



# St Anne's Catholic Primary School Sarina

2022 Annual School Report



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

# St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

## Principal

John Ballinger-Oches

## Address

3 Range Road  
Sarina Qld 4737

## Total enrolments

170

## Year levels offered

Prep to Year 6

## Type of School:

Co-educational

## School Overview

St Anne's Catholic Primary School is located in the coastal town of Sarina about 30 minutes south of Mackay. It provides students from Prep to Year Six with a contemporary and well-balanced Catholic education and enjoys a strong partnership with the parish community at St Michael's. The student population remains relatively stable at approximately 170 students. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1925, their traditions are embedded in the life of the St Anne's. The school is well known for its family atmosphere. This is due to the welcoming nature of the students, staff and parents and the fact that emphasis is placed on the importance of family. Our Mission Statement stresses the need for partnerships to be forged between family and school. To fulfill this we are committed to all students and their families and have a strong indigenous enrolment. Parents are encouraged, as partners in this educational enterprise, to contribute time, energies and talents to furthering the aims of St Anne's Catholic Primary School. Our motto "Faith and Knowledge" summarises two key aspects of our learning community. Over recent years extensive building and refurbishment has been completed and state of the art facilities ensure students and staff have the resources and space they require to maximise learning outcomes. In addition to our quality academic programs, students are able to participate in a range of academic, cultural and sporting activities.

More information on our school can be accessed from [myschool.edu.au](http://myschool.edu.au)

## Curriculum Offerings

### Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Anne's Catholic Primary School, established in the Mercy tradition, has a strong rapport with St Michael's Parish. Our Catholic Identity is embedded in our curriculum offerings with Religious Education being one of our Learning Areas. St Anne's is a single stream school.

### Extra Curricula Activities

At St Anne's, we believe that many experiences allow students to develop skills in an exciting and dynamic environment while building skillsets in the areas of getting along, persistence, organisation, resilience, and confidence.

During 2022 some impacts continued to be felt across the school due to COVID-19. Most extra-curricular activities were able to resume in line with government guidelines, as we navigated the pandemic, however impacts were still felt.

Each term students were selected to participate in Extended Learning Days, which offered challenging activities aimed at extending knowledge and experience.

**Religious:** Parish Masses, Catholic Education Week, Liturgical Prayer Celebrations, Feast Day Celebrations, Sacramental Program, Hymns, Outreach to Seafarers, Outreach to St Vincent de Paul Society, Outreach to Caritas, Mission Fair.

**Educational:** Under 8s Week, ICAS Competitions, Book Week, Extended Learning Days (Year 6), Transition Days to high school (Year 6), Safety Circus (Personal Safety), School Camps for Years 4, 5 and 6.

**Cultural:** ANZAC Day March, Remembrance Day, NAIDOC Week Celebrations, Whitsunday Voices, Sarina State High School and the St Patrick's/Mercy College bands and choir and annual end of year performances are some of the cultural pursuits of the school.

**Physical:** Swimming Program, Wednesday afternoon Rugby League and Thursday afternoon Netball, Challenge Cup Competition for Rugby League and Netball.

**Environmental:** Reef Guardian School, Year Level Gardens, Landcare Field Day, worm farming, various recycling initiatives, Specialist Teachers – Visual Arts, Music and Physical Education lessons.

**Student Physical & Mental Health:** Daily brain breaks, Lunchbox Club, Social Skills Education, The Responsible Thinking Program, Life Education Van, Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum and Visits, The Resilience Project and the school is working towards becoming being a trauma informed school through training with Berry Street.

## How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

All learning spaces at St Anne's have interactive whiteboards and most have Vivis which are used to enhance teaching and learning processes. Interactive TVs and sound bars have been installed in the Meeting Room and the Library providing opportunities for classes to connect with outside educational organisations such as Caritas.

Teachers also have exclusive use of laptops and iPads to further enhance effective pedagogy. This year, more Chrome Books and teacher laptops were purchased to improve the ratio of devices to students. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are embedded in our curriculum offerings as well as various associated skills being taught to students from Prep to Year 6 improving digital literacies. This year we had the services of a Technology Assistant at the school which has provided efficient technology support to staff and students. We continued to subscribe to Sunshine Online, MathsOnline, Fitzroy Readers, Ed Alive, Firefly and SeeSaw to assist students to use multimedia skills in learning. Scootle was used as a resource to complement all learning areas. Classes also used Overdrive and SORA to enhance the reading program. Classes also further developed skills around the Google Suite of Apps.

