



**Catholic
Education**
Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

St Anthony's School, Dimbulah

Motto	To seek, to strive, to find, for love of God.
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Phone Number	07 4094 6900
Email Address	principal.dimbulah@cns.catholic.edu.au
Website	www.sta.qld.edu.au
MySchool Profile	https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47836
Total Enrolments	42
Year Levels Offered	P-6
Student Population	Co-Educational
Principal	Ms Kath Porter
Parish Priest	Fr Martin Kenny
Parish Number	(07) 4098 2001



About our School

St Anthony's Primary School is an integral part of Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns and the Parish of St Anthony's, located in Dimbulah. Our school is situated about 1.5 hours west of Cairns on the Atherton Tablelands.

The School was originally built in 1965 by parishioners but had the dual purpose as a school during the week and a church on Sunday. In 1966 the School was staffed by the Sisters of St Joseph until the mid 80's when lay teachers were introduced. The School is situated on traditional land of the Barbarum people.

Our school has a welcoming feel with a group of dedicated and motivated parents who assist with the provision of the best educational environment possible for their children to ensure maximum outcomes for student learning. Close relationships exist between the School and the wider community offering outreach opportunities for our students to be active participants in the mission of the Church.

St Anthony's currently offers an educational range from Prep to Year 6. By putting the wellbeing and learning of all students at the centre of our teaching, we focus on individualised learning for all students. The school is committed to the goals of inclusion and diversity within a supportive school environment.

St Anthony's School class structures are multi-age in nature with grouping of students dependent on the curriculum needs of the learner. We provide an Innovative Learning Environment catering for individuals based on each student's own progress and goals. P/1/2, 3/4, 5/6 or P-6 configurations are common and groupings vary according to student progress. The school provides a wide variety of learning experiences for students through following the Australian Curriculum in all Learning Areas and encouraging students to take ownership of their learning by tracking and engaging with their own data.

The School is considered a small rural school with 42 students currently enrolled. Neighbouring schools include Dimbulah State School (Prep-Year 10) and Mutchilba State School (Prep - 6). The closest Catholic Primary School is St Thomas of Villanova (P-6) in Mareeba.

Families are mostly from farming or cattle station backgrounds and some students travel to school from further outlying areas such as Mutchilba and Almaden, utilising the available bus services.

Catholic Life and Mission:

Spiritual Development

The Religious Education element of our whole school curriculum is embedded in the everyday life, relationships and culture at St Anthony's. We recognise the presence of God in our school community in each of our students, staff, parents and in the extended members of our wider school family. The sacredness of our people, their lives and our school life together is affirmed and celebrated. Celebration of liturgies and the Sacraments are an integral part of the formal, public prayer and worship at St. Anthony's. Our staff nurtures conscious and active participation in the prayer life of the school. We aim to develop a variety of approaches to ritualising everyday life in our school using words, actions and symbols in light of the Gospel. Our Religious Education curriculum aims to develop the religious literacy of all of our students to provide a foundation for them to critically inform their participation in the life of their faith communities and in wider society.

We actively participate in community events, including the Dimbulah Lions Festival, Anzac Day and the Great Wheelbarrow Race. Our school community actively plans and implements structures and practices reflective of Catholic social teaching for justice, peace and ecological sustainability.

The School community reflects the diversity of society with families of differing cultural, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. The School caters for diverse learning needs within an atmosphere of mutual respect and where individual differences are valued. St Anthony's is an integral part of the Parish community. The spiritual growth and welfare of each student, along with sound educational practices is a shared responsibility of the parish priest, principal, staff and parents under the supervision of the Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns.

Characteristics of Student Body

Male	Female	Unspecified	ESL	% Catholic	% First Nations	% NCCD	ICSEA
26	16		12	20.9%	7.1%	16.7%	1015

Enrolment Trend:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
43	37	40	44	47	42

School Annual Improvement

Priority 1: Encounter Catholic Identity

Smart Goals:

- Develop and implement a Formation Plan.
- Develop RE Shapes and implement into RE Curriculum.
- Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan.

By the end of 2022, the School will develop a common understanding of the "School Purpose" that reflects the charism of the School to the wider school community through images and symbolism.

By the end of 2022, the School will develop and implement a Formation Plan for staff.

By the end of 2022, the School will have provided opportunities and time for staff formation through Twilight and voluntary professional development.

Priority 2: A Culture that Promotes Learning

Smart Goal:

- Reach predetermined set benchmarks in reading, writing and spelling through regular examination of student data and work samples.

By the end of 2022, 85% of students in P,1,2,3 will achieve CES Reading Benchmarks by the end of Term 4.

By the end of 2022, the School has embedded allocated staff meetings each term to work collaboratively to review data and samples of running records, unaided writing and spelling progress.

