



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) 4067 1467
Fax Number	NIL
Email Address	secretary.babinda@cns.catholic.edu.au
Web Site	http://www.stritasbabinda.qld.edu.au
Total Enrolments	30
Year Levels Offered	P-6
Student Population	Co-Educational
Principal	Mrs Judy Billiau
Parish Priest	Fr Kerry Crowley PP
Parish Number	(07) 4063 0650





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About our School

St Rita's School provides a quality education for families located in the Babinda district of the Cairns Catholic Education Services Diocese. Students travel from as far south as Mirriwinni 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 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.

Since 2012, with the closure of the local sugar mill, the school like many others in the Babinda district, has had fluctuating enrolments. Having between 30 and 38 children in the 2013 – 2017 period saw St Rita's maintaining a three-class structure. In the past two years, student numbers have further declined to 25 – 29 enrolments. This enrolment includes a significant number of students with diverse cultural backgrounds, including indigenous students, and a group of verified students who are fully integrated into regular classroom programs.

By the end of 2020, student enrolment numbers have peaked at 32 students. This substantial increase 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 two years.

Characteristics of Student Body

- Student Enrolment: 32
- Class Structure: Prep/Year 1, Year 2/3/4 and Year 5/6
- Verified students: 3
- Indigenous: 56.3%
- EAL/D: 1
- NCCD: 25% (8)
- Catholicity: 31.2%
- Attendance: 57.6% (Note: Marked decrease in attendance due to Covid-19 Pandemic)
- ICSEA: 970

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

- Indigenous - Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or both
- India
- Filipino



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School Annual Improvement

Priority 1: Enhancement of Catholic Identity

Smart goals: By the end of 2020, St Rita's will create a biennial whole school Religion plan which makes explicit what (and when) teachers should teach and students should learn.

Priority 2: Writing

Smart goals: By the end of 2020, 80% of students will attain 'demonstrating' or 'working beyond' in at least two of the school-focus Writing Elements, as per the Writing Results Data in B.I. Tool

- Text Structure
- Vocabulary
- Sentence Structure

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Rita's School offers students a sound academic education in all Learning Areas and strands of the Australian Curriculum, including Religious Education. Social and Emotional Learning, using 'Second Steps' 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 and L.O.T.E. (Japanese).

Students at St Rita's have 1:1 access to devices, with Dell 2-in1 laptops in Years 5/6, Chromebooks in Years 2/3/4 and iPads in Prep/Year 1. We have been in this privileged position for the past four years.

eSafety is a priority, and we begin each school year teaching explicit lessons in safe online behaviour, with regular refreshers throughout the year.

Students are confident and capable users of their devices, and engage readily in online learning tasks through the Google Suite. They are experienced users of IT with teachers being committed to improving compositional skills through the user of SCRIBO, Typing Tournament, Lucid Press and Lucid Chart. Both Reading Eggs and Sora have been used to support literacy development.

Students have also used Improve interactive learning tool to assist with preparation with NAPLAN. As such the transition to NAPLAN Online last year was effortless for the students.

Lego Robotics programs such as Mindstorms and WeDo 2.0 have been used in conjunction with the devices for a number of years in the Years 2-6 classrooms. This year, the introduction of Coding Express and BeeBots in the Prep/Year 1 classroom further supplemented student engagement in programming.

A number of our students participate in a private Instrumental Music Program managed and taught by a qualified local music teacher. The school allows the students to use the keyboards and guitars sourced and purchased for these lessons through a community grant.

Many of our students enjoy playing sports, such as AFL and tennis, after school. We also have Homework Club every Monday afternoon, Lego & Robotics Club, and a 'Community Carers' social justice group. These extra-curricular activities are available for children to extend their abilities and interests during lunch times and after school.



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Extra Curricular Activities

These include:

- 'Community Carers' social justice student group (impacted by Covid-19 in 2020)
- Australian Sporting Schools programs: tennis, AFL, netball and swimming
- Athletics and Cross Country interschool, district and regional competitions (impacted by Covid-19 in 2020)
- Instrumental Music Program
- 'Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden' cooking and gardening program
- Robotics & Lego Club
- Wonders of Living Personal Development Program
- Homework Club
- Bravehearts Child Safety Program
- Under 8s Day (impacted by Covid-19 in 2020)

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, 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 small yet very active Parents & Friends Association, which meets throughout the year at monthly meetings, coordinates special community events (such as the school discos), manages the school tuckshop, 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, parental involvement in classrooms, excursions and camps, term discos and twice-yearly parent/teacher meetings. Regular monthly meetings were unable to be held this year due to the pandemic.

Parent Satisfaction

The Annual 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	0	5	3	0

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	5	4.10
Non-Teaching Staff	7	3.30
Indigenous	0	0

Professional development	
Funds expended	\$1,285.00
Staff Involved	100%

Major Professional Development Initiatives

Throughout 2020, the teachers have been involved in professional learning sessions and in a collaborative PLT (Professional Learning Team) in the following areas:

- QCAA Australian Curriculum General Capabilities
- QCAA The Art of Writing
- Staff formation with Fr Richard Leonard SJ 'Being a Catholic in a Modern World' and ACU Short Course "The Gospel of the Jobkeeper"
- Development and implementation of 2-year curriculum cycle for teaching and learning of Religious Education
- QCAA Webinars: "Online reading: extending higher-order reading strategies for Years 3–6" and "Developing Number Sense P-3"
- Literacy Coaching with a focus on teaching writing.
- Workplace, Health & Safety Compliance training
- Student Protection training
- Disability Standards Education training
- APRE focus days
- Diverse Learners' Team Conferences
- Learning and Teaching Network meetings
- Developing teacher capacity for online learning through the Alpha Project
- Data analysis to improve student learning
- Nationally Consistent Collection of Data

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	99%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year	100%



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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
83.78	87.88	77.23	89.88	86.56	94.62	92.25

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 will be 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 of time without notification or a pattern of non-attendance is recorded the parents are contacted to discuss any issues of concerns regarding the students.

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	\$881,941
State/Territory Government recurrent funding	\$78,286
Fees, charges and parent contributions	\$10,266
Other private sources	\$12,803
Total gross income (excluding income from government capital grants)	\$983,296

Deductions 2020	
Income allocated to current capital projects	\$0
Income allocated to future capital projects and diocesan capital funds	\$0
Income allocated to debt servicing (including principal repayments and interest on loans)	\$141
Subtotal	\$141
Total net recurrent income	\$983,155