



**Catholic
Education**
Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

St Thomas' School, Mareeba

Motto	Walk in the Light light
Address	63 Constance Street, MAREEBA QLD 4880
Postal Address	63 Constance Street, MAREEBA QLD 4880
Phone Number	(07) 4043 4100
Email Address	principal.mareeba@cns.catholic.edu.au
Website	www.stthomasmareeba.qld.edu.au
MySchool Profile	https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47848
Total Enrolments	453
Year Levels Offered	P-6
Student Population	Co-Educational
Principal	Mr Paul Rayner
Parish Priest	Fr Robert Greenup
Parish Number	(07) 4092 1077



About our School

As a Christ-centred learning community, inspired by the Mercy values of love, hope, service and respect, St Thomas' strives for equity and excellence in education. St Thomas' School provides a co-educational faith-based Catholic education to students from Prep to Year 6. We celebrate and value the gifts and talents of all students, parents and staff. We provide a learning environment to develop successful, confident and creative individuals. Our Catholic tradition is celebrated through the Religious Life of the School.

We develop students' academic, artistic, sporting and cultural pursuits, in the light of the Gospel values. Our school promotes positive parent engagement and strengthens meaningful connections with the wider community including our St Thomas of Villanova Parish. We are committed to a whole school approach for positive behaviours for learning where students stay safe, take responsibility, actively learn and respect self and others.

Characteristics of Student Body

Male	Female	Unspecified	ESL	% Catholic	% First Nations	% NCCD	ICSEA
216	237		8	51.9%	10.8%	11.9%	1014

Enrolment Trend:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
423	426	425	439	420	453

School Annual Improvement

Priority Area 1: Enhance student reading skills

Smart Goal: By the end of 2022 the % of students in each cohort attaining the Reading Benchmarks will be consistent with targets published on the CES Measures, Benchmarks and Targets document.

90% of Year 3 at NMS+1

85% of Year 5 at NMS+1

Improve teacher capacity for teaching and assessing reading to ensure more accurate correlation between NAPLAN, PAT and SRS.

Priority Area 2: Increase student attendance

Smart Goal: By the end of 2022 the number of students with a minimum attendance rate of 90% will improve by 5% on 2021 end of year data.

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.
- Specialist teachers deliver Australian Curriculum in LOTE (Japanese), Performing Arts and Sport.
- Student excellence showcased through school-based programs in instrumental music, public speaking, chess, band, Student Representative Council and sports including rugby league, netball, cricket, soccer and tennis.
- Our students actively support a range of social justice pursuits including Caritas, Catholic Mission, St Vincent de Paul and School of St Jude in Tanzania.
- Optional lunch time activities including Readers' Cup, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, and Mini Vinnies.

Extra Curricular Activities

These include:

- Student Representative Council
- Sporting - netball, rugby league, soccer and cricket
- Athletics and Cross Country team
- Instrumental Music Program
- Band
- Chess
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program
- Mini Vinnies
- Opportunity to try out for a variety of sports

Social Climate

St Thomas' is a friendly and supportive school community where parents and staff work together to provide a safe, progressive and enjoyable environment for students. The management of student behaviour, including bullying is supported through the use of policies published on the School website. Wellbeing is an important factor for all students at the School and social emotional learning permeates all aspects of the curriculum.

As a Parish school St Thomas' is closely linked to community activities with a view to raising student awareness about need beyond their own. Students become involved in fundraising appeals such as collecting items for the Winter and Christmas Appeals and educating others about the work of St Vincent De Paul. We also raise funds for Project Compassion during Lent and Socktober; a crazy sock day to support Catholic Mission and our sister school in Tanzania, The School of St Jude. Students warmly welcome all visitors, especially grandparents during Catholic Education Week.

