



**Catholic
Education**
Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

St Rita's School, Babinda

Motto	Under God's Protection
Address	7-13 Church St, BABINDA QLD 4861
Postal Address	PO Box 363, BABINDA QLD 4861
Phone Number	(07) 4065 9580
Email Address	secretary.babinda@cns.catholic.edu.au
Website	www.stritasbabinda.qld.edu.au
MySchool Profile	https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47844
Total Enrolments	38
Year Levels Offered	P-6
Student Population	Co-Educational
Principal	Mr Michael Rowe
Parish Priest	Fr Kerry Crowley
Parish Number	(07) 4067 1292



About our School

St Rita's School provides a quality education for families located in the Babinda district of the Diocese of Cairns. Students travel from as far south as South Johnstone and Innisfail to attend St Rita's. The School is an integral part of the St Rita's Parish of Babinda and the Combined Schools Parish Board of the Innisfail district. Other schools on this Board include St John's Silkwood, St Rita's South Johnstone, Good Counsel Primary School and Good Counsel College.

As St Rita's School is a Mercy School, founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1926, we hope to perpetuate the spirit of the Mercy sisters who founded the School with a focus on our Mercy Charism. The staff has developed a Google site, which is used by both staff and students, to strengthen understanding of this charism. The six Mercy values of Compassion, Respect, Hospitality, Courage, Justice and Service are used to facilitate the newly developed 'Mercy Spirit' student award which acknowledge individual students who demonstrate these values.

St Rita's School is proud to be viewed by the local community as being 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. The children's emotional health is acknowledged as being paramount to their personal wellbeing and growth.

By the end of 2022, student enrolment numbers peaked at 41 students. This enrolment includes a significant number of students with diverse cultural backgrounds, including First Nations students, and a group of diverse learners who are fully integrated into regular classroom programs. We have been able to maintain a three-class structure with a Prep/1/2 class, 3/4 class and a 5/6 class.

This substantial increase in enrolments has been affected by new families moving into the district and the School having a good reputation in the community as providing a quality education for primary-aged children. A marked decrease in Tuition Fees of \$100 per term per student has also had a very positive impact on this increased enrolment in the past three years.

Characteristics of Student Body

Male	Female	Unspecified	ESL	% Catholic	% First Nations	% NCCD	ICSEA
17	21		0	41.5%	39.5%	26.3%	872

Enrolment Trend:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
33	22	28	30	38.8	38

School Annual Improvement

Smart Goal 1: By the end of 2022, teachers will have increased capacity to effectively engage students in the Religious Education curriculum through unit shapes that are personally relevant and relationally responsive.

Improvement Priority

- Encounter
- Religious Education
- Learning and Teaching Documentation
- First Nations

Smart Goal 2: By the end of 2022, teachers will collaboratively and independently utilise student learning and demographic data to inform their teaching practice and improve student literacy and numeracy outcomes.

Improvement Priority

- First Nations
- Learning and Teaching documentation
- Learning Pathways
- Significant Learning Needs
- Extension

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Rita's School offers curriculum flexibility in a multi-age setting for all Learning Areas and strands of the Australian Curriculum, including Religious Education. 'Program Achieve' is also an important part of everyday learning and growth for all students. Students in all year levels receive specialist lessons in Health and Physical Education, Science and The Arts. Students at St Rita's have 1:1 access to devices, with HP X360's Chromebook in Years 5/6, Dell Chromebooks 2 in 1 in Years 3/4 and iPads in Prep/Year 1/2.

Students are confident and capable users of their devices and engage readily in online learning tasks through the Google Suite, with teachers incorporating lessons on Google Classrooms. They are experienced users of IT with teachers being committed to improving compositional skills through the use of , Scratch, Canva, Google Slides, Google Sites, Google Classroom, Essential Assessment, Sora, Kahoot, Minecraft Education, Typing Tournament and Britannica Schools. All programs are used to support literacy and numeracy development.

Our students have the option to participate in a private Instrumental Music Program managed and taught by a qualified local music teacher, Mrs Jennifer Marks. The school also allows any students to use the keyboards and guitars sourced and purchased for their lessons through a community grant.

