



Catholic Education - Diocese of Cairns
Learning with Faith and Vision

A Catholic School for your Child?

nurturing
welcoming
Christ-centred
values-based
contemporary
good behaviour
academic excellence
developing the whole child
inclusive
grounded
focused on
in faith
the individual
fulfilling each child's potential
sense of community

Welcoming to All

Catholic schools are welcoming to all who seek to share in their modern, vibrant communities and who value what they have to offer - an education of the highest standard that is grounded in Catholic faith and values, in communities of care.

Today, the 26 schools and colleges of the Cairns Diocese are mostly administered by 'lay' principals and staff who are continuing the strong tradition built by the religious orders who founded Catholic Education here almost 120 years ago.

Annual enrolment growth is strong; an indication of the high regard in which our Catholic schools are held.

A wholistic education

Catholic schools have been part of Australian education for over 180 years. During that time there have been many changes in education but what has remained constant has been Catholic education's focus on the development of the *whole* child - academically, spiritually, emotionally, physically and as a member of their community and their changing world.

A 'values-added' education

Today, more than ever, there is a growing awareness of the need for education that is



grounded in values. In times of rapid change, our schools are providing students with education which will empower them to take their place in the world as spiritual, moral, well-integrated persons.

Catholic schools offer a 'values added' education and our curriculum teaches values generating fundamental attitudes of respect and courtesy to each other and a sense of responsibility to oneself, others and the school community. Catholic schools strive to promote positive attitudes and prepare students for a *life of worth not merely a life of work*.

This 'values added' education contributes to high standards of behaviour for which our schools are renowned and the favourable learning environments that result.

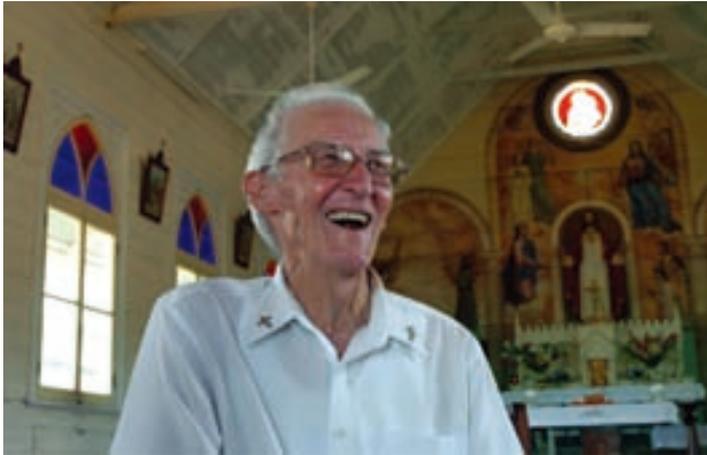


"....school should be able to offer young people the means to acquire the knowledge they need to find a place in a society, which is strongly characterised by technical and scientific skill. But, at the same time, it should be a place, above all, to impart a solid Christian formation."

'The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium' Rome 1997

Three Dimensions of a Catholic School

Cultural and religious dimensions of learning are interwoven with curriculum to form the fabric of a Catholic school. We define these three key dimensions as: Religious, Learning and Teaching, and Living Relationships.



Religious Dimension

Catholic education takes place within a Catholic culture based on core beliefs and values. These beliefs and values are reflected in Catholic schools' pastoral care policies, commitment to peace, social justice and service, and to the development of each student's self-confidence, resilience and character.

A Christ-centred orientation is evident in all aspects of school life including relationships, structures, celebrations and routines, as well as the formal curriculum. Religious education is provided both implicitly and explicitly, through

Core beliefs and values

- *Made in the image of God, every human being is unique, possessing gifts which should be developed and should be treated with respect and dignity.*
- *We are all part of a community where we have both rights and responsibilities.*
- *The poor and marginalised have a special place in God's love and God's plan.*
- *We live in a wonderful world with signs of God's abundant and abiding presence everywhere and we have a duty to care for it.*
- *Things do not have to be the way they are. We can make a difference to the world; develop ourselves, help others, care for the environment, and when things seem to fall apart, we can be reconciled with ourselves, with others and with God.*

the life and culture of the school and a Religious Education curriculum approved by the Bishop of the Diocese.

