



**Catholic
Education**
Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

St John's School, Silkwood

Motto	Always Reaching for New Heights
Address	Harold St, SILKWOOD QLD 4856
Postal Address	PO Box 252, SILKWOOD QLD 4856
Phone Number	(07) 4065 9530
Email Address	principal.silkwood@cns.catholic.edu.au
Website	www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au
MySchool Profile	https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47840
Total Enrolments	69
Year Levels Offered	P-6
Student Population	Co-Educational
Principal	Ms Peta Bryan
Parish Priest	Fr Kerry Crowley
Parish Number	(07) 4065 2128



About our School

The small rural school of St John's at Silkwood prides itself on being both Christ and child centred, providing excellent learning opportunities for the students it serves. The School is located in the heart of the Southern Deanery on the Cassowary Coast and is geographically placed in between the larger towns of Mission Beach, Tully and Innisfail. The School draws many of its students not only from Silkwood, but also the surrounding communities of Kurrimine Beach, Mission Beach and El Arish.

St John's proud history commenced in 1948 when the School was opened by the Missionary Franciscan Sisters. The School comprised of children from the Silkwood area who were mainly of Italian descent and whose parents worked in the sugar cane industry. The Sisters served the local community for forty years, leaving in 1987. Today the dedicated lay staff continue the proud tradition of quality Catholic Education to many of the children and grandchildren of those first students.

The current St John's community is respectful of the past and excited about the future, as it plays its part in inspiring St John's students to live the school motto of "Always Reaching for New Heights."

Characteristics of Student Body

Male	Female	Unspecified	ESL	% Catholic	% First Nations	% NCCD	ICSEA
33	36		5	42.3%	13%	17.4%	949

Enrolment Trend:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
65	65	68	66	67	69

School Annual Improvement

Priority Area 1: Catholic Identity

Smart Goal: By the end of 2022, St John's School Community will have intentionally engaged in focused strategies to strengthen support for the dialogue school and prioritise recontextualisation over values education.

Priority Area 2: Data

Smart Goal: By the end of 2022, student outcomes will be improved in areas identified by the analysis of school data that will then be used to inform targeted teaching practices.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St John's is proud to offer several distinctive curriculum features to existing and prospective parents and indeed the wider Silkwood community.

St John's is proud to be able to deliver a 'one stop learning' for students from Prep through to Year Six. The Catholic Early Learning & Care Community Kindergarten - Silkwood is a registered kindergarten operated by the Diocese of Cairns. The program aims to enhance a child's physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, creative and social development.

The curriculum taught at St John's School encompasses all the Australian Curriculum Learning Areas. Programs are created with the understanding that children develop and learn differently and with an awareness of different learning styles.

St John's Nature Play space is always a hive of activity at play times and where learning, imagination and social skills are nurtured through key design elements with the philosophy of Nature Play at the forefront.

St John's offers a number of specialist programs. Social and Emotional Learning is developed through the Second Steps program to help foster better social and emotional intelligence. The Social and Emotional Learning Program complements the Whole School Positive Behaviour Support Plan to address relationships amongst students, including bullying. A music tuition program caters for the students who would like to learn a musical instrument. The music program is provided by a qualified music teacher, who teaches piano, organ and keyboard. Health and Physical Education is provided by a specialist teacher. The School is also very well resourced in Information and Communications Technology (ICT). The School has a one-to-one technology device policy which means students have their own device - 2in1 Dell laptop, Chromebook, and iPads. The devices enhance our teaching and learning process and engage students in the curriculum. St John's offers a digital learning program which is called our eLearning program. St John's offers a high-quality intervention programs and caters for high potential learners through this program.

St John's is committed to a variety of assessment and reporting procedures that demonstrate student achievement and success at their respective level of development. Student Portfolios and parent / teacher conferences are completed in both first and second semester which provide a formal opportunity for students, parents and the classroom teacher to celebrate aspects of each students' learning journey and set goals for the following semester or year. St John's also produces a school-based student report card at the completion of both semester one and two which provides parents with a detailed account of a student's overall achievement across all aspects of school life.

Extra Curricular Activities

Excursions and camps are part of the curriculum at St John's. School camp for the Year 5/6 students has provided an opportunity for students to examine content descriptors of the Australian Curriculum in an adventurous and unique way.