The School community is well supported by a Leadership Team comprised of the Principal, Assistant to the Principal - Religious Education, Assistant to the Principal - Administration, Leader of Diversity, Leader of Learning and Teaching, together with an Identity & Outreach Coordinator. The School has a Learning Support Team, a School Counsellor and various School Officers who support integration, classroom and our diverse needs programs.

Parent Engagement

St Thomas' recognises the importance of parents as the first educators of their children and actively encourages parental involvement. All parents are members of the school Parents and Friends Association. Family barbecues are organised by the Parents and Friends Association and have been very

successful opportunities for families of students in each year level to meet and mix socially. These evenings also promote and celebrate the importance of families spending time and having fun together. In the spirit of community and valuing your child's education, parents are encouraged to take an active role in the life of the school through the P&F Committee.

Our parents actively work to assist in improving student outcomes in a variety of roles. Parent support in classrooms generally is evidenced by helping with literacy or maths groups and creating resources for classrooms and our library. Unfortunately in 2022 these opportunities were limited due to government advice with respect to Covid-19 protocols. Parents can support the school by assisting assisting children with home reading and in collecting money from stallholders at the monthly Mareeba Markets.

Parents are also made to feel welcome at events such as Whole School and Year level Masses and liturgies, our School Swimming Carnival and Athletics' Day, Harmony Day, St Thomas of Villanova Feast Day, celebrations for NAIDOC WEEK, to parade with students on Anzac Day and to attend weekly assemblies. Many opportunities for parent engagement have been severely impacted by government mandates regarding public (non)attendance at schools.

Fortnightly newsletters keep parents informed and parents can download our school app and access alerts for any updates for calendar events or school news.

Parent Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with parents of St Thomas' School (Mareeba) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 161 out of a total of 603 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 26.7%. St Thomas' School (Mareeba) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 77% (3.83 out of 5).

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

Staff Reporting

Qualification Highest level of attainment	Doctoral / Post-doctoral	Masters	Bachelor degree	Diploma	Certificate
Number of staff with this qualification		4	26	11	9

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	35	29.63333
Non-Teaching Staff	32	18.85788
Indigenous	3	1.20605

Professional Development	
Funds expended	\$17794.67
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 reading and writing outcomes
- School improvement and school effectiveness
- Religious Education
- Social Emotional Learning and wellbeing
- Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD)
- Special needs
- Collaborative teaching and coaching in literacy
- Industrial training
- WPHS
- Google Classrooms

- Essential Assessment
- Enhancing Catholic School Identity
- Synthetic Phonics
- Implementing Writing Blocks and Blanks
- Guided Reading
- Getting Reading Right: Big 5 of Reading (Phonics, Phonological Awareness, Fluency, Vocab & Comprehension)
- Getting Reading Right “ Morning Routines”
- Cognitive load theory
- 24/7 Modules
- Engage Training

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	95.82%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous year	77.78%

Staff Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with staff of St Thomas' School (Mareeba) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 43 out of a total of 70 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 61.4%. St Thomas' School (Mareeba) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 80% (4.01 out of 5).

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

Student Reporting Data

Average student attendance rates

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
84.60%	84.72%	86.27%	84.26%	85.25%	84.00%	84.04%	84.75%

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.

The School sends SMS Messages to advise parents if their student is marked absent (unexplained) or is recorded as arriving late to school without explanation.

To enhance a culture of student attendance a weekly affirmation is given to the class with the lowest level of non-attendance (i.e. best weekly attendance rate.) This affirmation is made at the weekly school assembly and the best class holds the attendance trophy in their care until the next school assembly.

Student Satisfaction

MYP Corporation conducted a School Results Survey with students of St Thomas' School (Mareeba) commencing 11 July 2022 and concluding 5 August 2022. Survey responses were received from 103 out of a total of 148 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 69.6%. St Thomas' School (Mareeba) recorded an overall satisfaction score of 76% (3.8 out of 5).

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

NAPLAN

NAPLAN results are available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47848>

Funding Reporting Data

School funding breakdown is available from My School Website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47848>