Many of our students enjoy playing sports, such as AFL and tennis, after school. We used 2022 Sporting School Funding to provide students with expert coaching in Dance, Athletics, Swimming, Netball, Softball, cricket and AFL throughout the year. These extra-curricular activities are available for children to extend their abilities and interests during and after school.

Extra Curricular Activities

These include:

- Australian Sporting Schools programs: Dance, AFL, cricket, athletics and swimming
- Athletics and Cross-Country interschool, district and regional competitions
- Instrumental Music Program
- Under 8s Day

Social Climate

St Rita's School is acknowledged by the local Babinda community as being a family-oriented, inclusive, and supportive school community where parents and staff work together to provide a safe and challenging learning environment for all students.

Personal wellbeing is an important consideration for all students at the School and social emotional learning permeates all aspects of the curriculum. The School has a dedicated Learning Support Teacher, a School Counsellor, an Assistant Principal of Curriculum and experienced School Officers who support integration of students with special needs, high potential learners, and positive behaviour programs.

Parent Engagement

St Rita’s School has a growing Parents & Friends Association, which meets throughout the year at monthly meetings, coordinates special community events (such as the school discos), manages the School tuck-shop, and raises additional funds for the purpose of benefitting the students. With other schools and a college in the Innisfail district, St Rita’s School is a member of the Combined Parishes School Board. This board plays an active role sharing educational practices and information and developing policies and procedures in a collaborative and collegial way for the benefit of all the school communities involved.

The School actively engages with St Rita’s Parish through participation in Parish Meetings and Parish Finance Committee as well as through Sacramental Programs, regular liturgies, and masses with our Parish Priest. Other community involvement includes Curriculum Information Sessions, Assemblies, parent workshops, excursions, term discos, NAIDOC Day and twice-yearly parent/teacher meetings.

Parent Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with parents of St Rita's School (Babinda) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 7 out of a total of 23 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 30.4%. St Rita's School (Babinda) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 85% (4.26 out of 5).

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

Staff Reporting

Qualification Highest level of attainment	Doctoral / Post-doctoral	Masters	Bachelor degree	Diploma	Certificate
Number of staff with this qualification			4	2	1

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	6	5.8
Non-Teaching Staff	6	3.23709
Indigenous	1	0.15789

Professional Development	
Funds expended	\$13064.87
Staff Involved	100%

Major Professional Development Initiatives

Throughout 2022, the teachers have been involved in professional learning sessions and in a collaborative PLT (Professional Learning Team) in the following areas:

- Traces of learning - Gemma Goodyear
- Encounter Scripture with Professor Peta Goldberg rsm
- Development and implementation of curriculum cycle for teaching and learning of Religious Education
- Literacy Coaching with a focus on data analysis
- Workplace, Health & Safety Compliance training
- Student Protection training
- Disability Standards Education training
- APRE focus days
- Diverse Learners’ Team Meetings and Case Management
- Learning and Teaching Network meetings
- Early Years Teachers Program/ Mentoring/ Coordinators

- Data analysis to improve student learning through weekly meetings
- Lyn Sharratt "Clarity - What matters most in learning, teaching and leading"
- MTSS-E (Multi tiered systems of support in engagement)
- Nationally Consistent Collection of Data

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	98.29%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous year	83.33%

Staff Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with staff of St Rita's School (Babinda) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 8 out of a total of 8 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 100%. St Rita's School (Babinda) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 78% (3.92 out of 5).

- Best practice areas include: First Nations, Safeguarding Children, Resources, Staff Engagement.
- Fair to good areas include: Leadership, 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
84.26%	81.68%	81.96%	86.99%	86.69%	83.68%	77.49%	83.58%

How non-attendance is managed by the School

Parents are to contact the School on the morning of non-attendance by phone, text message or email. If contact has not been made, a message is sent to parents advising them of their child's absence and asking them to contact the School.

If the child is absent for a period without notice or a pattern of non-attendance is recorded the parents are contacted to discuss any issues of concerns regarding the students.

Student Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with students of St Rita's School (Babinda) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 12 out of a total of 14 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 85.7%. St Rita's School (Babinda) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 85% (4.24 out of 5).

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

NAPLAN

NAPLAN results are available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47844>

Funding Reporting Data

School funding breakdown is available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47844>