



St Finbarr's School, Quilpie

Catholic co-educational primary school
Diocese of Toowoomba

Annual report 2017

Address	PO Box 34 Jabiru Street Quilpie QLD 4480		Phone number	07 4656 1412	
email	quilpie@twb.catholic.edu.au		Principal	Genevieve McNair	
Year levels	Prep-Year 6		Enrolment	30	
Co-educational or single sex				co-educational	
Boarders	no	Outside hours school care	no	Vacation care	no
Contact person for information about the school and school policies			Genevieve McNair		

The school's mission

We the members of the St Finbarr's School community aim to create a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment in which Gospel values are lived daily. Through excellence in teaching and learning and exposure to a wide range of educational and cultural experiences we aim to instil in our students a love and enthusiasm for learning. We aim to support each child's learning pathway and encourage self-knowledge and self-discipline to develop a positive attitude and a resilience of mind and heart.

Distinctive curriculum offerings

At St Finbarr's School, seven Key Learning Areas are taught from Prep to Year 6. These include Mathematics, English, Science, HASS, The Arts, Health and Physical Education and Technology which follow the current ACARA and QCAA curriculum syllabus documents. As a Catholic school, we also include the study of Religious Education as per the Toowoomba Religious Education program, which is supported by Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office guidelines.

As St Finbarr's is a small school, it is made up of two multi-age classes: Prep to Year 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 and luncheon
- Harmony day
- Catholic Education Week
- Remembrance day participation with the wider 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 and 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 and run stalls with teachers and 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 (including pastoral care and student behaviour support)

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. 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. The values program is designed to develop skills in the areas such as respect, responsibility, tolerance to enhance each child's social skills and social intelligence.

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 Schools Office.

Characteristics of the student body

Of the 30 students attending St Finbarr's in 2017, 23% identified as Indigenous and 100% of students have English as their first language. 46% of students are Catholic, 19% Anglican, 11% Uniting and 23% with no identified religious affiliation.

Students come from families who mostly live in town and some from rural properties.

The local demographic is rural/remote and low socioeconomic. Most families are employed in service industries including police, hospital, schools, local council and other government agencies. Other families are self-employed or employed in local small businesses.

Parent/carer involvement

Parents/carers:

- are involved in tuckshop groups
- attend school assemblies, family Masses and prayer services with students
- participate in School Board and P&F meetings
- participate in P&F activities – catering, mystery holiday raffle, fete, and working bees
- participate in parent/teacher/student interviews and information evenings
- support their children by attendance at class/school events

School income by funding source

School income reported by the financial year accounting cycle using standardised national methodologies and broken down by funding source is available via the *MySchool* website at www.myschool.edu.au.

Staff

Workforce composition

	Total teaching staff	Total non-teaching staff	Indigenous staff
Headcount	5	5	1
Full-time equivalents	3.3	2.3	0.2

Teacher qualifications

Qualification	% of teaching
Doctoral / Post-Doctoral	0%
Masters	20%
Bachelor Degree	80%
Diploma	0%
Certificate	0%

Average staff attendance

98%

Staff retention

80%

Professional Development (participation and expenditure)

2017 School Budget Allocation: \$4,000

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. The following information is an overview of staff participation in professional development at St Finbarr's for 2017

Annual staff induction

- Workplace Health and Safety
- Student Protection
- Code of Conduct
- Teacher in a Catholic School
- Positive Behavior Support

Curriculum, teaching and learning

- Religious Education – REAP, Bishops Inservice Day
- Consistency of Teacher Judgement (CTJ) Day
- curriculum planning, assessment and reporting
- Literacy Solutions training
- Reading Improvement Strategy training
- ACARA – HASS implementation support
- ICT – Technology in the Classroom
- School Officer training – learning support
- PAT Professional Learning Seminar
- ASD – strategies for managing and working with those on the Spectrum
- Literacy Solutions
- Hawker Brownlow – Professional Learning Communities
- Classroom Language Support Program

Management

- Administrative Officer training
- finance training

Welfare

- OHS officer training
- Senior first aid and CPR
- Student Protection Contact training
- Zones of Regulation training
- Non-violent crisis intervention
- WHS compliance training

Student attendance

Average whole of school student attendance rate (expressed as %)

81%

Student attendance for each year level (expressed as %)

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Average student attendance rate
90.27%	89.59%	90.02%	89.32%	89.39%	90.27%	89.01%	89.68%

Description of how non-attendance of students 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 or daily distance travelling.

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, 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.

Prolonged absences from school without explanations result in a phone call/meeting with the principal to discuss the situation.

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results

Year 3 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading		425	431	
Writing		402	413	
Spelling		408	416	
Grammar and Punctuation		437	439	
Numeracy		402	409	

Year 5 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading		502	505	
Writing		461	472	
Spelling		496	500	
Grammar and Punctuation		496	499	
Numeracy		490	493	

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

School renewal and improvement

Overview of procedures

St Finbarr's engaged in the Excellence in Catholic Education (EiCE) school improvement process that has been in place in Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic schools since 2012.

EiCE involves the school reflecting on its effectiveness, making plans for improved teaching and learning and acting upon those. EiCE envisages the school taking five years to work its way through 24 components in the four areas of Catholic Life and Religious Education; Learning and Teaching; Leadership for School Improvement; Strategic Resourcing.

In 2017, the EiCE components on which our school focused were

- Social Justice and Action
- Students and their Learning
- Pastoral Care and Students well being
- Cultural Diversity
- Strategic Leadership

Parent, staff and student satisfaction

Each year St Finbarr's engages in data gathering from parents, staff and students to assist it in evaluating the effectiveness of its educational program.

Materials provided by Research Australia Development & Innovation Institute (RADII) are used. Part of the RADII process is the collection of data regarding the overall satisfaction of parents, staff and students. Overall satisfaction responses for 2017 are shown below.

Parents

100% of parents satisfied with children's educational progress at the school.

100% of parents satisfied that school's educational program enable children to learn.

Staff

100% of staff satisfied overall with educational progress of students.

100% of staff satisfied that school's educational programs enable students to learn.

Students

100% of Years 5 - 6 students satisfied with their learning at this school.

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Please note: A hardcopy of this annual report is available from the Principal by request.