## Social Climate

### Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

As a Catholic school, our values are embedded into our curriculum offerings and permeate through all aspects of our school life. Visitors and families often comment upon the friendly, caring environment that exists and the level of pastoral care exhibited. Evidence of this is seen in our day-to-day interactions and networks with other schools and in our strong relationships within our parish and wider community. At St Anne's we invite and challenge learners to be and become reflective and self-directed as together, we journey with Christ in our ever-changing world. Religion is a distinct Learning Area. Our Religious beliefs are also integrated throughout other learning areas and the life of the school. A qualified counsellor provides support to the students, staff and families in a manner which enhances the Catholic Identity of the school and contributes to the goals of Catholic Education. Support staff from Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton visit staff and students to further enhance our Catholic School Identity. Our School Counsellor works two days a week and is very well utilised throughout the school implementing individual and small group counselling services. Regular school assemblies are important in developing the social and cultural life of the school and are led by Year Six students. St Anne's encourages a growth mindset in all learning areas; students understand that mistakes are valued thus contributing to a positive learning culture.

### Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Our school has continued to implement Diocesan policies on Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff with respect to ICTs. The school regularly communicates to parents and the school community about cyber safety issues. We also have appropriate policies in place to deal with the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices during school hours. Our school has social/emotional learning programs in place to assist students in guarding against bullying at school and can access professionals to assist. The school is proactive in responding to parental concerns involving the misuse of technology. All Diocesan and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis. As a community we also highlighted anti-bullying through signing a pledge and participating in the National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence.

### Strategies for involving parents in their child's education

Our School Board and P&F Association are two organisations that contribute in a very positive way towards the effective running of our school. The School Board works effectively in relation to school policy and in providing solid support for the principal. The P&F Association is active within the school and wider community aiming to build parent engagement and raising much-needed funds for the school. The 'Just One Thing' campaign continues to ask families to list ways they can be engaged in the life of St Anne's. Communication with parents is regular and varied – these include weekly newsletters, emails, SMS, school website, Facebook page and some class produced newsletters.

Our school very much encourages parents to attend information sessions provided by the school and as well inviting participation and engagement through the following:

**Social:** Fundraising, Garden Party, School Disco, Tuckshop, End of Year Concert, Mother's Day and Father's Day Stalls.

**Religious:** School Masses and Liturgies, Feast Day Celebrations, Mission Fair and Sacramental Programs in conjunction with St Michael's Parish.

**Committees:** P&F FOCUS Group, School Board, Year 6 Graduation and Grants Committee.

**Educational:** Under 8s Day, School Camps, Book Week, Book Fair involvement and Excursions.

**Partnerships:** Parent Information Nights for each year level, Student-Led Interviews (Parent/Carer, Teacher & Child) at the end of Terms 1 and 3 and Written Reports at the end of Terms 2 and 4.

## Reducing the school's environmental footprint

St Anne's is almost a fully refurbished school and therefore old buildings with a 'heavy environmental cost' are few. St Anne's is an established Reef Guardian School where issues relating to the reef receive direct classroom teaching. There are practical strategies which the school has employed such as school gardens, Year 2 Containers for Cash initiative, monitoring of waste and turning off lights and air-cons when leaving a room. We have reduced paper consumption by embracing different methods of delivering notes and newsletters. These initiatives align with the Catholic Social Teaching of Care for Our Common Home. We have successfully implemented online procedures around ordering both tuckshop and student uniforms and continue to maintain our solar panels to assist in reducing our environmental footprint.

## Characteristics of the Student Body

St Anne's Catholic Primary School is located in the coastal town of Sarina. The school itself is physically situated behind St Michael's Church on Range Road, Sarina. The student population of the school remains stable. St Anne's is the only Catholic school in this district with students from other religious denominations also enrolled.

The district economy revolves around the sugar industry, ethanol distillation, coal mining, export of coal, some light industry associated with the rail transport of coal from the adjacent hinterland, small crops, and the usual commercial enterprises associated with a small rural community. The major industries are impacted heavily upon by supply and demand factors with this community swinging from periods of relatively stable employment and income to rapid unemployment and loss of income.

