



# St Peter's Catholic Primary School Rockhampton

2021 Annual School Report



**Catholic Education**  
Diocese of Rockhampton

# **St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton**

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

## **Principal**

Peter Smith

## **Address**

170 Upper Dawson Rd  
Rockhampton Qld 4700

## **Total enrolments**

352

## **Year levels offered**

Prep – Year 6

## **Type of School:**

Co-educational

## School Overview

St Peter's Catholic Primary School is situated in Allenstown, Rockhampton, in Central Queensland. St Peter's is a two-stream, Prep to Year Six school, with a current enrolment of approximately 350 students. The school was founded by the Presentation Sisters in 1934 and we continue their proud tradition of bringing the message of Jesus' love to the community. Our motto is 'Called to Serve' and our holistic approach to learning aims to create in our students a strong sense of self and a proactive commitment to social justice, peace and equity. Our mission is to provide a faith community witnessing to the values of Christ where each person is respected and works in partnership to nurture love and learning for the good of the whole community.

For this to be achieved, the partnership that exists between school and home must be one of support, encouragement and love. We encourage our parents to become part of the everyday life of the school and to encourage learning by taking an active part in the children's education. The Parents and Friends Association encourages active involvement by providing educational opportunities for parents and social functions for families.

St Peter's strives to ensure that all children reach their full potential. Our staff is dedicated to offering a quality education and is supported with well-resourced facilities. The school also offers a variety of cultural and sporting opportunities to allow the children's many and varied gifts and talents to shine.

St Peter's is proud of its Catholic tradition and endeavours to instil in our children Jesus' message of love, by encouraging them to 'Make Jesus Real' through their everyday dealings with others. We have a close association with our parish and families have the opportunity to be involved in class and youth masses on a regular basis.

St Peter's offers an excellent After School Hours Care service Monday to Friday. We also work in partnership with a number of sporting organisations, offering our facilities for them to run coaching clinics on a regular basis after school.

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

## Curriculum Offerings

### Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Peter's Catholic Primary School is a two-stream from Prep to Year 6. The Australian Curriculum is embedded into our everyday teaching and we also offer Religion as an additional curriculum subject. St Peter's is dedicated to ensuring that every child's educational needs are met to the best of our ability, thus assisting them to reach their full potential. Therefore all of St Peter's staff members are engaging in best practices to enable differentiated learning.

### Extra Curricula Activities

Outside School Care program and facilities

- Music & HPE Specialist teachers
- Instrumental Music Program for all Year 4 students and optional for students in Years 5 & 6
- Musical Gala evening every two years
- Junior and Senior Choirs and Folk Groups
- Junior and Senior Signing Choir
- Individual keyboard lessons available
- School Masses
- Biennial Artists in Residence Program culminating in an 'Arts in the Dark' display night
- Biennial specialist dance lessons culminating in a 'Dance Spectacular'
- Cultural classes for all students
- Harmony Day & NAIDOC Celebrations
- NAIDOC Mass
- Chess Club and competitions
- Under 8's Day celebrations
- Book Week and Premier's Reading Challenge
- Interschool and Intraschool Debating
- National Simultaneous Story Time.

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

St Peter's encourages the integration of ICT into all learning areas. The school has and continues to invest heavily into resourcing ICT, not only with hardware, but ongoing professional development of staff. The school employs a part time IT technician to maintain our growing ICT resources. Currently the Years 5 & 6 classes are involved in a one to one Chromebook program, allowing students to take the devices home. Year 4 classes have a laptop/student ratio of 1:1 and there is a bank of 30 laptops available for the Prep to Year 3 students. Every Prep and Year 1 class also has 10 iPads at their disposal and the Year 2 & 3 classes have 20 iPads per class, each with wireless keyboards. Each classroom has a television with wireless capacity to project work from computers and iPads and a Sonak microphone system. All classes have Seesaw to document their learning and communicate with parents.

## Social Climate

### Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

St Peter's is a faith community witnessing to the values of Christ. We respect each person and work in partnership to nurture love and learning for the good of the whole community.

