



# Catholic Education

## Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

## Mother of Good Counsel School, North Cairns

<b>Motto</b>	Honour and Truth
<b>Address</b>	394 Sheridan St, NORTH CAIRNS QLD 4870
<b>Postal Address</b>	PO Box 22N, NORTH CAIRNS QLD 4870
<b>Phone Number</b>	(07) 4053 6133
<b>Fax Number</b>	(07) 4053 6433
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary.nthcairns@cns.catholic.edu.au">secretary.nthcairns@cns.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.mogc.qld.edu.au">http://www.mogc.qld.edu.au</a>
<b>Total Enrolments</b>	362
<b>Year Levels Offered</b>	P-6
<b>Student Population</b>	Co-Educational
<b>Principal</b>	Ms Ruth Mallon
<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Saju Joseph Thekkanath CFIC PP
<b>Parish Number</b>	(07) 4053 1179





# Catholic Education

## Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

### About our School

Mother of Good Counsel School is a parish-based, co-educational school situated in the North of Cairns. Mother of Good Counsel School provides a quality learning environment for children, in particular endeavouring to retain the 'small school' atmosphere, where every student is known and valued. We provide up-to-date learning resources and facilities, and are proudly staffed by experienced and professional teachers whose pedagogical frameworks are grounded in current research. The school was founded in 1936 by the Sisters of Mercy and has since grown to accommodate a population of around 370 children. The Mercy tradition of actively displaying Christ's 'loving kindness' is evidenced in the school's awareness and support of community and international concerns.

Mother Of Good Counsel School's commitment to educational excellence is reflected in its strong focus on student well-being, and success in achieving good outcomes for its students. This is due to the high calibre of programs, dedicated staff and encouraged strong parental support.

### Characteristics of Student Body

Mother of Good Counsel School has stable enrolment numbers, filling our two-stream school. We are comprised of students from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds, who enjoy learning from one another and learning together.

The attending students come largely from suburbs within the school's geographical context, close to the Cairns city area, while also having students attending from far reaching suburbs, to allow close proximity to parents' workplaces.

Our community solidarity and sense of students feeling valued may be reasons for our 94.5% retention rate, while our focus on achieving the highest attendance rates possible assists both student wellbeing and improvements with learning.

### School Annual Improvement

#### Priority 1:

Smart Goal: Catholic Identity

Over the course of 2019-20, staff will engage in a Formation program that invites them to consider what it means to be part of 'Our Story'. This program has been informed by data (ECSI, Catholic Survey, School context).

#### Priority 2:

Smart Goal: Writing

By the end of 2020, we will achieve Benchmark Targets above National Minimum Standard +1, and growth greater than the Australian Effect Size, for Yr 3 (95%) & Yr 5 (93%) students.

#### Priority 3:

Smart Goal: Data Literacy / Digital Literacy

By the end of 2020, all staff will be competent in analysis and interpretation of data, to inform teaching and learning for each individual student.

By the end of 2020, all staff will be competent in the use of digital tools to assist with student learning and parent communications:

- Seesaw P-6
- Google Classrooms 3 - 6
- Zoom
- Voice recording and video
- Various year level appropriate Apps for learning



# Catholic Education

## Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

### Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

#### Preparing for our future:

Mother of Good Counsel School has adopted strategies and access to online learning resources, to engage and lead students in the classroom. Students use iPads and Chromebooks, as learning tools in all year levels, to enhance quality education and diverse needs. A one-to-one iPad program begins in Year 2 and is proving successful in engaging students' learning and providing for the diverse learning needs of students. We are providing our future citizens with capabilities to enhance their learning as independent and discerning participants in our community.

#### Social and Emotional Learning:

Explicitly taught through the Friendology and Second Step programs, Social and Emotional Learning enhances essential life skills for individual and social development. This whole school approach, includes Parent and Staff Educational Programs and a variety of opportunities through a tiered support approach which includes support programs for parents, run by our qualified staff.

#### Camps & Excursions:

Our Year 4 & 6 students participate in a 3 day camp, where they embed their teamwork and co-operation skills, while facing individual challenges. Year 5 students experience a number of excursions throughout the year, that support their classroom learning and their social and personal development.

#### Specialist Opportunities:

- The Arts - Prep to Year 4 engage weekly with The Arts teacher, with opportunities to grow in confident performance skills.
- Japanese - Years 5 & 6 participate in weekly Japanese lessons, while also learning about the culture of Japan.
- Phys Ed - Prep to Year 6 improve their skills and fitness through specialist Phys Ed lessons, which culminate in a variety of school based (Cross Country, Athletics, Swimming carnivals) and some interschool competitions.
- Hip Hop Dance - All students enjoy a Hip Hop Dance program that is conducted through an external provider. The Hip Hop presentation event is always a highlight!
- Instrumental music - Lessons are available at school, through external providers: guitar, violin, voice
- Sacramental Program - Organised through the parish, all students are invited to participate in this program, which is supported through the Religious Education program.