For some students the Religious Education program at schools is a natural extension of what has long been a part of the child's life while for others, coming to a Catholic school may be the first time they consciously encounter Jesus and the Church.

Learning and Teaching

Our teachers

Quality learning results from quality teaching. Teachers in Catholic schools are professionally qualified and officially registered. Expectations of their commitment and competence are high and they are supported through ongoing professional development to foster creativity and innovation in teaching and learning. Our teachers have a very special *vocation* in the Church's mission to instil in children an appreciation of Christian teaching and values; through their service, performance of duties and personal example.

A commitment to educational excellence

Catholic schools are strongly committed to providing excellence in education across all areas, not merely select subjects. Our schools work in cooperative partnership with governmental education authorities and other educational agencies in developing and implementing a curriculum that complies with legislative requirements. Catholic schools are administered by Catholic Education Services (the diocesan authority) and are also accountable to their communities and to Federal and State governments.



Early Years

The journey of full-time schooling begins in our primary schools with the Preparatory Year, designed to provide the foundation that children need for success in later schooling. The curriculum is based on active learning which includes inquiry, investigation and play, with developmental focus on literacy and numeracy. In keeping with the ethos and values of a Catholic education, faith, spiritual and values development is integrated into the curriculum.

Middle Years

Learning in the middle years focuses on engagement, and encouraging and supporting the student to become a more independent learner. A relevant broad-based arts and sciences education is provided. The educational program continues to address the spiritual, social, emotional and physical development of the student.

Senior Years

Our secondary colleges offer a broad curriculum and provide a range of pathways for learning and achievement to support the development of talents and interests. The curriculum balances religious, academic, vocational, cultural and sporting opportunities.

School based or system endorsed courses of work in careers, vocational studies and apprenticeships are also available. Individualised programs, either within or beyond the

mainstream curriculum, are offered to ensure multiple pathways are available to students in the post compulsory years of schooling and beyond.

A comprehensive overview of curriculum offerings can be obtained from individual schools.

Changing nature of learning

Catholic curriculum for the early 21st century is about education as a life long process, not merely a transfer of facts and the reduction of a student's achievement to an individual score. As our Diocesan Learning Framework so wonderfully states "Vision to excite and empower learners to enjoy, shape and enrich our changing world."

Catholic schools recognise that students of the current generation inhabit a highly technological and information rich world that has experienced an information explosion, significant and rapid changes to society, as well as change to national and international economic structures. Young people increasingly live, socialise, create and work in the digital environment.



Contemporary Digital Learning

In this 'digital age', our schools seek to help young people to be ethically discriminating and skilful users of the developing information and communication technologies in the modern balanced curriculum and in life more widely.

21st century education integrates technologies, engaging students in ways not previously possible, creating new learning and teaching possibilities, enhancing achievement and extending interactions with local and global communities.

The vision for digital learning across the Cairns Diocese is for ICT (Information Communication Technology) to be integral to learning and teaching in our schools in order to *"empower those in our community to engage with and enrich our ever changing world"*.

Catholic Education Services is working to address the challenges that are posed by the desire to achieve 21st century contemporary learning across the Cairns diocese. Currently being rolled out is an education portal for connected schools that lies at the core of enhancing learning and teaching in our schools in the 21st century. It empowers both teachers and students, and facilitates communication, publication, sharing and collaboration - all key elements of any successful learning and teaching environment. The learning and internet management system provides schools with the capacity to access educational content in a safe manner and interact with other schools across dioceses and

indeed, the world. It will enable our schools to establish a true connected learning community.

This is an exciting time for the Cairns Diocese, as we truly become a Connected Learning Community.

