



**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
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<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:principal.johnstone@cns.catholic.edu.au">principal.johnstone@cns.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.stritascps.qld.edu.au">http://www.stritascps.qld.edu.au</a>
<b>Total Enrolments</b>	84
<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 PP
<b>Parish Number</b>	(07) 4061 6633





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### 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. The township of Innisfail has a Catholic Secondary School (Good Counsel College) and a State College. Within 10kms of South Johnstone there are numerous State Primary Schools, as well as Good Counsel Primary School. 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 school moved across the road in 1933 to where the present building is situated. 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 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 is 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

- Student Enrolment - 82 (45 Boys and 39 Girls)
- Verified students - 9
- Indigenous – 18%
- NCCD - 13
- Student Catholicity – 39.7%
- Attendance – 63.3%
- ICSEA – 966

### Cultural diversity

- Fijian
- Thai
- Indian
- New Zealander
- Dutch
- Australian



## School Annual Improvement

### Priority 1: Develop a Culture for Learning and Improvement for all students

**Goals:** By the end of 2020, teachers are consistently using effective and expected practices in the teaching of reading to engage students in reading successfully, evidenced against the following criteria:

- \*100% of students show growth in reading across the year
- 75 % students in Prep achieving at PM Level 6
- 90 % students in Year 1 achieving at PM Level 15
- 85 % students in Year 2 achieving at PM Level 22
- 75 % students in Year 3 achieving at PM Level 26
- 70 % students in Year 4 achieving at BAS Level R
- 80 % students in Year 5 achieving at BAS Level T
- 85 % students in Year 6 achieving at BAS Level W

These targets are informed by CES Reading benchmarks.

#### Strategies and resources implemented:

- Teachers were engaged in Professional Learning Teams where the agenda was driven by engagement with data.
- A reading data wall was created to provide opportunities for staff to engage with data. This has enabled staff to ensure that every student is making progress in reading.
- The explicit teaching of Synthetic Phonics occurred in Prep and Year 1.
- Professional development of Reciprocal Reading was provided to all teachers.
- Professional development opportunities for teachers has been provided throughout the year with the Literacy Coach working in classrooms and individually with teachers.
- There was continued engagement with school and system based best practice documents.

### Priority 2: Lived and Celebrated Catholic Identity

**Goals:** By the end of 2020, teachers are consistently using effective and expected practices in the teaching of Religion, to enhance the Catholic Identity of St. Rita's.

#### Strategies and resources implemented:

- Teachers were engaged in professional learning supported by the Identity and Outreach Team from Catholic Education Services.
- Identity Outreach Consultant, APRE and Classroom Teachers collaborated to develop teaching and learning sequences to fit our composite context

#### Areas of growth

1. Priority 1 has been a consistent focus in 2020 with the majority of strategies having been completed. Teachers across the school have worked towards improving whole class instruction of reading as well as analysing data to run more effective reading group sessions.
2. The majority of strategies for Priority 2 have also been completed. This has resulted in a whole school 2 year plan for the teaching of religion in a composite environment being developed.



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### Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

At St Rita's, we believe that preparing students for an unknown world, requires courage and energy, because student needs have changed so drastically. 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, futsal, soccer, softball and netball
- Sport coaching sessions - Netball, Cricket Australia, NRL development, Tennis
- Wonder of Living Program
- Arts Council Performances
- Mary Mills Cup
- Fowler's Cup
- Interschool Futsal Titles
- School Sports Programs such as Auskick, Tennis, Rugby League
- Handball competition
- Reader's Cup
- Under 8's day
- Bravehearts
- Show displays
- Camps and excursions

### Social Climate

At St Rita's we are determined to help each student achieve his or her 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





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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.

In 2020 we reviewed the St Rita's Way document. The St Rita's Way document is our Positive Relationships Policy. This document focuses on five key values which are crucial for success at St Rita's. These values are Community, Faith, Learning Respect and Justice. The St Rita's Way document encourages supportive behaviours and ensures that there are consequences for any inappropriate behaviours. Bullying incidents are dealt with according to Cairns Diocesan policies. Students are encouraged to report incidents of bullying and are given strategies for keeping safe whilst at school. Students are also taught strategies for protective behaviours and cyber safety.

### 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:

- Class Information Afternoons
- Parent Education, eg Wonders of Living, Maggie Dent
- Parent Teacher Interviews
- Parent invitations to classrooms as helpers or visitors
- Parent invitations to school assemblies and liturgies
- Parents and Friends Association
- Combined Schools' Board
- Playgroup
- St. Rita's Feast Day
- School Fete
- Mother's Day Morning Tea
- Grandparents Day (Prep)
- Oral and Written Reports - interviews
- Naidoc Activities
- Camps/Excursions
- Sports days
- Under 8's Day
- Christmas Concert

### Parent Satisfaction

The Annual Satisfaction 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	2	9	2	2

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	11	7.90
Non-Teaching Staff	8	4.66
Indigenous	1	0.29

Professional development	
Funds expended	\$2,799.00
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 Training
- Literacy Reading Focus
- Literacy coaching
- APRE Focus Days
- RE Curriculum Days
- Administration Officer's PD
- Data Analysis
- Circle Solutions Training
- Project Alpha – Developing Teacher capacity for virtual teaching
- Reciprocal Reading PD
- Writing PD
- PLT Training
- Diverse Learners Team Conferences
- Learning and Teaching Network meetings
- NCCD (Nationally Consistent Collection of Data)
- Professional Conversations.



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## 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	98%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year	45%

## 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
88.89	89.48	91.7	93.51	90.7	93.02	94.36

### 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

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	\$1,331,076
State/Territory Government recurrent funding	\$231,796
Fees, charges and parent contributions	\$108,412
Other private sources	\$56,267
<b>Total gross income (excluding income from government capital grants)</b>	<b>\$1,727,551</b>

### Deductions 2020

Income allocated to current capital projects	\$20,408
Income allocated to future capital projects and diocesan capital funds	\$0
Income allocated to debt servicing (including principal repayments and interest on loans)	\$83,707
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$104,115</b>
<b>Total net recurrent income</b>	<b>\$1,623,436</b>