



**Catholic
Education**
Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

Good Counsel College, Innisfail

Motto	One Spirit in Christ
Address	66 Owen Street, INNISFAIL QLD 4860
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Phone Number	(07) 4063 5300
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Email Address	gcounsel@gcc.qld.edu.au
Web Site	http://www.gcc.qld.edu.au
Total Enrolments	358
Year Levels Offered	7-12
Student Population	Co-Educational
Principal	Ms Catherine Barrett
Parish Priest	Fr Kerry Crowley PP
Parish Number	(07) 4061 6633





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About our School

Good Counsel College is a Catholic co-educational school situated on Mamu country in the heart of the township of Innisfail approximately 90 kilometres from Cairns. Local industry in Innisfail and surrounds is characterised by sugar cane, banana and tropical fruit farming and tourist attractions such as the Art deco architecture, Paronella Park, Snapping Tours and the Mamu Skywalk, not to mention the two beautiful rivers a short walk from the College, the North and South Johnstone Rivers. Innisfail is part of the Cassowary Coast and boasts significant populations of the beautiful Cassowary birds as well as crocodiles hence the Snapping tour! Good Counsel College is a Reef Guardian school. Good Counsel College is one of only two 7-12 schools in the town. It draws from schools as far north as Babinda and as far south as Tully.

Challenges characterised 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Many events were cancelled or postponed and the uncertainty about the spread of the virus impacted term 1 attendance rates. The need to use technology during the lockdown catapulted students and teachers into a new world and accelerated teacher understanding of shared platforms, flipped classrooms, Screen Castify and others. This has led to a faster than expected uptake of Canvas as our online learning platform in 2021. Highlights of the year include the annual trip for the Captains and Vice Captains to attend the Marist Leaders' Summit in Brisbane, Opening Mass, Year 7 camp, Ash Wednesday in particular the annual occasion of Year 11s accompanying the Prep-2s from GCP for their Liturgy and the Swimming Carnival. Post- Covid restrictions, the Feast Day and Grade of Origin Rugby League match, all camps going ahead, an adjusted Awards celebration and Graduation were all excellent and enjoyed by all. Engagement with parents and the wider community was heavily impacted by health restrictions although the College still managed to raise money for Caritas, Vincent de Paul, the Cancer Council and resources for Share the Dignity as well as an overwhelming number of Christmas hampers for St Vincent de Paul.

Good Counsel College was formed in 1975 after the merge of the Sacred Heart School for girls conducted by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan since 1903 and, the Mother of Good Counsel School for boys conducted by the Marist Brothers since 1938. The College officially became a Systemic school with Cairns Educational Services in 2015 and re-joined Marist Schools Australia in the same year. Good Counsel College continued to develop its Catholic Identity in the Marist Way and to link with the rich Marist tradition established by St Marcellin Champagnat. It maintains a strong connection to Mother of Good Counsel Parish Church, integral also to its Catholic identity. We have begun to explore ways to include the Benedictine charism to honour the contribution of the Good Samaritan Sisters to the rich history of the College.

The College Mission Statement espouses the basic values of the College.

Faithful to the Mission of the Church, Good Counsel College educates students to develop attitudes, skills and knowledge to live as free and moral people in a complex world. Within our community we encourage, by word and example, sensitivity to diversity, the growth of spirituality, a sense of self-worth and respect for others, and the striving to give of one's best.

Characteristics of Student Body

Good Counsel College finished the year with 351 students. The Catholic feeder schools that send students to Good Counsel are St Clare's Tully, St John's Silkwood, St Rita's South Johnstone, Good Counsel Primary School, Innisfail and St Rita's Babinda. Although these schools provided the majority of the student population there was also a slight increase in enrolments from State schools in the local area including Goondi and Mourylian. In 2020 the percentage of Catholic students enrolled dropped to 46%. Students that identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander increased to 11.1%. Cultural diversity is relatively low at Good Counsel with the majority of students and their parents born in Australia. However, there were small numbers of students with Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese or Thai background. Mostly English is the language spoken at home. Italian heritage is still a common cultural background for many students.

Attendance levels in 2020 were again noticeably poor. 62.4% of students attended 90% or more days in Term 4 This was identified as an area of concern last year but efforts to improve attendance were affected by Covid. With many teachers continuing to provide all resources on online platforms some students deliberately chose to work from home particularly in year 12. Of particular concern, was the attendance rate for year 9 and 12 students and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.



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The retention rate increased in 2020 but continuity declined with some families leaving the area and some choosing Distance Education rather than attending school face to face. A focus on community and parent engagement has been identified as a key to improving enrolments and will continue in 2021 as well as targeting new families to the Innisfail area and increasing the school's profile in the community. Another priority by using the engagement with Lyn Sharratt's 14 parameters in 2021 will be to improve teacher pedagogy to improve student engagement.

School Annual Improvement

Priority 1: Improved Writing Outcomes for all Students

Smart Goals:

1. By the end of 2020, 100% of students have made a writing gain as measured against the Writing Gain Tool.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

As for all secondary schools in the State of QLD, 2020 saw the first graduates of the new QCE system and the gaining for eligible students of an ATAR.