Living Relationships

A safe and caring environment

For students to learn and develop as they should and be challenged to do well in all aspects of school life, they must feel safe and included. Child protection matters are taken seriously, and practices and protocols are in place to ensure Catholic schools are safe places that not only comply with Queensland's child Protection legislation, but move beyond mere compliance to prevention.

Social Emotional Learning

Right relationships are nurtured. Through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) children are supported in the development of the life skills of confidence, getting along, persistence, organisation and emotional resilience.

This sits very comfortably within the overall pastoral approach of the Catholic school which is grounded in strongly supportive relationships between students, teachers and parents*. High academic standards are conscientiously pursued within a caring community where every student feels valued. Many parents are attracted to Catholic schools because of this strong pastoral emphasis.



* 'parents' - throughout this document refers to those who are parents, carers or guardians.

Your involvement

Catholic schools aim to provide a sense of welcome, inclusion and belonging for both students and their families. Many parents, for instance, find that when they enrol their children in a Catholic school they soon become involved in the community - from participating in parent-teacher discussions, scheduled meetings, and classroom activities, to voluntary support activities (library, sporting events, excursions, tuckshop, working bees), the Parents & Friends Association's educational, social and community-building activities, or serving on the School Board. Lifelong friendships are often formed and family life is enriched.

Partnership and vision

Catholic schools acknowledge parents as the first and principal educators of their children. However there is a wise African proverb that says *it takes a village to nurture a child*. Catholic education recognises that this nurturing is a partnership between the learner, the parent, the teacher and the school in general community. This partnership supports students to recognise and achieve their potential, to believe in themselves and to have pride in their own achievements and abilities.

When parents and teachers share common understandings, hopes and expectations, and

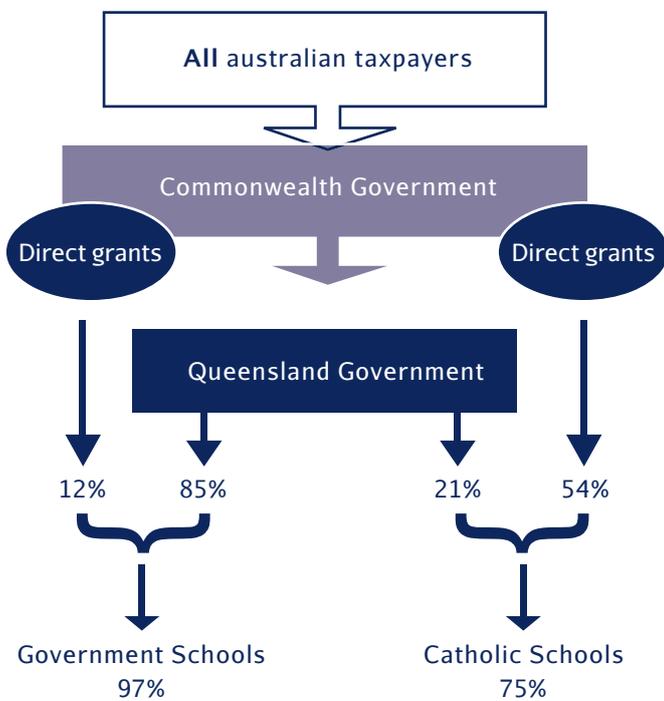
have a common vision, the effectiveness of the school is greatly enhanced. Both parents and teachers in our schools want their children to become independent, confident and well-balanced young persons who are eager, competent, life-long learners. They want our students to be good citizens and people of integrity. Above all, Catholic schools strive to develop in children faith, spirituality, life-giving values, and a clear sense of right and wrong to give greater meaning and purpose to all that they do.

Nurturing the individual

Catholic schools are communities of strong, nurturing relationships where the growth of children is the core focus. Each child's unique gifts, needs, interests and style of learning are fostered. There is a valuing of difference within a culture of inclusive education. Good teachers know each of their students well and have a nurturing relationship with them. This personal connection, in partnership with home, helps teachers develop a strong sense of achievement and self-worth in every one of their students.

