



Catholic Education

Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

St Gerard Majella School, Woree

Motto	The Lord is my Light
Address	63 Anderson Rd, WOREE QLD 4868
Postal Address	PO Box 12131 CAIRNS DC QLD 4870
Phone Number	(07) 4280 7300
Email Address	secretary.woree@cns.catholic.edu.au
Web Site	http://www.sgm Cairns.qld.edu.au
Total Enrolments	405
Year Levels Offered	P-6
Student Population	Co-Educational
Principal	Ms Lea Martin
Parish Priest	Fr Martin Kenny PP
Parish Number	(07) 4054 1171





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About our School

St Gerard Majella School provides a quality education for families located in the southern parts of Cairns and is an integral part of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Earville. The school is located adjacent to St Mary's Catholic College in Woree.

At St Gerard Majella School we hope to perpetuate the spirit of the Franciscan Nuns who founded the school with a focus on our Franciscan Charism which emphasises the environment and a love of God's creation. The school is situated in a beautiful setting at the base of Red Hill and the flourishing gardens and outdoor learning and play spaces are a living testimony to Franciscan spirituality.

At its core, St Gerard Majella has the values of Faith, Justice, Inclusion, Compassion and Respect. The St Gerard Majella community is supportive and caring. Committed and dedicated staff work closely with parents and caregivers to provide students with an opportunity to promote their spiritual, academic, social and physical development. Our staff use evidence-based pedagogies and up-to-date resources to ensure wellbeing and learning outcomes are maximized for all students

Since St Gerard Majella School first began in 1988, the school has grown steadily to reach full enrolment of approximately 400 students. The school community includes a significant number of students with diverse cultural backgrounds including First Nation students.

Characteristics of Student Body

- Student Enrolment - 405 (200 Boys and 205 Girls)
- Class Structure - 2 streams
- Verified students - 23
- Indigenous - 17
- EAL/D - 52
- NCCD - 58
- Catholicity – 73.4%
- Attendance – 88.4%
- Retention – 99.5%
- ICSEA – 1064

Cultural diversity

• Indigenous - Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or both	• Chinese (Cantonese)
• Hmong	• Japanese
• Dutch	• German
• PNG	• Vietnamese
• Indian (Malayalam)	• Punjabi
• Korean	• Pilipino (Tagalog)
• Tongan	• New Zealand
• Spanish	• Thai
• Filipino	• Nepalese



School Annual Improvement

Priority 1: To identify, renew and enhance our Catholic Identity To strengthen the Franciscan ethos and charism of the school

Smart Goals: By the end of 2020 the SGM community will devise strategies that will nurture a Post Critical Belief to assist in developing a Recontextualised Catholic Dialogue School. This will be measured by:

1. Staff articulation of ECSI terminology and Franciscan Charism
2. Staff capacity to identify organic links between religion planning and the RLoS
3. Evidence of rigorous teaching and assessment of religious education

Priority 2: To improve student outcomes in literacy

Smart Goals: St Gerard Majella will improve instructional quality in literacy. As a result, the following targets will be achieved in 2020:

1. 90% of students will achieve 12 months growth in reading and spelling as measured by the PAT assessment by the end of the school year.
2. 85% of students will achieve at expected level or above in reading as measured by the BAS assessment instrument. Use Term targets to measure progress.
3. 95% at or above NMS+1 in NAPLAN Reading (Y3 & Y5)
4. 45% in the top 2 bands in NAPLAN Reading (Y3 & Y5)
5. 95% at or above NMS+1 in NAPLAN Writing (Y3 & Y5)
6. 45% in the top 2 bands in NAPLAN Writing (Y3 & Y5)
7. Growth in unaided writing samples, marked against NAPLAN marking criteria for all Year Levels - 85% of students achieving expected level or above in writing (NMS+1).
8. Year 3 and Year 5 cohorts will achieve above NAPLAN national, state and diocese averages in all Literacy test areas. (Spelling and G&P)

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Gerard Majella offers students a strong academic education in all key learning areas including Religious Education. Social and Emotional Learning is an important part of daily class lessons. Students in all year levels have weekly specialist lessons in Health and Physical Education, Japanese, The Arts and Technology (Digital and Design).

The school has a strong emphasis on implementing and embedding the ICT capabilities via significant student access to digital devices and technology in classrooms, such as iPads, Chromebooks, Spheros, Bee Bots and Lego Robotics which is supported with an ICT assistant and Tech support.

A number of our students participate in the Instrumental Music Program through St Mary's College and others have private piano tuition based at the school. Various clubs and extra-curricular activities are available to children to explore their abilities and interests at before school, lunch times or after school.