A certificate II in Active Volunteering was embedded into the Years 11 and 12 Catholic Faith in Action subject and despite Covid many Year 12 students were able to complete the certificate with the number of volunteer hours.

Vocational Education courses were again a popular option for students with 44/54 students gaining a VET Qualification. Engineering, Manufacturing and Hospitality courses were popular choices for students.

Online opportunities in 2020 included Education Perfect, Typing Tournament and STILE in Science. Maths Pathways was introduced to Year 8s as a way of differentiating courses and catering to all needs.

Placing all Year 10s for Work Experience last year was difficult, but they still complete their work readiness course and several Year 11s achieved permanent apprenticeships for 2021.

The 1:1 laptop program in the College meant that the Covid lockdown did not stop a seamless transition from school working to online working.

Further details about the College Curriculum can be found on the College website under 'Curriculum'.

Camps and retreats for years 7, 9, 11 and 12 occurred in 2020 providing opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills and take opportunity for spiritual formation.



Extra Curricular Activities

Good Counsel College offered a wide range of extra-curricular activities including:

- Students are provided with every opportunity for students to compete in a range of sports at district, regional and state levels however opportunity was limited due to Covid
- Feast Day celebrations also promoted the Marist charism of the College
- GCC participated in Relay for Life in large numbers despite it being held at school and the whole school participated in Clean up Australia by cleaning up Innisfail as they walked to the swimming pool for their swimming carnival.
- The Snowies trip was cancelled due to Covid.

Photos and reports on a range of College extra-curricular activities can be found on the Good Counsel College Facebook page.

Social Climate

The vertical House system did much to promote family spirit in 2020. It built relationships throughout the student body as students were united and given more opportunity to mix with different age groups within their houses. This also gave greater importance and depth to the leadership development of House Captains. SEL was taught across Years 7-12. The Middle Leader Well-being was reappointed as a Middle Leader Transition and SEL coordinator in 2020 and was responsible for the SEL program. The 7-12 allocation gave opportunities to schedule age appropriate activities including the anti- Ice Campaign as well as the usual driving and safety programs. This Middle Leader also had specific responsibility for Year 7 and year 6-7 transition issues and programs designed to improve a sense of belonging in 2019.

Anti-bullying and anti cyber bullying were addressed in the SEL program. An email address was provided to students gcc.safe@cns.catholic.edu.au in 2020 for students to confidentially report any issues of not feeling safe in the College and new Student Protection Posters were placed in all rooms. Parents report to Middle Leaders who act swiftly to reports of bullying and processes of restorative justice are used to rebuild relationships. There is a link to the Bullying Policy on the College website. In 2020 GCC began the process of becoming an e-smart school so that all of our programs and policies are aligned to insure all students are taught to be cyber safe.

The SRC met as regularly this year as they could. This provided a great level of communication between the students so that student voice could be heard. They made the most of opportunities throughout the year and were helpful in launching 'iso-challenges' during the lock down to keep spirits up.

Home room teachers increased their communication with parents this year both prior to, during and post lockdown. This was in alignment with the goal to improve parent engagement.

A full time wellbeing counsellor was available for students. The Middle Leader Learning Support and a team of School Officers worked with students who experienced learning difficulties and have a need for more intensive support for their learning.

The new Indigenous Learning Space was created for meeting with Elders and First Nations students however Elders were not permitted to attend the school in 2020 due to Covid.

Mental health was identified as a major issue at the College and was validated by the Student Wellbeing survey in 2020. The Counsellor and Wellbeing Leaders provided many resources for students to access and at-risk students were closely monitored. The Horses Helping Humans program was accessed in 2020, a program that assists young people to build self-confidence, emotional control, calm assertiveness and trust for others.

CES education officer also supported disengaged students and worked with the Vocations officer to support students and find appropriate career pathways.

The Diverse Learners team was on hiatus during 2020 but will emerge strongly with a focus on Case Management and KPIs.



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Parent Engagement

Communication was key in 2020 in particular prior to during and after the Covid lockdown. Prior to this, Teachers were encouraged to email parents at the start of the year to introduce themselves.

As the term went on regular and timely communication to parents occurred including Zoom meetings so that parents could understand firsthand the technology that would be used with their students during lockdown.

Many of the usual methods of engagement continued throughout the year.

The College has a Parents and Friends Association and information can be found on the College web page. Parents are encouraged to attend P&F meetings and invitations and the dates and times of P&F meetings are published regularly in the College Newsletter each two weeks. Parents also comprise some members of the Good Counsel Parish Combined Schools Board. Parents are also encouraged and welcome to attend College events including assemblies, liturgies, and sports carnivals. Special opportunities for parent involvement include:

- Parent, Teacher and Student Interviews for oral reporting twice per year
- Parent Information Nights for students moving from: Primary School to Year 7 and Year 10 into Year 11
- Parent Information evenings at the commencement of each year
- Parent Subject Information nights and Subject Expo evenings;
- College Masses
- Year 7 Orientation
- Parent Paperwork is now sent online for all excursions camps etc
- The Parent Portal provides information about what is happening in the College
- The College Facebook page is updated regularly
- The College website was updated and modernized in 2020

Parent Satisfaction

The Annual Satisfaction Survey for Parents was based on the school's response to remote learning during Term 2 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions. Feedback was sought regarding:

- Engagement in remote learning
- The supporting role in their child's education
- Communication
- Wellbeing
- Timely and relevant information
- Skill development through remote learning

The school used this feedback to enhance student learning throughout Term 2.



