



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
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Phone Number	(07) 4280 7300
Email Address	secretary.woree@cns.catholic.edu.au
Website	www.sgmcairns.qld.edu.au
MySchool Profile	https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47710
Total Enrolments	402
Year Levels Offered	P-6
Student Population	Co-Educational
Principal	Ms Kelly Sheppard
Parish Priest	Fr Nathan McKay
Parish Number	(07) 4054 1171



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, Earlville. 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

Male	Female	Unspecified	ESL	% Catholic	% First Nations	% NCCD	ICSEA
195.5	207		30	76%	4.7%	15.2%	1053

Enrolment Trend:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
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399.8	387.8	401.8	404.4	402	402
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School Annual Improvement

Priority 1: Encounter Catholic identity

Smart Goals: By the end of 2022, rigorous teaching and learning practices of Religious Education are evident in planning and delivery and staff and students will engage in and support the enhancement of our Catholic Identity at St Gerard Majella.

- Adopt the Townsville RE Planning Templates
- Ensure the use High Impact teaching strategies,
- Audit of teacher Religious Education planning (continue from 2021)
- Observations of Religious Education lessons
- Resourcing (curriculum)
- Deliver Religious Education pedagogical practices through PLTs and staff meetings (Early career teachers - model Christian Meditation and Godly Play)
- Review assessment practices in Religious Education
- Inform parents through newsletter articles outlining trends in RE curriculum and learning
- Continued Formation of Franciscan Charism (Slides on Charism and founding principals to be shared with staff and students)
- Active participation and immersion by staff, parents and students in the RLOS of the school.
- Staff formation opportunities - ACU Encounter Scripture Series 1 per term, Fr Richard Leonard, I&O Team professional learning)
- SGM Formation Plan updated
- Year 5 Leadership Day
- Encounter staff session

Priority 2: First Nations Perspectives

Smart Goals: By the end of 2022, Staff will have relationships with local Traditional Owners and their customs and have this reflected in their planning and teaching practices.

- Create Reconciliation Action Plan and Working Party
- Consult with ILO as a knowledgeable other in planning for units of work (embedding First Nation perspectives)
- Resourcing the curriculum with First Nations books and other materials to complement First Nations perspectives
- Learning Walks and Talks showing embedded First Nations Perspectives in curriculum planning is evident in delivery
- Inform parents through newsletter articles outlining local First Nations perspectives, traditions and cultures
- First Nations cultural activities embedded in other school activities e.g. Science Day, Sport Days, etc.

Priority 3: Engagement Wellbeing and Learning

- **Smart Goals:** By the end of 2022, staff will apply positive and proactive approaches to ensuring student engagement across all areas of the school environment.
- Upskill staff in Trauma
- Engage with MTSS: (Development of school-based MTSS team (2-3 meetings per term), Clearer understanding of Tiered behaviours and consequences and Clearer understanding of appropriate approaches
- Revise SGM Positive Relationships Framework
- Consistent implementation of The Resilience Project across the school - set time each week for classes to engage
- Continual upskilling of staff re using Engage to accurately record behaviours
- Staff PD re engaging students in the classroom
- ESCM refresher with staff (teachers and school officers)
- Staff observation and profiling in Essential Skills for Classroom Management
- Learning Walks and Talks

Priority 4: Capability

Smart Goals: By the end of 2022, staff will continue to 'grow' their expertise in the area of literacy and deliver this in the classroom across all learning areas.

- Lower years teachers are to have a particular focus on Synthetic Phonics
- Continue to use 24/7 modules to upskill teachers in the teaching of writing, grammar and punctuation
- Instructional Coach to support building capability of literacy.
- Learning Walk and Talks to ensure consistent practices across the school
- Instructional coach working with writing coach to build capacity.
- Writing coach to work with upper school developing improved writing outcomes (pockets of excellence within school)
- Data informed learning - review of data walls (2 x physical and 2 x digital - reading and writing focus)
- consistent use of Essential Assessment across school
- Assessment of reading review
- Mentoring
 - Support Graduate, Early career teachers and new SGM staff with mentoring plan
 - New staff paired with experienced teachers
 - Key staff released for mentoring training and experiences

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Gerard Majella offers students contemporary and engaging learning in all areas of the Australian Curriculum, including Religious Education. Learning practices are grounded in current research and evidence and in response to the needs of the child as a learner of the modern world.