St Peter's is a Catholic school that prides itself on promoting the Gospel values of sharing, caring, loving and forgiving. The whole community works in partnership to develop open and positive relationships between all and in doing so, helps to create a safe and positive atmosphere for children to learn. The school has formal policies and procedures in place to support this 'culture of care' and the staff work wholeheartedly to be inclusive of all. Our Year 6 Student Leaders organise Pastoral Care Groups each fortnight with a mix of students from all classes from their sporting house. This is a great opportunity for the students to get to know students throughout the school. Each week there is a Making Jesus Real theme. This is a focus for the students, and it is celebrated weekly with awards recognising students who have displayed this quality. Year 5 & 6 classes have buddy classes with the Prep and Year 1 students to develop relationships that are fostered throughout their time at St Peter's.

St Peter's has a Be You Team comprising staff from the leadership team, teachers, educational support officers and the school counsellor. This team works on projects to promote the wellbeing of students and staff, conducts wellbeing audits as well as providing professional development of staff about student development and wellbeing strategies.

### Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

St Peter's has implemented Diocesan policies on Acceptable Use Agreements of ICT 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 a number of social/emotional learning programs in place to assist in protecting students against bullying at school. These are supported by the school's part time Counsellor. The school community is kept up to date about developments in this area. All Diocesan and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis with the school board. Information nights are provided for parents about cyberbullying and how to support their children with the appropriate and safe use of technology.

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

- Parents and Friends, including a Food Day Committee
- P&F organise guest speakers for parent education
- P&F organise a family function each term
- Parents are involved in their children's Personal Learning Goals
- Parent volunteers encouraged in classrooms
- School Board
- Weekly class newsletters communicated to parents to keep them informed of class happenings
- St Peter's website
- Extensive use of the Seesaw app for student learning
- Parent in-servicing on reading, spelling, oral language and phonics
- Parent information evenings
- Caulfield Cup Fundraising Committee.

## Reducing the school's environmental footprint

- Recycling Program throughout the school with all classes recycling
- Paper Cut monitoring system installed on all copiers and printers to reduce waste
- Promotion of 'nude food' days to limit waste
- Vegetable garden and a weekly garden club
- Solar Panels installed on the roof
- Modern watering system.

## Characteristics of the Student Body

While many of our families are predominately of Anglo-Saxon heritage, the diversity of the school community continues to increase with around 10% indigenous background and 5% from sub-continent Southeast Asian heritage. Our parents value Catholic education and support the school through the fees and by contributing their energy, time and ideas through parent groups to benefit all students. We acknowledge Harmony Day each year to celebrate the diversity and richness of Australia's cultural heritage. We have currently over twenty Indigenous students who are supported in their learning by an Indigenous Teaching Assistant and staff from our Catholic Education Office. We celebrate NAIDOC each year with cultural presentations by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups.

## Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2021 was 95.11%.

## Management of non-attendance

Parents are required to inform the school of student absences. This can be done through Parent Lounge email, Seesaw or more traditional methods such as phone, email to teacher/school or note. If a child's absence has not been explained by 10am, caregivers are sent a text notifying them of the absence. If a child is absent for two days without parental contact the school would contact the family to determine the reason for the absence.

## Staffing Information

### Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	25.00	20.00	1.00
Full-time equivalents	21.40	11.76	0.53

### Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	
Masters	
Bachelor Degree	96%
Diploma	4%
Certificate	

### Major Professional Development Initiatives

- St Peter's School staff are engaged in a weekly staff meetings and professional learning communities. These times are set aside for professional development of staff and sharing of resources and pedagogies.

- Staff engage in a diocesan supported monitoring learning growth that provides an opportunity for teachers to work with staff from local Catholic primary schools to monitor and discuss their practices and student achievement in a particular subject area.
- Our school is implementing Promoting Literacy Development throughout the early years with the support of a literacy coach.
- Staff are working with Catholic Education and professionals in spelling to develop pedagogical practices that support an inquiry-based learning approach.
- Several staff engaged in a 2 year Mathematics project in 2020 and 2021. This project builds teacher knowledge and capacity for coaching staff in this area.
- All staff attend Bishop's Inservice Day to support their personal faith journey and support classroom practice.
- Staff are engaged in Well Being training to enhance their knowledge and support students throughout the school with their resilience and personal development.
- First aid and anaphylaxis training is offered to all staff at St Peter's.