Camps & Excursions - Our Year 6 students participate in a three-day camp, where students have the opportunity to develop a wide range of social skills that strengthen established relationships and develop new ones. Students experience team building and develop leadership and decision-making skills. Other Year Levels participate in curriculum-related excursions and incursions throughout the year.



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Extra Curricular Activities

These include:

- Student Council
- Student Leadership Program
- Camps and Excursions
- Buddies Program
- Parish Sacramental Program
- Pre-Prep transition program for school readiness
- Environment and Social committees
- Sporting Opportunities
- Athletics and Cross Country teams
- Optiminds Teams
- Instrumental Music Program
- School Choir
- Public Speaking Competitions
- Involvement in local spelling and reading competitions
- Chess Club
- Gardening Club
- Social Justice Group
- Boot camp
- Running Club
- Drama Club
- Dance Club
- Coding Club
- Netball team
- Youth Group – Year 4-6
- Out-of-school-hours care
- Vacation Care

Social Climate

St Gerard Majella is a friendly, welcoming and supportive school community where parents and staff work together to provide a safe, progressive and enjoyable environment for students. Wellbeing is an important factor for all students at the school and social emotional learning permeates all aspects of the curriculum. Our Positive Relationships Framework, 'The SGM Way', aims to foster healthy relationships between students and teachers whilst empowering students with skills, strategies and attitudes needed to be both personally and socially responsible for their own behaviour and make appropriate behavioural choices.

As the school adjoins St Mary's College, it is ideally placed for those families looking for a Prep to 12 Campus for their children. The school has two Learning Support Teachers, a full-time School Counsellor, Student Welfare Officer, Intervention Teachers and School Officers who support learning in classrooms with diverse needs programs. A High Potential Learners' Teacher caters for those students who have strengths in the area of creative thinking, are achieving well academically and are looking to be challenged. St Gerard Majella also actively promotes action for social justice by supporting a number of Catholic Agencies through education, prayer and fundraising, whilst also having a very active 'Justice Squad'.



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Parent Engagement

Parent Engagement is a shared responsibility among families, schools and communities. We welcome parents and carers to take an active role in our school community throughout various volunteering opportunities, clubs, groups and information sessions offered throughout the year. Some of these opportunities include:

- School Board
- Parents and Friends Association
- Information Evenings (Curriculum and Wellbeing)
- Social Functions
- Fundraising Opportunities (School Fete and Colour Run)
- Fortnightly Assemblies
- School Masses and Liturgies
- Parent helpers in classrooms
- Parent helpers in tuckshop and uniform shop
- Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews to discuss student progress
- Grandparents Club
- Cairns Festival Parade float
- Parent Surveys
- School Newsletters and Facebook page

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	2	35	6	1

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	35	26.30
Non-Teaching Staff	22	14.17
Indigenous	1	0.39

Professional development	
Funds expended	\$26,622.00
Staff Involved	100%

Major Professional Development Initiatives

The teachers have been involved in professional learning in the following areas:

- Professional Learning Teams with a focus on improved reading and writing outcomes
- Data analysis
- Essential Skills for Classroom Management
- Morning Routines – Jo-anne Dooner – consultant
- Synthetic Phonics – Jo-anne Dooner – consultant
- Schema and Cognitive Science – Jo-anne Dooner – consultant
- Mini-Lit and Multi-lit training
- First aid
- Student protection and mandatory training
- school improvement and school effectiveness
- religious education pedagogies (Godly Play and Bibliodrama)
- social emotional learning and wellbeing
- special needs
- collaborative teaching and coaching in literacy
- aspiring leaders program
- Leading from the Middle Program
- 360 feedback process
- WHS
- Franciscan Charism and Catholic Identity
- Innovative Learning Environments and Contemporary Pedagogies
- Universal Design for Learning



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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	88%

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
95.11	95.81	95.19	95.19	95.04	96.22	94.32

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. Teachers alert the school office to student non-attendance promptly every morning through their marking of the electronic school roll. The office staff then contact the parents unless the school has already been notified with a reason for the absence. This contact may be either through 'Blink' or a phone call. Student welfare is a priority for staff at St Gerard Majella School. Through data analysis, attendance is monitored regularly.

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 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	\$4,196,365
State/Territory Government recurrent funding	\$969,729
Fees, charges and parent contributions	\$964,673
Other private sources	\$182,978
Total gross income (excluding income from government capital grants)	\$6,313,745

Deductions 2020

Income allocated to current capital projects	\$203,822
Income allocated to future capital projects and diocesan capital funds	\$0
Income allocated to debt servicing (including principal repayments and interest on loans)	\$65,233
Subtotal	\$269,055
Total net recurrent income	\$6,044,690