St Finbarr’s School, Quilpie
A school in the tradition of Mary MacKillop

A Catholic co-educational school of the Diocese of Toowoomba

“Peace, Truth, Wisdom”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 34</td>
<td>07 4656 1412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jabiru St</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quilpie QLD 4480</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Levels</th>
<th>Fax</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep – Year 6</td>
<td>07 4656 1306</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrolment</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td><a href="mailto:quilpie@twb.catholic.edu.au">quilpie@twb.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal</th>
<th>Boarders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Genny McNair</td>
<td>No</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vacation Care</th>
<th>After School Care</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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</table>

Our Mission

St Finbarr’s Parish School aims to equip students with the essential values, understandings and skills required to participate effectively in a rapidly changing world. We strive to integrate all areas of learning with Christian faith, knowledge and experience and to deliver a curriculum that is both relevant and challenging to each child.

To realise this vision, St Finbarr’s School aims to:

- Provide an environment where Gospel values are lived daily
- Support (with personnel and resources) each child’s learning pathway
- Provide opportunities for high quality teaching and learning
- Encourage self-knowledge and self-discipline
- Develop positive attitudes and a resilience of mind and heart
- Instil a love and enthusiasm for learning
- Create a happy and supportive learning environment; and
- Expose students to a wide range of educational and cultural experiences.
Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

At St Finbarr’s Catholic School, nine Key Learning Areas are taught from Prep to Year 6. These include Mathematics, English, Science, History, Geography, The Arts, Health and Physical Education and Technology which follow the current Queensland Studies Authority and National Curriculum Syllabus Documents. As a Catholic school we also include the study of Religious Education which is supported by Toowoomba Catholic Education Guidelines.

As St Finbarr’s is a small school, it is made up of two multi-age classes: Prep to 2 and Years 3 to 6. This structure allows for flexibility in learning and teaching, with all students receiving instruction at their ability level through whole class, small group and individual instruction as well as peer tutoring.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Anzac Day - Participation in March, Service and serving at the ANZAC luncheon
- Mothers’ Day Assembly & Luncheon
- Celebrations of NAIDOC week and Harmony day
- Catholic Education Week
- Remembrance Day participation with the community
- Celebrations of Feast Days including - St. Joseph and St Patrick, St Mary of the Cross - Mary MacKillop
- Prayer Assemblies such as Pentecost and Easter and Family Liturgies
- Quilpie Show – Individual & School participation in displays of work
- Under 8’s Day Community Celebrations
- Thargomindah Sports Camp for the whole school
- Curriculum related excursions and camps
- St. Finbarr’s Fete – Students organise & run stalls with teachers & staff.
- Combined School’s Art Show
- Instrumental music program
- Quilpie and district Cross country, athletics and swimming carnivals
- Charleville and district Sport and Regional Sporting opportunities in a wide range of sports
- Annual Arts and/or Sports workshops with visiting coaches/artists.
- Charities including Caritas, Go Blue for Autism, Pirate Friday, Biggest Morning Tea and various other days and causes are all well supported by the staff and students

Social Climate

St Finbarr’s is a very welcoming and inclusive school. Families play a large role within the school community and are encouraged to work in partnership with staff to ensure the best learning outcomes for students. We aim to create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for our students, one in which everyone is valued and given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Currently we utilise our multi-age classes to provide peer support to students. A buddy system is in place, which gives younger students a sense of confidence and acceptance, while creating opportunities for older children to experience being positive role models.
St Finbarr’s School is an integral part of the Quilpie community and all students are regularly involved in community activities and events.

We take a proactive approach to behaviour management through our Values Program. This is designed to develop skills in the areas such as respect, responsibility, tolerance to enhance each child’s social skills and social intelligence. The school has Anti-bullying and Behaviour Management policies and procedures in place. Bullying is not tolerated and any issues are managed immediately within these guidelines.

Support for students experiencing difficulties in any social or emotional area is also provided through our counselling programs with the support of Centacare, Lifeline and the Toowoomba Catholic Education Office.

**Parental Involvement**

Parents:
- Are involved in Tuckshop groups
- Attend School Assemblies, Family Masses & Prayer Services with Students
- Participate in School Board and P&F meetings
- Participate in Parents & Friends activities – Catering, Mystery Holiday Raffle, Fete, and Working Bees
- Participate in Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews
- Support their children by attendance at class/school events

**School Financial Information**

The information on net recurrent income including:
- Federal Government recurrent funding
- Queensland Government recurrent funding
- Fee, charges and parent contributions
- Other private resources

Is available from: [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

**Staff Composition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Total Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Total Non-teaching Staff</th>
<th>Indigenous Staff</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcounts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time equivalents</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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### Teacher Qualifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>% of Teaching Staff</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral / Post Doctoral</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor Degree</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
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### Professional Development

Staff Development is seen as a vital part of our curriculum planning and implementation as well as an important facet of professional support for our staff. Professional Development at St Finbarr’s aims to develop teaching skills in all Key Learning Areas and is guided by curriculum priorities and teacher goal setting. In 2015 St Finbarr’s staff underwent professional development in:

**Annual Staff Induction**
- Workplace Health and Safety
- Student Protection
- Code of Conduct
- Teacher in a Catholic School
- Positive Behaviour Support

