation member of the Queensland Combined Independent Schools (QCIS) association. Through this association students gain opportunity to compete in sporting and other activities as well as experiencing social gatherings.

Social climate (including pastoral care and student behaviour support)

At Mary MacKillop Catholic College we seek to develop the whole person: spiritually, socially, emotionally and academically. While academic intelligence and performance is our core business, we place great importance on the emotional wellbeing of our students. Our belief in Jesus Christ supports the spiritual development of our students and empowers them to become worthwhile citizens who will contribute to the future world. The College operates an approach to student discipleship, *Making Jesus Real*.

We support the development of the whole person through

- daily prayer and reflection
- attendance at and participation in liturgies, masses and the Sacraments
- participation in curriculum programs such as *Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia (CSYMA)* which promotes a four-phase approach to student and young adult ministry
- buddy programs which develop relationships between Prep/Year 1 and Years 5/6 students through involvement in shared activities
- involvement in intra and inter-school sporting activities
- pastoral care group activities
- the Arts
- community projects.

Mary MacKillop Catholic College operates an approach of *Restorative Practices* when addressing issues of conflict. The Student behaviour support policy promotes intrinsic motivation towards the selection of good choices. Our philosophy is 'A new day, a new beginning'.

We welcome parents and community members to Mary MacKillop Catholic College and invite them to participate in a variety of ways, including

- attendance at school assemblies, liturgies, masses
- weekly Parent Café
- parent support group, *Healing Hands*
- involvement in P&F committee activities and social events
- invitation to academic presentations, sports carnivals, drama, music and choir concerts, classroom activities
- participation in rounded Professional Development opportunities such as Parent Connect.
- P&F and College Advisory Board

Through these initiatives Mary MacKillop Catholic College aims to develop the spiritual, social and emotional and spiritual wellbeing of every student while fostering strong relationships between College, families and the local community.

Characteristics of the student body

The College has a broad representation of students from various cultural, religious and demographical backgrounds. Although only a small percentage of students identify as Indigenous, the College's cultural clubs acknowledge and honour traditions of our country's first people. Whilst just over 50% of the College population identify as Catholic, traditions aligned with a Catholic College are adhered to across all year levels.

Parent/carer involvement

Education is a partnership between the College and the families enrolling their children. Parents are encouraged to be highly involved in their child's education. The secret to this involvement is frequent and open communication between teachers and parents. Parents are always welcome to assist in and around the school in any capacity. Numerous opportunities exist such as reading,

art, craft, tuckshop, library and maintenance. The school runs an accreditation program for volunteer workers. It is also important that parents are involved in the school in a social capacity to build community. Social opportunities include participation in movie nights, fundraising events, art shows, and balls.

School income by funding source

School income reported by the financial year accounting cycle using standardised national methodologies and broken down by funding source is available via the *MySchool* website at www.myschool.edu.au.

Staff

Workforce composition

	Total teaching staff	Total non-teaching staff	Indigenous staff
Headcount	44	33	5
Full-time equivalents	38.2	23	4.6

Teacher qualifications

Qualification	% of teaching
Doctoral / Post-Doctoral	0%
Masters	13%
Bachelor Degree	87%
Diploma	0%
Certificate	0%

Average staff attendance

96%

Staff retention

88%

Professional Development (participation and expenditure)

2017 School Budget Allocation: \$38,000

The following information is an overview of staff participation in professional development at Mary MacKillop for 2017.

- Hawker Brownlow Thinking & Learning Conference – Embedding Formative Assessment
- Diocese Reading Improvement Strategy training
- Dylan William professional development
- Colin Sloper - High Reliability School framework and understanding the PLC structure
- QCAA Curriculum workshops centred on curriculum and preparing teachers for the new ATAR system

- MJR Conference
- First Aid and CPR training

Student attendance

Average whole of school student attendance rate (expressed as %)

93.4%

Student attendance for each year level (expressed as %)

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Average student attendance rate
91.92%	93.25%	92.4%	93%	93.55%	93%	93.03%	92.9%

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Average student attendance rate
97.52%	94.16%	90%	93.9%

Description of how non-attendance of students is managed by the school

All students who arrive at school after the 8:20 am (Senior School) and 8:30 am (Junior School) bells must report to the office. This includes students who arrive at school early for other activities but do not get to PC by 8:20 am. These students are given a late slip to hand to their teacher. This late slip indicates that they have signed in at the office and the roll has been adjusted accordingly.

School staff monitor part or whole day absences as a part of their duty of care. Attendance registers are maintained on all days on which the school is open for instruction, including school sports days, swimming carnivals, excursions and similar events.

Junior school teachers complete attendance before 9:00 am and then after second break for the afternoon roll. Office staff check the late register, telephone messages and the College App for absence notifications and adjust the rolls accordingly. At approximately 9:00 am, an SMS is sent to parents for all unexplained absences.

Senior school students will have the roll marked at the commencement of every period throughout the day, including Pastoral Care. At approximately 9:00am, an SMS is sent to parents for all unexplained absences as marked by the PC teacher.

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results

Year 3 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading	440	424.9	431	100%
Writing	404	402.4	413.6	99%
Spelling	397	408.8	416.1	100%
Grammar and Punctuation	427	436.8	439.2	95%
Numeracy	404	402.2	409.4	100%

Year 5 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading	515	502.7	505.6	100%
Writing	479	461.4	472.5	97%
Spelling	506	496.5	500.9	100%
Grammar and Punctuation	519	496.0	499.3	100%
Numeracy	495	490.4	493.8	100%

Year 7 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading	567	450.3	544.7	100%
Writing	535	502.5	513.0	100%
Spelling	555	546	549.6	95%
Grammar and Punctuation	573	537.9	541.6	100%
Numeracy	577	549.2	555.3	100%

Year 9 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading	582	574	580	92%
Writing	519	538	551	75%
Spelling	570	576	581	92%
Grammar and Punctuation	574	573	574	92%
Numeracy	585	585	592	100%

School renewal and improvement

Overview of procedures

Mary MacKillop Catholic College engaged in the Excellence in Catholic Education (EiCE) school improvement process that has been in place in Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic schools since 2012.

EiCE involves the school reflecting on its effectiveness, making plans for improved teaching and learning and acting upon those. EiCE envisages the school taking five years to work its way

through 24 components in the four areas of Catholic Life and Religious Education; Learning and Teaching; Leadership for School Improvement; Strategic Resourcing.

In 2017, the EICE components on which our school focused were:-

- 1.2 Religious Education
- 3.5 Compliance and Accountability
- 4.1 Financial Management

Parent, staff and student satisfaction

Each year Mary MacKillop engages in data gathering from parents, staff and students to assist it in evaluating the effectiveness of its educational program.

Materials provided by Research Australia Development & Innovation Institute (RADII) are used. Part of the RADII process is the collection of data regarding the overall satisfaction of parents, staff and students. Overall satisfaction responses for 2017 are shown below.

Parents

94 % of parents satisfied with children's educational progress at the school.

97% of parents satisfied that school's educational program enable children to learn.

Staff

97% of staff satisfied overall with educational progress of students.

99% of staff satisfied that school's educational programs enable students to learn.

Students

86 % of Years 5-9 students satisfied with their learning at this school.