



## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

### St Monica's Primary School, Oakey

*A Catholic co-educational school of the Diocese of Toowoomba*

*"In Omnibus Glorificetur Deus"  
"In All Things May God Be Glorified"*

<b>Address</b>	PO Box 322 75 Lorrimer St Oakey QLD 4401	<b>Phone</b>	07 4691 1067
<b>Year Levels</b>	Prep – Year 6	<b>Fax</b>	07 4691 1416
<b>Enrolment</b>	162	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:oakey@twb.catholic.edu.au">oakey@twb.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>Principal</b>	Mr Roland Poulton	<b>Boarders</b>	No
<b>Vacation Care</b>	No	<b>After School Care</b>	No

#### **Our Mission**

- To create an inclusive school community of care where each member feels welcomed and nurtured.
- To promote an active partnership between the school, home, parish and wider community.
- To treat each community member with justice, dignity and compassion.
- To help each community member find through God, meaning and value in their lives.
- To promote a safe and happy work and learning environment.
- To challenge each community member to be responsible stewards of creation.
- To provide a stimulating and challenging curriculum, which acknowledges, promotes and celebrates the particular God-given gifts and talents of each student.
- To expand learning opportunities for students by utilizing new technologies.
- To challenge each student to participate in all activities of the school to their full potential.
- To encourage the development of excellent professional skills in staff.



## **Distinctive Curriculum Offerings**

We aim to make our learning experiences child-centred, stimulating and effective. We endeavour to create a school environment that encourages students to develop a love of learning and one which responds to a wide variety of learning styles. Whilst encouraging a love of learning, we also try to challenge our students to strive for their best. We emphasize the development of healthy self-esteem and active citizenship.

The Staff of St Monica's plan teaching experiences using syllabus documents written by the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority. The nine Key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics, History, Geography, Health & Physical Education, Science, LOTE (Language Other Than English), The Arts, Technology and Religion are taught. Curriculum areas may be taught separately or at times integrated under a theme depending on the needs of the students and the opportunities that present themselves. St Monica's also offers specialist taught classes in Music and Physical Education and LOTE, specifically Indonesian.

Students from Years 4 attend an overnight outdoor adventure camp whilst Year 5 & 6 students participate in a longer outdoor and cultural camping experience. Students from other year levels attend day excursions related to curriculum work being undertaken at the time. Students from Prep to Year 6 participate in a "learn-to-swim program".

### **Use of Computers**

The school is well resourced with computers, interactive whiteboards and personal tablet devices and associated software is available to students and staff via an integrated network throughout the school. Information and Communication Technology skills are taught as outlined in the school's ICT Scope and Sequence document and teachers integrate the use of technology in their teaching and learning episodes.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Students of St Monica's have many opportunities to participate in a diverse range of extra-curricular activities, including:

### **School Assembly**

School Assemblies are held each Friday at 2:20pm (unless other school events have been scheduled) in the School's Multi-purpose Hall. The Year 6 students organize and host the weekly assembly. School awards are presented to students from each class as public recognition of their achievements. Achievements, special occasions, presentations and birthdays are recognized during assemblies. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to attend assemblies to support their children.

### **Learn to swim program**

All students participate in swimming lessons staffed by qualified swimming instructors. Students are placed into small groups depending on their level of competence. Swimming lessons take place during Term 4, prior to the annual Swimming Carnival.

### **Presentations**

Throughout the year each class participates in music/drama/school work presentations. Parents/caregivers are invited and encouraged to attend.



## Competitions

Students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of school activities. They can voluntarily participate in external Mathematics, English, Science and Computer competitions. The school competes in the Choral sections at local eisteddfods. Students are encouraged to participate in Opti-Minds – a creative, team approach to problem solving.

## Choir Opportunities

Students are encouraged to participate in the School Choir. Rehearsals are conducted before school and during some lunch breaks. The students can sing at Parish Masses and community events. The Choir participates in Sing Out, a festival of school choirs held at the Empire Theatre in Toowoomba bi-annually.