### Extra Curricular Activities

Offered for students across year levels, are:

- Before & After School Sporting Opportunities - Tennis, Basketball, Soccer, Ruby League, AFL - available through our external partnerships with various clubs and organisations
- Interhouse and district sporting carnivals
- Public Speaking competitions
- Involvement in local spelling, reading and writing competitions
- Coding Club
- Hip Hop Dance
- Drama Club
- Student Leadership Program
- Camps and Excursions
- Buddies Program
- Instrumental Music
- Choir



# Catholic Education

## Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

### Social Climate

Mother of Good Counsel School has a warm, friendly environment. Mother of Good Counsel strives to foster successful learning based on both the Gospel Values and the tradition of the Mercy Sisters, standing firm in its capacity for effective, life-giving relationships with collaboration involving all those within its school community.

We endeavour to nurture the development of the whole child - academically, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Through our Positive Behaviour and Relationships Plan, we aim to foster healthy relationships between students and teachers through the promotion of restorative practices and social and emotional well-being. Self-discipline is encouraged, as is respect for the rights of others. Parent involvement is considered a key element in creating a positive approach to behaviour management.

Active participation in church events, responding to local community needs (such as assisting the Rosies outreach) and participating in CARITAS and Catholic Missions projects ensures that the school upholds the Christian values that are an integral part of Mother of Good Counsel's culture. Our strong focus on student well-being has continued to grow. A tiered approach to intervention has been established, designed to assist children in their journey towards achieving success beyond primary school:

- Tier 1 Support: Second Step Program, Friendology Program, Making Jesus Real Program, Circle Solutions & Christian Meditation (Classroom Teacher)
- Tier 2 Support: Social Skills Groups, Circle Solutions & Mentoring (Classroom Teacher + Specialised Wellbeing Teacher Support)
- Tier 3 Support: Student Counsellor access

### Parent Engagement

Our MoGC Connect group welcomes all in our community.

Our school believes in the strength of working together. Many information sessions are held, and we call for parent feedback throughout the year:

- Information evenings
- Parent Surveys
- Parent / Teacher nights
- Parent / Teacher interviews
- School Newsletters and Facebook Page
- Social Functions
- Parents involved with reading and classroom activities
- Weekly Assemblies
- Class Masses and Liturgies of the Word
- Curriculum Updates
- Programs for parents re Cyber Safety; Bringing Up Great Kids

Mother of Good Counsel School has a number of community partnerships in place. The school has participated in local charities and speaking competitions, as well as supporting local sporting associations through participation in events. Our outreach has grown to include visits to entertain and engage with elderly people in our community.



# Catholic Education

## Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

### **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	0	3	23	8	3

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	29	22.73
Non-Teaching Staff	13	9.20
Indigenous	1	0.70

Professional development	
Funds expended	\$14,963.00
Staff Involved	100%

### Major Professional Development Initiatives

It is crucial that teachers are confident, competent and knowledgeable in the teaching tools they implement. A considerable amount of the school budget is dedicated to teaching and classroom resources that support effective pedagogy, which is promoted within the school.

Our staff have been involved in:

- Curriculum based professional development
- Opportunities for collegial and research-based discussions and decision making
- Mentoring and coaching around effective pedagogies
- Opportunities to improve data analysis for improved student achievements
- Workplace health and safety training
- Ongoing experiences with using new technologies to enhance learning, especially given the opportunities we embraced during the forced Covid 'Learning from home' period

The school often initiates its own professional development based on specific goals and needs e.g., Literacy, Circle Solutions, Social & Emotional Learning, Assessment, Data Analysis, Student and Staff Wellbeing etc. The professional development of staff focuses on improving wellbeing and outcomes for children.

Mother of Good Counsel has directed much of its staff professional development to keeping teachers and school officers abreast of research based best classroom practices regarding pedagogy and student engagement.



# Catholic Education

Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

## 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	97%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year	89%

## 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:

Prep	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5	YR 6
96.15	94.74	96.54	95.39	95.5	95.38	95.82

### How non-attendance is managed by the school

The school requests that parents phone or send information via the Parent Portal, prior to, or on the morning when students are absent. This information is then relayed to teachers.

If students are absent with no notification from parents, the child is marked as an unexplained absence and an SMS is sent to the primary carer, alerting them that the child is an unexplained absence at school for that day.

As part of our data analysis, we are looking more closely at attendance data and alerting parents if non-attendance is affecting student performance.

### 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.





# **Catholic Education**

## Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

## **NAPLAN**

### **Reading, Writing & Numeracy Results - Year 3, 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 5, 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	\$3,684,476
State/Territory Government recurrent funding	\$757,830
Fees, charges and parent contributions	\$916,716
Other private sources	\$161,131
<b>Total gross income (excluding income from government capital grants)</b>	<b>\$5,520,153</b>

### Deductions 2020

Income allocated to current capital projects	\$171,840
Income allocated to future capital projects and diocesan capital funds	\$52,281
Income allocated to debt servicing (including principal repayments and interest on loans)	\$151,903
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$376,024</b>
<b>Total net recurrent income</b>	<b>\$5,144,129</b>