"Every learner is in some respect like all others, like some others and like no other."





School Fees

To deliver the high quality education that they do, it is necessary for Catholic schools to charge fees and levies. Catholic schools receive significantly less government funding than government schools. Parents who are financially able to do so have a responsibility and obligation to pay school fees and levies. This fee structure also enables Catholic schools to maintain some independence as a system and so achieve the ideals of the Catholic Church in operating schools.

While fees are kept as low as possible and family discounts

apply, the Church's wish to provide access to Catholic Education for all who seek it leads to the situation where some families are unable to meet their fees commitment. It is a long standing tradition in Catholic schools that families in *genuine* financial need receive support to educate their children. These families are encouraged to discuss fee and other concessions with the school Principal or Parish Priest, who will consider their circumstances with compassion, justice and confidentiality.

How to enrol?

Catholic schools are open and inclusive to all who seek their values. While enrolment enquiries are always welcome, individual schools may not always be able to enrol every child who applies. In such cases, the school is guided by its enrolment policy.

Parents are encouraged to make contact with their preferred school as soon as possible to find out about vacancies, enrolment procedures and what information is required to complete the enrolment application, eg birth certificate, certificate of Baptism, immunisation records, school reports and other relevant academic records.

Following is a list of Catholic schools and colleges in the Cairns Diocese. For further information visit: www.cns.catholic.edu.au

Perhaps it's time you considered a Catholic Education for *your* child.



Catholic Schools and Colleges

Cairns Region

Bentley Park	St Therese's School	(P-7)	Ph 4055 4514
Parramatta Park	St Augustine's College	(All Boys 8-12, including boarders)	Ph 4051 5555
Cairns City	St Monica's College	(All Girls 8-12, including boarders)	Ph 4042 4800
Earlville	Our Lady Help of Christians School	(P-7)	Ph 4054 2566
Gordonvale	St Michael's School	(P-7)	Ph 4056 1614
Manunda	St Francis Xavier's School	(P-7)	Ph 4053 1158
North Cairns	Mother of Good Counsel School	(P-7)	Ph 4053 6133
Parramatta Park	St Joseph's School	(P-7)	Ph 4051 4041
Redlynch	St Andrew's Catholic College	(P-12)	Ph 4039 5200
Trinity Park	Holy Cross School	(P-7)	Ph 4057 6920
Woree	St Gerard Majella School	(P-7)	Ph 4054 4805
Woree	St Mary's Catholic College	(8-12)	Ph 4054 6144

Northern Region

Mossman	St Augustine's School	(P-7)	Ph 4098 1631
Thursday Island	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School	(P-7)	Ph 4069 2203
	Hammond Island campus	(P-3)	Ph 4069 2955

Southern Region

Babinda	St Rita's School	(P-7)	Ph 4067 1467
Innisfail	Good Counsel College	(8-12)	Ph 4063 5300
Innisfail	Good Counsel Primary School	(P-7)	Ph 4061 2994
Silkwood	St John's School	(P-7)	Ph 4065 2193
South Johnstone	St Rita's School	(P-7)	Ph 4064 2153
Tully	St Clare's School	(P-7)	Ph 4068 1527

Tablelands Region

Atherton	St Joseph's Parish School	(P-7)	Ph 4091 4211
Dimbulah	St Anthony's School	(P-7)	Ph 4093 5319
Herberton	Mount St Bernard College	(Co-Ed 8-12, including boarding)	Ph 4096 3346
Mareeba	St Stephen's Catholic College	(8-12)	Ph 4086 2500
Mareeba	St Thomas's School	(P-7)	Ph 4092 1570
Ravenshoe	St Teresa's School	(P-7)	Ph 4097 6173



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Diocese of Cairns

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For further information on individual schools, visit

www.cns.catholic.edu.au and click on the Schools and Colleges link.