



**Catholic
Education**
Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

St Thomas' School, Mareeba

Motto	Walk in the Light
Address	63 Constance Street, MAREEBA QLD 4880
Postal Address	63 Constance Street, MAREEBA QLD 4880
Phone Number	(07) 4092 1570
Fax Number	(07) 4092 2935
Email Address	principal.mareeba@cns.catholic.edu.au
Web Site	http://www.stthomasmareeba.qld.edu.au
Total Enrolments	439
Year Levels Offered	P-6
Student Population	Co-Educational
Principal	Mrs Rita Petersen
Parish Priest	Fr Robert Greenup OSA PP
Parish Number	(07) 4092 1077





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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.

The school has an enrolment of approximately 442 students. Presently our enrolments include a significant number of students with diverse cultural backgrounds.

Characteristics of Student Body

- Student Enrolment - 442 (205 Boys and 237 Girls)
- Class Structure - 2-3 streams
- Verified students - 5.4%
- Indigenous - 11.2%
- NCCD – 14.7%
- Catholicity – 48.7%
- Attendance – 69.7% of students have an attendance rate greater than 90%
- Retention rate – 96.8%

Cultural diversity

- Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or both
- Japanese
- Dutch
- German
- Punjabi
- French
- Ukrainian
- Spanish
- Afrikan



Catholic Education

Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

School Annual Improvement

Priority Area 1: Enhancing Catholic identity

Smart Goal: By the end of 2020 the St Thomas' community will nurture a Post Critical Belief to assist in developing a Recontextualised Catholic Dialogue School.

Priority Area 2: A commitment to the identification, understanding and implementation of evidence-based teaching strategies to enhance student writing performance.

Smart Goal: Writing: Attain system target for NAPLAN Writing;

- 90% of Year 3 at NMS+1
- 85% of Year 5 at NMS+1

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

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) and HPE
- 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, Robotics and Mini Vinnies.

Extra Curricular Activities

These include:

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



Catholic Education

Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

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 Week.

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 as much as Covid-19 safety protocols permit. 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. Parents help in classrooms by helping with literacy or maths groups, creating resources for classrooms and our library, collecting money from stallholders at the monthly Mareeba Markets, assisting in the tuckshop, assisting during swimming lessons and attending class excursions.

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.

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

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	4	30	12	4

Workforce composition	Headcount	FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Teaching Staff	36	29.40
Non-Teaching Staff	29	14.95
Indigenous	1	0.39

Professional development	
Funds expended	\$36,250.00
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
- 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 Routine
- Cognitive load theory
- 24/7 Modules
- Engage Training



Catholic Education

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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	96%
Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year	91%

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
91.55	93	90.59	92.92	92.59	91.32	89.75

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 son or daughter is marked absent (unexplained) or is recorded as arriving late to school without explanation.

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	\$4,849,786
State/Territory Government recurrent funding	\$1,185,448
Fees, charges and parent contributions	\$791,295
Other private sources	\$186,955
Total gross income (excluding income from government capital grants)	\$7,013,484

Deductions 2020

Income allocated to current capital projects	\$136,302
Income allocated to future capital projects and diocesan capital funds	\$21,141
Income allocated to debt servicing (including principal repayments and interest on loans)	\$13,060
Subtotal	\$170,503
Total net recurrent income	\$6,842,981