**Curriculum, Teaching and Learning**
- Beginning teacher mentoring
- Religious Education – Reflection
- Consistency of Teacher Judgement (CTJ) Day
- Diocesan Learning Profile Training
- Curriculum Planning, Assessment and reporting
- ACARA – History and Geography implementation support
- ICT – interactive whiteboard and iPads, Britannica Training
- School officer training – learning support
- Nationally Consistent Collection of Data Training
- PAT Professional Learning Seminar
- ASD – Strategies for managing and working with those on the Spectrum
- Literacy Solutions
- 5 Faces of Teaching – John McCardle
- Hawker Brownlow – Professional Learning Communities
- Classroom Language Support Program

**Management**
- Administrative officer training
- Finance Training
- CLC training
Welfare
- OHS officer training
- Senior first aid and CPR
- Student Protection Contact Training
- Social Participation and Emotional Wellbeing Tools for Students

| 2015 School PD budget expenditure | $ 6592.23 |

Average Staff Attendance
97.5%

Staff Retention
100%

Average Student Attendance Rate
The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2015 was 88.5%.

Student Attendance for Each Year Level (expressed as a percentage)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85.8</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>92.5</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>88.2</td>
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</table>

Description of How Non-Attendance is managed by the School
Members of the Quilpie community are disadvantaged due to distance. Non-attendance of students can be the result of instances such as: flooding, siblings in boarding school, doctors’ appointments several hours away, daily distance travelling, just to name a few.

A genuine effort is made by parents and staff to ensure that students have work to complete when they will be absent for extended periods of time.

St Finbarr’s completes its roll electronically and this is done in the morning and after lunch. Hard copies of rolls are also kept in classrooms for teacher reference, fire drill and lockdown procedures.

If students are absent from school, the parents are required to notify the school. In cases where the student is unexpectedly absent and information from parents has not been forthcoming, the parents are phoned during the day, asked to explain the absence and give an indication of when they anticipate the child will be returning to school. The parents are asked to send a note along with the child explaining the absence when the child/children return to school.
National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Results

Year 3 Test Results (2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE</th>
<th>NATIONAL AVERAGE</th>
<th>STATE AVERAGE</th>
<th>Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>425.5</td>
<td>418.4</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>416.3</td>
<td>405.8</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>408.8</td>
<td>395.7</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>430.5</td>
<td>433.2</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>397.8</td>
<td>392.2</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Year 5 Test Results (2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE</th>
<th>NATIONAL AVERAGE</th>
<th>STATE AVERAGE</th>
<th>Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>498.5</td>
<td>494.5</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>478.1</td>
<td>470.2</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>498.1</td>
<td>489.2</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>503.1</td>
<td>499.8</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>492.5</td>
<td>486.0</td>
<td>^</td>
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</table>

^ To maintain privacy of individual student information where there are fewer than five students tested results are not provided.

Value Added

At St Finbarr’s we seek to develop the whole child: spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, culturally and academically. We continually monitor and evaluate the academic performance of all students through ongoing data analysis. Individual educational needs are identified and strategies applied, resulting in improved student performance and progress over a number of years.

There exists a close relationship between St Finbarr’s School and the attached Parish. This is evident by the many activities throughout the year in which both groups come together in prayer, liturgy and Eucharistic celebration.

St Finbarr’s believes in ensuring that students have the resources necessary for them to achieve. Interactive whiteboards have been installed in every classroom. Desktop computers, laptops and iPads are available to all students and are an integral part of teaching and learning.

Our Parents & Friends is a very pro-active group in sourcing resources for each class. This group is highly active within the community and is valued by the staff in their prompt responses to any needs that students and classes have. Working Bees are held regularly to assist with maintenance. Parents are also regularly invited into the school and the classrooms to
participate in class show cases, reading with the children and sport. Parents take turns to provide tuckshop once a week to the students during the year. The school encourages open communication and engagement between staff and parents and nurtures these relationships to work harmoniously together in improving student performance.

**Excellence in Catholic Education-School Renewal and Improvement Process**

School Renewal and Improvement is an on-going process of self-evaluation measured against a commonly agreed set of criteria. It informs action planning at the school level to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. Above all, Catholic schools must be good schools with a strong learning orientation and a strong sense of purpose. This process provides an opportunity for each school to reflect on four Domain areas, namely: Catholic Life and Religious Education; Learning and Teaching; Leadership for School Improvement; Strategic Resourcing. Each of these domains has components (24 in total) which are reviewed on a cyclical basis and plans for improvement are developed if necessary.

In 2015, the components of Religious Education, Professional Learning, Community Partnerships and Ownership, Staff Wellbeing and Use of Resources, Facilities and the learning Environment were reflected on, reviewed and strategically planned for.

**Parent Satisfaction**

The positive feedback received about the school is a testament to the commitment of all members of the St Finbarr's School community to the provision of a quality Catholic education for the children of Quilpie.

Some comments from parents include:

“It is a real privilege to be a part of such a caring school environment. The teachers and staff are very approachable and seem to create a wonderful learning space for the children.”

“I am very happy with the education that my daughter receives at St Finbarr's.”

“My son loves attending St Finbarr’s and I myself enjoy the warm welcome we get into such an amazing school family. I highly praise the Mini Finnies program that helped prepare my son and myself for the first year of learning.”

“St Finbarr’s school is a great school. My two kids love it. The staff are good and helpful and work as one team. My kids like their teacher and the teacher aides as well.”

“Very happy with the educators at St Finbarr’s. They do seem to be a standard above the rest.”

“There is an open door policy with the teachers and principal which allows an open communication.”

*A hardcopy of this report is available by request from the Principal.*