The St John's Justice Squad is made up of school leaders in the senior class. Regular meetings include an agenda, minute taking and decision-making processes.

All students from P-6 participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Students are asked to read 15-20 books over a period of three months and receive a certificate from the Premier. St John's also enters a team of readers into the Readers' Cup challenge event each year.

School Sports

School Cross Country for all students P-6

School Inter-house Athletics carnival for all students P-6

School Swimming Carnival for all students P-6

Swimming Program - Water confidence classes for P-6 students. The objective of this program is to raise students' water awareness and safety.

St John's has an active and passionate association with the Cassowary Coast Region - Southern Zone District Sports Association which provides inter-school and representative sporting opportunities for our students. St John's has a Rugby League team which trains each week. This team plays in the Southern Zone Carnival and State of Origin games against their sister Catholic Schools. St John's also has a thriving Chess Club where all year levels can join. Chess club meets every Thursday in our state of the art library. The students are coached in chess by staff and parent/grandparent volunteers. The focus is to

develop a sense of belonging, comradeship, and skill development in these extra curricular activities.

The library and classrooms provide a state-of-the-art learning facility to promote contemporary and digital education. Our extensive sporting fields enhance and complement our sporting culture.

At St John's, the unique gifts and talents of all students are valued. Within and beyond the school, every effort is made to find new and innovative ways to celebrate these.

Social Climate

St John's School is a true reflection of the friendly and community minded Parish and town in which it is located. People who are new to the school (children, families and staff) are always welcomed openly. The work ethic and tireless commitment of the families of St John's maintains an optimistic and committed view towards the future for their children.

Parent Engagement

The School prides itself on an incredibly hard working and effective Parents and Friends Association. The Parents and Friends are involved in coordinating the school tuckshop, uniform shop, social events, working bees as well as being the major source of raising revenue for the School.

St John's School recognises and respects that parents are the first educators and as such, are important stake holders in optimising the educational outcomes of their children. The ongoing partnership between the School and parents occurs formally four times a year (Assessment and Reporting) and informally daily, weekly and each term. Parent information evenings, year and term overviews, assemblies, newsletters, excursions, sports coaching, sacramental programmes are all ways staff and parents work together for the benefit of students.

St John's provides information sessions to parents, so they can engage in their child's learning journey and work in partnership with the School.

The small school enrolment (51 families) creates a family atmosphere at St John's. Another benefit of a small school is the capacity for everyone to become involved in the social and family orientated events held each year.

Parent Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with parents of St John's School (Silkwood) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 33 out of a total of 57 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 57.9%. St John's School (Silkwood) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 89% (4.43 out of 5).

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

Staff Reporting

Qualification Highest level of attainment	Doctoral / Post-doctoral	Masters	Bachelor degree	Diploma	Certificate
Number of staff with this qualification		3	8	3	2

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	10	7.8
Non-Teaching Staff	9	5.0858
Indigenous	1	0.29368

Professional Development

Funds expended	\$4549
Staff Involved	100%

Major Professional Development Initiatives

Major professional development occurred in Writing, Maths and Religious Education as aligned with our school annual improvement plan. Also, professional learning in reading and maths was delivered. Religious Education professional development focussed on the Australian Curriculum and content descriptors of Religious education and what theological background and concepts students are taught in each year level. Technology and eLearning professional development is continually delivered to staff which ensures students are fully engaged in their learning utilising their personally issued device.

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	97.52%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous year	72.73%

Staff Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with staff of St John's School (Silkwood) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 17 out of a total of 21 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 81%. St John's School (Silkwood) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 86% (4.29 out of 5).

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

Student Reporting Data

Average student attendance rates

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
85.31%	85.01%	83.54%	85.82%	85.78%	88.35%	84.57%	85.48%

How non-attendance is managed by the School

When students are absent from school parents are to notify the school by 10:00am via Parent Portal or ringing the school office. If a student is absent and it is unexplained, the parents receive a text message at 10:00am as a reminder to report their child's absence.

Student Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with students of St John's School (Silkwood) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 28 out of a total of 29 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 96.6%. St John's School (Silkwood) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 84% (4.19 out of 5).

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

NAPLAN

NAPLAN results are available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47840>

Funding Reporting Data

School funding breakdown is available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47840>