By the end of 2022, the School has embedded ongoing early intervention programs and differentiation for students at risk.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Anthony's offers curriculum flexibility in its multi-age setting. Not all students function at an age-appropriate level, so data is collected, individual students are tracked and teaching is differentiated for each student or small group. Class structures are typically P/1/2, 3/4 and 5/6 with very small classes,

typically less than 20 students. The Prep class is separate from the 1/2 class for English and Mathematics 4 days a week for 3 hours each day. Class structure flexibility allows students to move within the School and to be grouped according to their needs.

Extra Curricular Activities

Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities when they are available. Students were selected for District and Peninsular sports in 2022. Availability of staff and declining numbers continues to restrict availability of activities. Many students travel to nearby Mareeba or Atherton each afternoon to access available facilities. Dimbulah offers football (soccer), swimming, Tae Kwon Do and horse sports seasonally.

Social Climate

St Anthony’s School is committed to ensuring that links are maintained with various agencies, organisations and groups within the wider community. Integral to the mission of St Anthony’s School is our commitment to supporting parents as the first and primary educators of their children. We assume the belief that schooling is a partnership operation. Being a small school creates a family atmosphere at St Anthony's. The other benefit of a small school is the capacity for everyone to become involved in the social and family orientated events held each year.

Pastorally our families are close and support each other in times of need. The School has a positive behaviour management system in place in each classroom. Any bullying incidents are reported through the staff and then followed up by the Principal with individual meetings with students and parents should the need arise. A school counsellor is available to students and will contact parents regularly to monitor student progress.

Parent Engagement

St Anthony’s School is fortunate to have a significant level of parent involvement within the school community. Parents contribute to and support the school in various ways:

- Participation in school celebrations
- Sporting Events and Carnivals
- Regular Parents and Friends Meetings
- Parent Information Evenings
- Transition Days
- Working Bees and social events
- Excursions
- Catholic Education Week Mass
- Sacramental Program
- Fundraising events such as the Mutchilba Dinner, Lions Festival,
- Participation in Parent Coffee Chats - discussions around how to assist your child/ren in their learning

Parent Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with parents of St Anthony's School (Dimbulah) commencing 13 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 22 out of a total of 45 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 48.9%. St Anthony's School (Dimbulah) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 87% (4.37 out of 5).

- Best practice areas include: Learning + Teaching, Resources, Catholic Identity + Religious Education, Leadership, General, Safeguarding Children, Bullying + Behaviour Management, Improvement Processes, First Nations.

Staff Reporting

Qualification Highest level of attainment	Doctoral / Post-doctoral	Masters	Bachelor degree	Diploma	Certificate
Number of staff with this qualification			5	1	1

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	7	6.2
Non-Teaching Staff	5	3.50001
Indigenous	0	0

Professional Development	
Funds expended	\$771.45
Staff Involved	100%

Major Professional Development Initiatives

In 2022 school funds were expended on teacher release. School personnel undertook a range of professional learning activities related to improving student outcomes.

These included:

- APRE Conference
- NCCD Moderation Meetings and Training
- SAIP Team Meetings and Planning
- Student Protection Training
- Workplace Health and Safety Training
- Library Assistant PD Day
- NAPLAN online Training
- Administration Officer PD
- EAL/D training
- NCCD training
- Data analysis training

Attendance and Retention	
Average staff attendance rate for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to 5 days	96.33%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous year	100.00%

Staff Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with staff of St Anthony's School (Dimbulah) commencing 13 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 9 out of a total of 10 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 90%. St Anthony's School (Dimbulah) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 94% (4.7 out of 5).

- Best practice areas include: Bullying + Behaviour Management, Safeguarding Children, Resources, Staff Engagement, Leadership, Improvement Processes, General, Catholic Identity + Religious Education, First Nations.

Student Reporting Data

Average student attendance rates

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
85.48%	82.83%	79.27%	85.75%	84.49%	86.19%	81.70%	83.62%

How non-attendance is managed by the School

The School has a higher percentage of non-attendance than some other Cairns schools. As a small school we manage the situation individually. Each extended absence is managed by the Principal in consultation with the individual family. Non-attendance is recorded each day with a phone call to parents for an explanation and offer of assistance if the situation is for an extended period.

Beginning of the school year can be disrupted with flooding each year as many families travel through creeks and rivers to attend school. Flooding has a major impact on attendance in Term 1.

Some families are involved in the running of stock (cattle/horses) and require their children to assist with mustering for an extended time during the dry season. A lack of available transport to a bus service when the family are mustering in a remote area makes their attendance difficult. The School manages these individual absences with confidentiality and sensitivity.

All family holidays outside of school holidays are discouraged and communicated in sensitive conversations with families.

Student Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with students of St Anthony's School (Dimbulah) commencing 13 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 14 out of a total of 15 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 93.3%. St Anthony's School (Dimbulah) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 82% (4.12 out of 5).

- Best practice areas include: Safeguarding Children, General, Learning + Teaching, Leadership, Improvement Processes, Resources.
- Fair to good areas include: First Nations, Catholic Identity + Religious Education.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN results are available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47836>

Funding Reporting Data

School funding breakdown is available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47836>