



Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

St Joseph's School, Atherton

Motto	Love, Faith, Knowledge
Address	Cnr Jack and Alice Streets, ATHERTON QLD 4883
Postal Address	PO Box 829, ATHERTON QLD 4883
Phone Number	(07) 4095 9000
Email Address	principal.atherton@cns.catholic.edu.au
Website	www.stjoeys.qld.edu.au
MySchool Profile	https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47841
Total Enrolments	262
Year Levels Offered	P-6
Student Population	Co-Educational
Principal	Ms Rita Petersen
Parish Priest	Fr Mathew Kochuveettil
Parish Number	(07) 4091 1125



About our School

St Joseph's School is an integral part of the Diocese of Cairns and the Atherton Catholic Parish. Located approximately one and a quarter hour's drive from Cairns, Atherton sits within the heart of the naturally beautiful and agriculturally rich Atherton Tablelands. Atherton has a rich history revolving around timber, farming and mining and a strong association with Chinese and European settlers with a Chinese Temple still existing in Atherton. The local Yidinji people are strongly connected to significant landforms surrounding Atherton, and the School celebrates and acknowledges the traditional owners. Students are drawn to St Joseph's from a number of smaller towns surrounding Atherton, such as Herberton, Yungaburra, Tolga, Malanda and Walkamin.

The School was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1923 and following the tradition of the Mercy Sisters, recognises the importance of education as a crucial way for children to reach their potential. The first lay teacher began in 1966 and the first lay principal was appointed in 1986. Today the School is staffed by a strong group of dedicated teachers and school officers who continue the mission of Catholic Education begun so many years ago by the Sisters of Mercy.

The School is an integral part of the Parish of St Joseph's, Atherton, and a close relationship exists between the parish and the School.

Despite changes over the years in response to the changing needs of families and society, St Joseph's School has remained committed to providing its students with a well-balanced and relevant education and curriculum. Interactive tools and devices are in use as tools within learning and teaching. An established Arts and Technology program incorporates the ideology of STEAM and utilises a variety of interactive devices.

St Joseph's is a welcoming community where parents are encouraged to become actively involved in various dimensions of school life. Students enjoy the benefits of a dedicated and committed group of parents who work together with the School staff in providing the best educational environment possible. There is a diversity of avenues for parent involvement. St Joseph's is blessed to have a skilled staff who commit themselves to being nurturers of the faith as part of their role as Catholic educators.

Characteristics of Student Body

Male	Female	Unspecified	ESL	% Catholic	% First Nations	% NCCD	ICSEA
122	140		1	56.2%	5.7%	17.2%	1041

Enrolment Trend:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
252	258	267	259	231	262

School Annual Improvement

Priority Area 1: Effective Teaching – Writing and Spelling

Goals: By the end of 2022, all students will show positive growth in writing through the analysis of data to inform the explicit teaching of the elements. School percentage at NMS + 1 will reach the system target of 85% in both writing and spelling.

Strategies and resources implemented:

- Embed Literacy Block inclusive of morning routines, Phonics P- 2, Spelling Mastery 3-6 throughout the School.
- St Joseph's Scope and Sequence in Spelling and Writing.
- Synthetic Phonics Scope and Sequence P-2.
- Implementation of Spelling Mastery in Year 3-6.
- Writing assessments pre and post assessments developed for consistent teacher judgement and collaborative planning.
- Build capacity in teachers around targeted planning of writing.

Priority Area 2: Enhancing Catholic Identity

Goals: By the end of 2022, all teachers will build capacity in the HCM (Hermeneutical–Communicative Model) in Religious Education.

Strategies and resources implemented

- Provided professional learning to build teacher understanding of the HCM.
- Ongoing follow-up sessions in staff meetings throughout the year provided by APRE.
- With CES support, 2 teachers commenced the Graduate Certificate in Religious Education through ACU (2021-2022).
- Identity & Outreach formation plan for all staff.
- Identity & Outreach team to assist teachers in PLTs with planning and assessing Religion.
- Encounters, professional learning and experiences: Fr. Richard Leonard.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

The School offers students a sound academic education in all key learning areas including Religious Education. Social and Emotional Learning is an important part of daily class lessons. St Joseph's School uses the Second Steps program as well as Zones of Regulation. St Joseph's has implemented a Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L). PB4L looks at behaviour and learning from a whole-of-school as well as an individual child perspective. The framework is based on international evidence. The Positive Behaviour for Learning framework is helping St Joseph's School build a culture where positive behaviour and learning is a way of life. The goal of the program is to change the environment, systems and practices in place to support students to make positive behaviour choices.