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 \$33,400.

## 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 94.23%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 95.59%.

## School Income

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

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

## 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

Our Vision Statement states that St Peter's School aspires to be a community who answers the Call to Serve Christ while inspiring learning together.

'Inspire learning together' is St Peter's curriculum core purpose which was developed in collaboration with the Leadership Team, School Board and staff. This core purpose acts as a focal point for many curriculum-based decisions that are made within the school to ensure that we are not only living the school's mission statement but also meeting the learning needs of our students.

Three goals underpin this core purpose:

1. Bring Jesus' values to life by fostering a positive, safe and welcoming community
2. As a team of learners seek out and engage in meaningful professional learning and sharing that will help us improve as teachers
3. Use assessment data to develop curriculum approaches that support differentiation of learning.

## **Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps**

### **Strategic progress in 2021**

**Staff are authentic, informed and confident in their knowledge of Catholic traditions and engage students in meaningful dialogue to help them move from literal belief to a deeper understanding of faith.**

Staff trialled the use of new curriculum units throughout the school working with the APRE to support planning. Staff deepened their own religious experiences (daily prayer & reflections, attendance of Mass celebration) which enable them to have an authentic voice for the students.

**Develop and refine a whole school approach to word study building teacher capacity and confidence by exploring high impact strategies.**

Staff engaged in resources to support the effective implementation of word study across the school, completed professional reading and discussions during Professional Learning Communities to further develop a common understanding of word study, explored the use of high impact strategies for teaching spelling, attended professional development to support learning amongst staff (Catholic Education Office supported and Promoting Literacy Development) and developed agreed practices for word study across the school - including lower and upper school practices.

**For every student to achieve growth in literacy and numeracy by using data to guide and inform instruction and applying visible learning strategies.**

The school continued to support the growth and increase in teacher capacity through coaching in Mathematics, literacy and specifically spelling. Staff worked on the Maths Project - with the support of a Mathematics coach to support teachers with a common language, developing routines, number talk, growth mindsets and ways of assessing. Staff continued to collect data to assist with knowing the students through effective (timely and measured) collection, engaged in data discussions to determine where individual students were and used ways of providing challenging tasks to encourage student improvement.

### **Strategic Priorities for 2022**

**Demonstrate a working knowledge and understanding of the new Religion Curriculum, to enhance classroom teaching, assessment and reporting.**

Maintain meaningful dialogue about our faith, while introducing and becoming familiar with the new RE curriculum and looking at ways to improve formative and summative assessment of the content. The 2021 ECSI report will be examined by the leadership team and staff to evaluate what progress has been made and what areas of professional development are still required.

**Raise the status of the general capabilities to focus on cross-curricular priorities and develop a richness in the curriculum planning and delivery, whilst refining formative assessment practices.**

We aim to increase student engagement by developing a richness in curriculum planning, delivery and capability. Staff will engage in data discussions to determine where individual students are and ways of providing challenging tasks to encourage student improvement. They will then develop a common language & identify high impact pedagogies (using visible learning - surface, deep and transfer learning).

**Strengthen our growth mindset in student learning, through our partnership with staff, parents and students, to enable students to feel good about themselves and their learning.**

The school will build on the progress made with growth mindset so it becomes ingrained in the St Peter's culture for staff, students and families. Using survey data and Be You resources, we will engage staff and students in programs that will develop and build change to a level of 4.5 in the areas of learning resilience, family partnership and early support on the Be You survey.

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

In 2019 our school participated in a School Review and Improvement Process. Parents, students and staff indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the school and its programs. Parental support continues with parents supporting a variety of committees and initiatives and increased parent interest in their child's education. This is evident in an increase of volunteers within the classroom and more open communication between staff and parents. These results supported satisfaction surveys administered in 2020, 2017 and 2015 confirming a history of high rate of satisfaction with the school, its curriculum priorities and communication processes.

Staff retention at St Peter's is high. Social events are well supported by the entire community. St Peter's is well regarded within the wider community and this has led to a steady growth in enrolments. We pride ourselves on living out our school motto of 'Called to Serve' every day.