## Other Opportunities

- Students are encouraged to enter school displays and competition work in the Oakey Show.
- Student representation at Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day services is encouraged and well supported.
- Senior students participate in a Mini Vinnies group to promote pastoral care within the school and outreach to the community through charity work.
- Senior students are given both informal and formal leadership opportunities.
- Buddy programs are in place between younger and older students to promote academic and social interaction across the school.
- Fundraising days for various national and international charities.
- Participating in local community life - Sports, Dance, Guides, World Day of Prayer, Santa Fair and Carols by Candlelight activities.
- Interschool sport - Soccer, Rugby League, Touch and Netball, including social days with other schools.
- Sporting Schools programs – a free sports based program held once a week after school.
- During and after school sports training – tennis, netball, rugby league & athletics.
- Whole School Musical or Variety Night presentations by students.
- Service to the community – students visit the local Respite Care Unit and perform for the local Seniors Group.
- Tennis Program (offered through a private teacher, paid for by participating students).
- Instrumental Music Program (offered through a private teacher, paid for by participating students).
- Beginning of Year Welcome Disco and BBQ.
- Community activities and gatherings organized by the Parents and Friends Association.



## Social Climate

### Ethos of our school Staff

St Monica's School supports an environment that encourages students to learn in a caring, safe and supportive community. The school strives to be of service to the wider community, with outreach to the marginalized. St Monica's staff are proud and enthusiastic about the school and work tirelessly to provide creative, engaging and challenging opportunities for all students. The staff group work harmoniously in creating a happy workplace. Some comments from staff are:

- *"The staff are positive and professional. They are supportive of each other and have the students' best interests at heart."*
- *"Welcoming staff who are all on the same page, lovely community, approachable leadership team, dedicated staff who offer opportunities for co-curricular activities."*
- *"Collaborative partnerships with staff working towards a common goal."*

### Students

Students participate happily in school activities and display an appreciation for what the staff do for them. Through formal and informal opportunities, students are able to provide feedback to staff for improvement of their school. Some comments from students include:

- *"I think some good things about my school is that teachers teach us how to share, care for each person because everyone has a right. Another one is that we get offered lots of opportunities to do in and outside of school."*
- *"There is always something to do at lunch time. Our principal always says hello and does the best for our school St Monica's."*

### Parents

St Monica's values the involvement and engagement of parents in the school community. We understand and acknowledge that parents are the first educators of their children and we endeavour to work in partnership with them to embrace morals and values that will assist our students to become valued, active, contributing Christian citizens.

The charism of the founding order of religious sisters, "The Good Samaritans", still permeates the atmosphere and school culture today. This charism is grounded in care, service and Christian love for one another. There is particular care given to ensure that the dignity of each person is upheld and that difference is both embraced and celebrated. This charism also guides the school in its decision-making processes.

### Emotional well-being

The development of healthy self-esteem, emotional intelligence, resilience and positive behavior are part of our holistic approach to education. This social development of students is supported through:



- The implementation of policies and procedures including our “Peace and Good Behaviour” and “Anti-Bullying” Policies to encourage effective behavioural management, pastoral care and responses to alleged bullying incidents.
- The teaching of ‘LEARN’ behaviours for academic success and positive behavior.
- The use of a wide variety of teacher books and resources to support the teaching and acceptance of the anti-bullying message of the school.
- The participation in curriculum programs to promote life skills, confidence, resilience and positive attitudes.
- Use of ‘buddy’ arrangements which aim to develop positive and reciprocal relationships between older and younger students.
- The presentation of class weekly awards at assembly to recognise and celebrate the positive attributes and achievements of students.
- Participating in weekly ‘Spotted Awards’ where students are recognised for being spotted doing kind acts, showing thought for others and using initiative to make a positive difference in their school.
- The use of programs which promote personal safety.
- The provision of opportunities to encourage acceptance, belonging and a sense of communal pride.
- The provision of student counselling services to students if needed.
- Regular modelling and reminding students of the expectation of high standards of manners and courtesy.
- The provision of opportunities for the interaction of staff, students and parents in planned social occasions.

## **Parental Involvement**

### **Parents and Friends' Association**

St Monica’s has an active and enthusiastic Parents and Friends’ Association (P&F). The group works tirelessly to support the school financially to provide a high standard of resources and facilities for student access. The Association is an opportunity for parental input and discussion. It also serves as an avenue for social participation and engagement in the life of the school. Parents/careers regularly volunteer for tuck-shop, fundraising activities, social occasions and assisting teachers with small group student based activities at school.

### **In Class Assistance**

Parents/caregivers are encouraged to volunteer their time to assist with in-class activities such as reading and mathematics groups, cooking, art and craft and sports coaching. The school also has a dedicated group who assist with the running of the tuck-shop each week.

### **St Monica’s Board**

The School Board is an advisory board consisting of parent, staff and parish members. This group is involved in formulating school policies and assisting the Principal in



strategically planning for the school's future development and direction.