A specialist teacher teaches STEAM classes across the School with a particular focus on Technology and the Arts in Prep to Year 3 and the Arts in Years 4 to 6. Italian Language is offered in Years 5 and 6.

Lunch time master classes are offered in Robotics, Coding, Gardening, Young Astronaut Club, Choir and Sustainability. A number of students participated in private piano tuition based at the School.

Extra Curricular Activities

These include:

- Mini Vinnies
- Choir
- Representative Sport
- Readers Cup
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Piano Tuition (external provider)
- ANZAC Day
- Arts Council Performances
- Missions
- Art Club

- Technology Club
- Sustainability Club
- Young Astronauts Club
- Playground Guardians
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden
- Harmony Day
- Daniel Morcombe Day

Social Climate

St Joseph's School is a friendly 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. In 2022, the School had 2 full time Diversity Teachers, a School Counsellor 3 days a week, and several School Officers who supported integration, classroom and diverse needs programs. Our school also enjoyed the support of visiting therapists including an Occupational Therapist, Speech Pathologist, Psychologist and various advisory visiting teachers who supported students with specifically identified individual educational needs.

Parent Engagement

St Joseph's School has an active Parents and Friends Association (P&F). Their priority is building positive home/school relationships and supporting positive engagement in education. Their major fundraiser for the year is the St Joseph's Debutante Ball which is well supported by the community. The school is involved in parish life through the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee as well as through Sacramental Programs, and regular liturgies (whole school and class). Other community involvement includes Class Information Sessions, Assemblies, Parental involvement in classrooms, Excursions, Athletics Carnivals, Fathers Paper Planes & Pizza Night, Mothers & Children - Melbourne Cup Night, Parent/Teacher meetings and Prep Transition sessions.

Parent Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with parents of St Joseph's School (Atherton) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 114 out of a total of 277 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 41.2%. St Joseph's School (Atherton) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 83% (4.13 out of 5).

- Best Practice areas include Leadership, Resources, General, Improvement Processes, Learning + Teaching, Catholic Identity + Religious Education.
- Fair to good areas include: First Nations, 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	21	6	3

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	21	19.2
Non-Teaching Staff	17	10.2771
Indigenous	2	1.53079

Professional Development	
Funds expended	\$28580.24
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 spelling and writing outcomes

- Mandatory Training
 - Code of Conduct
 - Student Protection
 - Workplace Bullying
 - Sexual Harassment
 - Discrimination and EEO
 - Disability Standards
 - First Aid including CPR
- JoAnne Dooner – Literacy Consultant
- Training 24/7 Modules
- Positive Partnerships (Autism Training)
- NCCD Quality Assurance Training
- High Potential Learners
- Essential Assessment
- Google Classrooms refresher
- Student Protection – Professional Standards
- Science of Reading
- Hochmann Method
- Religious Education – Peta Goldberg
- Manual Tasks

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	95.72%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous year	89.47%

Staff Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with staff of St Joseph’s School (Atherton) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 27 out of a total of 36 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 75%. St Joseph’s School (Atherton) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 87% (4.33 out of 5).

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

Student Reporting Data

Average student attendance rates

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
86.75%	87.24%	89.84%	85.71%	87.00%	86.57%	87.39%	87.09%

How non-attendance is managed by the School

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 via SMS or a phone call. Persistent student absence concerns are followed up by the Principal by either a phone call or face-to-face meeting with parents. Students with chronic attendance issues are supported by the Diverse Learners Team, to assist families in developing better school attendance routines. Student welfare is a priority for staff at St Joseph's School.

Student Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with students of St Joseph’s School (Atherton) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 74 out of a total of 77 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 96.1%. St Joseph’s School (Atherton) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 84% (4.18 out of 5).

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

NAPLAN

NAPLAN results are available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47841>

Funding Reporting Data

School funding breakdown is available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47841>