In combination with this, the school population also includes a proportion of children of various cultural backgrounds, including Indigenous and other nationalities with some families speaking their language of origin at home.

## Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2022 was 87.23%.

## Management of non-attendance

The marking of rolls is checked on a twice-daily basis, both morning and afternoon. If parents do not notify the school of the absence of their child, then they are sent an SMS in line with Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) protocols. Then, on a weekly basis, the APRE looks for trends in absenteeism. The data around this is then discussed at a Leadership Team level.

## Staffing Information

### Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	18.00	26.00	1.00
Full-time equivalents	15.67	15.18	0.47

## Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	
Masters	12.50%
Bachelor Degree	87.50%
Diploma	
Certificate	

## Major Professional Development Initiatives

Our whole focus remains the creation and maintenance of a healthy and positive school environment. Literacy and numeracy are constantly high on our PD and staff meeting agendas. Priorities for 2022 were as follows:

- Student Protection
- Interrogation and evaluation of our current Learning Support Model
- Workplace Health & Safety Staff Code of Conduct Technology and compliance
- First Aid refresher
- Bishop's Inservice Day THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL – Evangelisation and faith formation; Prayer and Worship; Religious identity and culture; Social justice and action
- Monitoring Learning Growth – Spelling
- Berry Street – Trauma Aware Training
- Key Word Sign (KWS) to support the communication and language development of students with communication difficulties.
- Contemplative Prayer & Meditation
- Religious Education Curriculum Dialogue (Red Ex)
- Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Charism
- School Priorities for 2022
- Autism QLD
- SPELD
- InitialLit
- NCCD Moderation
- Interrogation and evaluation of our School Improvement Plan.

The percentage of teachers engaged in professional development was 100%.

## Total funds expended on Professional Development

The total of funds expended on teacher professional development was \$19,600.

## Average Staff Attendance and Retention

The average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to five days, was 86.58%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 95%.

## School Income

<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

(The School information below is available on the My School website).

**Find a school**

Search by school name

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector  Government  
 Non-government

## National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy Results

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for Years 3 and 5 are available via the My School website at [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au).

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of our school's NAPLAN results.

## Key Student Outcomes and Value Added

Our Mission Statement is the driving force behind all decisions we make and the way in which we approach education. We celebrate the God given gifts in our students and our staff and utilise these gifts to inspire learning and excellence in education. We have had an increase in Year 3 and Year 5 data in the domains of Reading, Writing and Spelling and Year 5 Grammar and Punctuation. We are working towards continuing to improve our literacy and numeracy results through strategic curriculum planning across the year levels to improve performance data.

We implement CEDR initiatives in a way that best suits our school's needs. We have strong networking opportunities amongst colleagues. Resources are continually updated to accommodate the Australian Curriculum and current pedagogy. We ensure adjustments are provided so all children are able to successfully access the curriculum. Teachers, in all year levels, set high expectations for their students throughout the year.

## Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

### Strategic progress in 2022

#### Catholic Ethos and Identity

- To enhance the Catholic identity for students through the development and implementation of meaningful engagement with our charism, social justice (Catholic Social Teaching) and focus virtues.

#### Effective Teaching and Learning

- To enhance the school-wide analysis and discussion of systematically collected data on student learning.
- To develop and improve student competency in writing.

#### Pastoral Support and Wellbeing

- To enhance and support student well-being.

#### Leadership, Partnerships and Resourcing

- To enhance the reputation of St Anne's Catholic Primary School within the wider Sarina community.

### Strategic Priorities for 2023

- To enhance and strengthen the Catholic Identity of our school.

- To review and adapt our teaching and learning approaches to better support the needs of all our students.
- To enhance student safety, wellbeing and engagement for learning.
- To strengthen the partnership of St Anne's Catholic Primary School with the wider Sarina community.

## **Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction**

Feedback suggests that the school has a good reputation within the local community. Upon enrolment, parents are asked about their choice of school – this reputation is often cited as a reason for the seeking enrolment along with the pastoral care offered to families at St Anne's Catholic Primary School. The school is well-established and does have a very good profile within Sarina. Support for the school is from the P&F FOCUS Group and Board is very strong and positive. Further substantiation has come through the data from our last Satisfaction Survey and School Review and Improvement Report showing that parents, staff and students are happy with the school.