### 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

Workforce Composition	Total Teaching Staff	Total Non-teaching Staff	Total Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	16	9	1
Full-time equivalents	12.1	4.5	0.3

### Teacher Qualifications

Qualification	% of Teaching Staff
Doctoral / Post-Doctoral	0%
Masters	13%
Bachelor Degree	87%
Diploma	0%
Certificate	0%



## Professional Development

During the 2016 school year the following professional development in-services were attended by staff:

- Professional Learning Session – Spelling & Reading
- Consistency in Teacher Judgement - Writing
- Code of Conduct, Student Protection and Social Media Use
- Vision and Mission writing workshop
- Cyber smart Workshop
- Developing Professional Learning Teams
- Bishop's In-service Day
- Teacher effectiveness through explicit teaching
- Work on the school English program
- Teach Like a Champion techniques
- QELi – High Performing Learning Culture
- First Aid Training

School budget expenditure for Professional Learning for 2016: \$ 8514.00. Additional Professional Development is funded by Toowoomba Catholic Education.

## Average Staff Attendance

98.02%

## Staff Retention

66.67%

## Average Student Attendance Rate

92.42%

## Student Attendance for Each Year Level (expressed as %)

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
91.96	91.04	92.04	91.59	92.54	93.55	94.74

## Description of How Non-Attendance is managed by the School

Parents are required to notify the school of any absences – either by phone, fax, email or written note before 9 am each morning. Teachers mark the roll and make a note of absences both in the morning and afternoon. If a child is late, parents are asked to sign their child/children in at reception. If parents present their child/children to the classroom teacher as a late arrival, teachers direct the parent to the School Officer: Administration where the late arrival notice is recorded. If there is no



correspondence from the parent/guardian regarding their child/children's absence/late arrival by 9am, the School Officer: Administration endeavours to make phone contact with the family.

## National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Results

Year 3 Test Results				
	OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	STATE AVERAGE	Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark
Reading	414	426	420	93
Writing	368	421	397	100
Spelling	371	420	411	100
Grammar and Punctuation	364	436	433	86
Numeracy	387	402	397	93
Year 5 Test Results				
	OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	STATE AVERAGE	Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark
Reading	454	502	500	74
Writing	445	476	466	95
Spelling	455	493	486	89
Grammar and Punctuation	479	505	506	95
Numeracy	443	493	488	79

## Value Added

Teachers at St. Monica's School Oakey continually look to implement programs and follow processes that will add value to the educational experience of all students. Opportunities for children are sought to ensure a holistic education is offered to each student to meet individual learning needs.

In addition, our school endeavours to provide educational, cultural, physical, social and spiritual opportunities for all. We endeavour to provide a curriculum that reflects the interests of students in line with Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office and government initiatives and policies. Following are further examples of value adding in our school:



- **P&F Projects:** Donations towards sports equipment, library resources, computer equipment, buses for excursions and towards grounds development.
- **School Projects:** Continued Upgrade of Information Technology hardware and resources across the school – including a bank of iPads for student use; development of a sand pit area; purchase of musical equipment; purchase of furniture and the payment of student swimming lessons.

## Renewal and Improvement Process

School Renewal and Improvement at St Monica's is an on-going process of self-evaluation and reflection measured against a commonly agreed set of criteria under the Excellence in Catholic Education (EiCE) Framework. This process informs the annual action planning at school level by identifying areas of both strength and 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 4 Domain areas, namely: Catholic Life and Religious Education, Learning and Teaching, Leadership for School Improvement and Strategic Resourcing. Each of these domains has components (24 in total) which are reviewed on a five-year cyclical basis and plans for improvement are developed if necessary.

In 2016, the components of Students with additional learning needs, Use of resources and facilities, Cultural diversity, Professional relationships and team work, Curriculum structure and provision and Partnerships with the parish were reviewed through this process.

## Parent Satisfaction

Parent satisfaction is gauged through:

- Parents & Friends Meetings,
- social gatherings
- parent forums.

In addition to the above, surveys are used to assess student and parental satisfaction in order to identify areas of strength and areas of development. In 2015 an electronic survey developed and managed by RADII in partnership with Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office was used to gather student, teacher and parent data to assist the school in its renewal process.

Parent feedback shows high satisfaction with the quality of the teaching and learning in the school and the positive benefits that children experience. Parent comments validate that the school is valued and that the children are happy and learning. The following examples of parent responses indicate satisfaction with the school.

*"I am very happy with the standard of education from Saint Monica's. I feel my child is challenged and engaged. She is constantly having new opportunities available."*

*"Extremely impressed with the commencement of the extension program which is assisting students develop higher order thinking and processing skills."*

*"All involved in the school should be proud as it's a credit to all. Very obvious that school has strong leadership with its principal."*

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

