



**Catholic  
Education**  
Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

## St Rita's School, South Johnstone

<b>Motto</b>	Forward to a Better World
<b>Address</b>	8 Green Street, SOUTH JOHNSTONE QLD 4859
<b>Postal Address</b>	PO Box 8, SOUTH JOHNSTONE QLD 4859
<b>Phone Number</b>	(07) 4065 9500
<b>Email Address</b>	principal.johnstone@cns.catholic.edu.au
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stritascps.qld.edu.au">www.stritascps.qld.edu.au</a>
<b>MySchool Profile</b>	<a href="https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47845">https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47845</a>
<b>Total Enrolments</b>	74
<b>Year Levels Offered</b>	P-6
<b>Student Population</b>	Co-Educational
<b>Principal</b>	Mr Greg Hoare
<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Kerry Crowley
<b>Parish Number</b>	(07) 4061 6633



### About our School

South Johnstone is a small rural township situated 100 km south of Cairns and 9 km south-east of Innisfail. St Rita's caters for students from Innisfail, Kurrimine Beach, East Palmerston, Mena Creek, Mundoo, Moresby, Mourilyan and South Johnstone. We are a small school providing a Catholic education in a rural setting.

Agricultural industries and support services are predominant in the local area. It is these industries that are the primary source of employment for the families with children attending school at St Rita's.

The School opened in 1932, operating from the building adjacent to the school in Green St, which presently hosts a long-running playgroup. The Sisters of Good Samaritan staffed the School up until 1977 when the first lay principal was appointed. From this time, to the present, solely lay people have staffed the School. The face of the School has changed over time, with the addition of new classrooms, a purpose built Prep facility and state-of-the-art undercover multi-purpose hall. Recent additions include the building of a staff room, meeting room and toilet facilities.

St Rita's is proud to be a community school, with a reputation for having a strong family focus. St Rita's is blessed with a committed Parents and Friends Association. The hardworking P&F provides much needed financial support through various fundraising ventures. The P&F also assist with organizing social activities that aim to bring families together. New families have commented on how welcoming the parent body is and how the support that is offered helps them to make a smooth transition into school life.

A team of devoted teachers staff St Rita's. They all share a passion for education and a commitment to the Catholic ethos. The staff works together within a professional learning community, sharing their knowledge and supporting early career teachers. A team of experienced school officers supports the teachers. Our school officers are vital to the day to day running of our school, working in classrooms, administration, the library and with those students requiring extra support as well as extension. The staff are aware that they are educating students for a rapidly changing world. Therefore, the teachers and school officers are constantly searching for new learning opportunities to help them meet the diverse needs of their students.

## Characteristics of Student Body

Male	Female	Unspecified	ESL	% Catholic	% First Nations	% NCCD	ICSEA
43	31		1	39.2%	21.6%	18.9%	948

Enrolment Trend:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
117	124	102	84	69	74

## School Annual Improvement

### Priority Area 1: Data - Literacy

**Goal:** By the end of 2022, every student in Years 1-6 will make growth in their writing evidenced from the Writing Gain Tool. Throughout 2022, all teaching staff will access and analyse available data to inform planning of effective and differentiated learning in Writing to improve outcomes and provide opportunities for optimal growth for all students.

### Strategies and resources implemented

- Professional Learning Teams for teacher capacity building.
- Use of high impact teaching strategies, such as data wall.
- To develop teacher capacity in the Writing Gain tool through regular moderation.
- Update progress of Writing Gain through the BI Tool.
- Use Morning Routines sessions to ensure agreed practices are followed and content is related to Sequence & Scope.

### Areas of growth

Priority 1 has been a consistent focus in 2022 with student writing data showing a growth in the school's targeted elements of sentence structure and cohesion. Professional Learning Teams will continue to analyse Writing Gain scores, goal setting and the revision of the Writing Sequence & Scope. Reviewing of teacher unit planning using the current templates for English will continue. Goals in planning will demonstrate explicit instruction of teaching concepts.

### Priority 2: Data - Maths

**Goal:** By the end of 2022 all teaching staff will access and analyse available data to inform planning of effective and differentiated learning in Mathematical strands to improve outcomes for optimal growth for all students.

### Strategies and resources implemented

- School to continue to work with Learning and Teaching consultant using the coaching model for Professional Learning Teams, demonstration lessons, professional development sessions.
- Professional Learning Teams will continue to be used as a forum for the analysis and discussion of data - PAT testing, SRS, NAPLAN, class-based summative and formative assessments.
- Continue to use Essential Assessment for Numeracy to help inform teaching staff on explicit content to be taught and differentiated learning opportunities for students.
- QCAA and Essential Assessment Mathematics webinars for PD.

### Areas of growth

Strategies for Priority 2 have been completed. Improved performance results through data gathered from Essential Assessment with every student achieving at least 12 month growth has been achieved. Continuing of Professional Learning Teams to be used for data analysis of Mathematics results in SRS, PAT, NAPLAN and class-based assessments will see further gains. The review of teacher unit planning using the current templates for mathematics will continue.

## Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

At St Rita's, literacy and numeracy will always remain the keystones of curriculum. Reading and writing have not been replaced by the new technologies. However, there are new literacies connected to information technology and communication, which we have now included in our whole-school curriculum plans and teach explicitly. Information is everywhere and is instantly accessible. Therefore, research skills have become vital. Teaching students to find, analyse and use information responsibly is vitally important. Technology has also allowed our students to access their learning in new ways. In keeping with our school motto, "Forward to a Better World", we want to ensure that our students leave, fully equipped to tackle the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Religious Education is a highly valued Key learning Area at St Rita's. Whole school and class liturgical celebrations are a significant element of the religious education program at the School.

At St Rita's we are committed to effectively delivering the Australian Curriculum to our students. This means ensuring that our teachers receive quality professional development and that our resources are current. This allows our teachers to ensure that each student is being taught the knowledge and skills that they need in a way that suits their specific learning style.

## Extra Curricular Activities

At St Rita's we offer a diverse range of extra-curricular activities to allow students to pursue their special interests. These include:

- Teams for sporting events such as football, athletics, soccer, league tag and netball
- Sport coaching sessions - Netball, Cricket Australia, NRL development, Tennis
- Arts Council Performances
- Jim Graham Cup
- School Sports Programs such as Auskick, Tennis, Rugby League
- Handball competition
- Under 8's day
- Bravehearts Child Safety Program
- Show displays
- Camps and excursions
- After school STEM Club

## Social Climate

At St Rita's we are determined to help each student achieve their full potential. We acknowledge that each child is truly unique and therefore learns in different ways and at different speeds. Every effort is made to cater to each student's individual needs.

Though we are small, our size is not a weakness, but one of our greatest strengths. Students learn to "pitch in" and help out around the school and to assist with younger students as a part of our "buddy" program. We enjoy seeing younger siblings in and around the grounds before they join their big brothers and sisters at school when they start Prep. We also love hearing about past pupil's adventures and successes long after they exit the front gates for the last time. In essence, St Rita's is a small school with a very big heart.

## Parent Engagement

Parents at St Rita's are recognized as the first educators of their children and as such are encouraged to participate wherever possible:

- Parent Teacher Interviews
- Parent, Teacher, student conferences
- Parent invitations to school assemblies and liturgies
- Parents and Friends Association
- Combined Schools' Board
- Playgroup
- St. Rita's Feast Day
- Mother's Day Morning Tea
- Grandparents Day
- Oral and Written Reports - interviews
- NAIDOC Activities
- Camps/Excursions
- Sports days
- Under 8's Day
- Christmas Concert

## Parent Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with parents of St Rita's School (South Johnstone) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 27 out of a total of 73 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 37%. St Rita's School (South

Johnstone) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 78% (3.9 out of 5).

- Best practice areas include: Learning + Teaching, Resources.
- Fair to good areas include: Leadership, Improvement Processes, First Nations, Safeguarding Children, Catholic Identity + Religious Education, 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	9	2	1

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	10	7.5
Non-Teaching Staff	10	4.8992
Indigenous	1	0.15789

Professional Development	
Funds expended	\$6519.01
Staff Involved	100%

## Major Professional Development Initiatives

Staff have been involved in professional development opportunities covering:

- OWHS - keeping up to date with policies and procedures to ensure the safety of themselves and others eg. fire equipment training, back care, evacuation procedures, risk assessments etc.
- Student Protection- keeping teachers abreast of legal and protection issues, to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.
- Disability Standards in Education Training
- Literacy Reading Focus
- Maths coaching
- APRE Focus Days
- RE Curriculum Days
- Administration/Finance Officer's PD
- Data Analysis
- Teaching Maths: Assessment (PD)
- Catholic Identity: The Context within which we work
- Maths: Planning Backwards by Design
- Project Alpha – Pedagogical Approaches – Blended Learning
- “Zones of Regulation” Program
- CTJ Day – focus on assessment in Maths, Writing and Religion
- PLT Training
- Diverse Learners Team Conferences
- Learning and Teaching Network meetings
- NCCD (Nationally Consistent Collection of Data)
- Professional Conversations

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	96.83%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous year	60.00%

## Staff Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with staff of St Rita's School (South Johnstone) 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 (South Johnstone) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 89% (4.44 out of 5).

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

## Student Reporting Data

### Average student attendance rates

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
85.30%	84.51%	85.96%	86.71%	87.55%	90.13%	85.57%	86.52%

### How non-attendance is managed by the School

Parents are to contact the School on the morning of non-attendance by phone or e-mail. 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 or concerns regarding the student.

### Student Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with students of St Rita's School (South Johnstone) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 14 out of a total of 14 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 100%. St Rita's School (South Johnstone) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 77% (3.85 out of 5).

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

## NAPLAN

NAPLAN results are available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47845>

## Funding Reporting Data

School funding breakdown is available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47845>