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 1:1 iPad, 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.

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 (futsal, netball, tennis, hockey)
- After school sporting skills programs
- Athletics and Cross-Country teams
- Optiminds Teams
- Instrumental Music Program
- Eisteddfod - School Choir and Choric Speaking
- Involvement in local spelling and reading competitions
- Chess Club
- Gardening Club
- Social Justice Group
- Boot camp
- Running Club
- Drama Club
- Dance Club
- Coding Club
- 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 Leaders of Diversity, 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'.

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 (Mother's Day/Father's Day/Grandparents Day)
- NAIDOC and Harmony Day Celebrations
- 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
- Sports Days
- Under 8s Day
- Parent Surveys
- School Newsletters and Facebook page

St Gerard Majella School has a School Board and a Parents and Friends Association (P&F). We have a very supportive P&F who contribute to community building and fundraising for the School. The School Board plays an active role in assisting the Principal with strategic planning and policy development. The Parish Finance Council approves and monitors the school budget. The school is involved in parish life through the Parish Council as well as through Sacramental Programs, regular liturgies, masses and class visits by our Parish Priest.

Parent Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with parents of St Gerard Majella School (Woree) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 207 out of a total of 538 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 38.5%. St Gerard Majella School (Woree) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 83% (4.14 out of 5).

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

Staff Reporting

Qualification Highest level of attainment	Doctoral / Post-doctoral	Masters	Bachelor degree	Diploma	Certificate
Number of staff with this qualification		3	30	3	

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	30	24.04733
Non-Teaching Staff	24	17.03157
Indigenous	1	0.36842

Professional Development

Funds expended	\$70580.48
Staff Involved	100%

Major Professional Development Initiatives

St Gerard Majella prioritises ongoing professional learning for all members of teaching and non-teaching staff. The setting of individualised annual goals in alignment with the School Annual Improvement Plan (SAIP) is an important and mandated component of beginning of year procedures. Professional Learning Teams are coordinated by the Leader of Learning and Teaching. These teams meet weekly and engage in data driven professional development that informs student learning. Staff have also been involved in professional learning in the following areas:

- Professional Learning Teams meet weekly with a focus on improved reading and writing outcomes
- Data analysis – BI Tool
- 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 and CPR
- Student protection and mandatory training
- School improvement and school effectiveness
- Religious education pedagogies (Godly Play and Bibliodrama)
- Social emotional learning and wellbeing
- School Officer Professional Learning sessions
- Library Assistant Network Days
- Collaborative teaching and coaching in literacy
- Leading from the Middle Program
- 360 feedback process
- WHS Training
- Franciscan Charism and Catholic Identity
- Innovative Learning Environments and Contemporary Pedagogies
- Universal Design for Learning
- Beginning Teachers Network Days
- APRE Network Days
- Diversity Network Days
- Curriculum Cluster Days
- Principal Learning Days
- Digital Data Literacy
- NAPLAN Analysis
- Clarity - 14 Parameters
- MTSS-E - Behaviour Support Plan and Matrix
- V9 Mathematics

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	95.94%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous year	78.13%

Staff Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with staff of St Gerard Majella School (Woree) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 48 out of a total of 56 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 85.7%. St Gerard Majella School (Woree) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 85% (4.27 out of 5).

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

Student Reporting Data

Average student attendance rates

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
88.57%	89.20%	90.15%	89.28%	88.95%	88.06%	88.10%	88.89%

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. Late students are required to sign in at the office. Student welfare is a priority for staff at St Gerard Majella School. Through data analysis, attendance is monitored regularly. The detrimental effects of non-attendance or late arrivals are published in the school newsletter on a regular basis throughout the year.

Student Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with students of St Gerard Majella School (Woree) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 117 out of a total of 125 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 93.6%. St Gerard Majella School (Woree) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 80% (4 out of 5).

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

NAPLAN

NAPLAN results are available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47710>

Funding Reporting Data

School funding breakdown is available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47710>