Staff Reporting Data

Qualification Highest level of attainment	Doctoral / Post- doctoral	Masters	Bachelor degree	Diploma	Certificate
Number of staff with this qualification	1	2	38	33	4

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	38	37.50
Non-Teaching Staff	32	25.16
Indigenous	4	3.01

Professional development	
Funds expended	\$27,136.00
Staff Involved	100%

Major Professional Development Initiatives

In Week 0 staff engaged for a full day with Catherine Black who presented the Learning and Teaching Cycle for Writing using the Patricia Hipwell templates and graphic organisers. This was in alignment with our writing goal for 2020. Other PDs in this are continued with CES support.

A major ongoing middle leadership development program was devised and delivered throughout 2020 at GCC to support those interested in developing their leadership skills and to build leadership capacity to apply for roles for the new middle leadership positions for 2021. The entire middle leadership structure was dismantled by the end of 2020 after a consultative process and rebuilt to support the current needs of the College.

- Major PD was also provided on the Canvas LMS post initial lockdown.
- Two teachers participated in the Aspiring Leaders program at CES.
- CES also provided pd throughout the year on Teams and Canvas.
- GCC leadership will work with other schools and Lyn Sharratt in 2021 to develop our pedagogy framework.

Attendance & Retention	
Average staff attendance rate for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods up to 5 days	95%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year	81%

Staff Satisfaction

The Annual Satisfaction Survey for Staff did not occur in its usual format in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions. Feedback was sought during Term 2 from Parents and used to enhance remote learning.



Student Reporting Data

Average student attendance rates:

YR 7	YR 8	YR 9	YR 10	YR 11	YR 12
91.67	91.52	92.85	90.62	92.49	83.21

How non-attendance is managed by the school

Attendance rates at GCC are below the CES average in all year levels and was identified as an area of concern in 2018. There was an improvement in 2019 but in 2020 it dropped again to below 2018 levels. In term 4 only 64.2% of students attended for 90% of the time or better. High absenteeism was particularly noted for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students for Year 12s and Year 7s. Throughout the year Teachers and Leadership worked to promote attendance to parents and students. One theory put forward was that Year 12s may have chosen to work at home after they found it successful during lock down to work without classroom distractions, but this is anecdotal and does not explain why it wasn't the case across the diocese.

Another factor is the isolation of Innisfail where medical facilities are few or travel to sporting events is far away. Students often need to take a whole day off if they need to see a Dr or specialist in Cairns or attend a district sporting event or trial which is an explained absence but still an absence from learning which needs to be considered.

Good Counsel College attendance at school is monitored in a number of ways and by a number of people.

Rolls are marked in Homeroom. Unexplained absences result in school officers sending a text message home to parents. Processes for following up on regular non-attendance was an area that lost momentum in 2020. Prizes were given out to students who attended 100% of the year and this number grew from 1 in 2019 to 9 in 2020. This was impressive considering the year that was.

Monitoring procedures for students signing in and out are also in place as well for attending off-site appointments during the day. Visits to First Aid were logged and texts sent home to parents and patterns were addressed.

At a pastoral level, House Leaders as well as the Student Wellbeing Leader monitor attendance for a variety of reasons to ensure the wellbeing of students is maintained. Where required the College will intervene where there is extended absence to ascertain a reason and offer support to both to the student and family to have the student return to school and where necessary involve outside agencies

The enrolment process includes a conversation with parents regarding the need to take holidays only in holiday time and the need to seek approval from the principal to take holidays outside of this time.

A focus on student engagement by improving pedagogy will be a focus in 2021.

Year 10 to 12 Apparent Retention Rate: 95.0%

Student Satisfaction

The Annual Satisfaction Survey for Students did not occur in its usual format in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions. Student input was sought through the remote learning feedback process.



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NAPLAN

Reading, Writing & Numeracy Results - Year 7, 2020

On 20 March 2020, Education Council agreed that NAPLAN would not proceed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reading, Writing & Numeracy Results - Year 9, 2020

On 20 March 2020, Education Council agreed that NAPLAN would not proceed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Funding Reporting Data

Income 2020

Australian Government recurrent funding	\$5,538,076
State/Territory Government recurrent funding	\$1,463,143
Fees, charges and parent contributions	\$1,138,157
Other private sources	\$194,031
Total gross income (excluding income from government capital grants)	\$8,333,407

Deductions 2020

Income allocated to current capital projects	\$136,244
Income allocated to future capital projects and diocesan capital funds	\$0
Income allocated to debt servicing (including principal repayments and interest on loans)	\$334,167
Subtotal	\$470,411
Total net recurrent income	\$7,862,996