


St Philomena School Annual Report 2024

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Principal's Foreword

Introduction

At St Philomena School, we value education for education's sake, and not merely as a means to something else. A true education includes so much more than mere knowledge and includes the formation of a child's character.

That is why we have high standards in behavior, manners and courtesy. In many ways, our education philosophy might be termed "old school", yet at the same time modern methods and technologies are employed to the degree that they are useful. Nevertheless, St Philomena's is not about technologies and innovative methods; it is about the children. It is about the development of their individual personalities in such a way as to make full use of the various gifts God has given them, and to share these talents later for the betterment of society.

Our Vision

Spiritually vigorous Catholic young men and women who are intelligent, cultured, healthy, vocationally prepared, social minded and patriotic, formed by a well-rounded education.

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Our Mission

To cooperate with divine grace for the formation of the true and perfect Christian.

School History

In early 1992 under the auspices of the Society of Saint Pius X, a small group of parents and friends began the monumental task of establishing a Catholic School in Brisbane. Through great generosity eleven rural acres at 61 Koplick Rd, Park Ridge, were purchased in February 1993.

St Philomena School opened as a primary school on Tuesday 2 February 1999.

The secondary school began in 2012 with separate composite classes of Years 8 and 9 for the boys and girls. Year 10 was added in 2013, Year 11 in 2014 and Year 12 in 2015.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the teachers, and the constant support of the parents involved, the secondary school each year went from strength to strength so that the graduation of the first Year 12 class in 2015 will be ever remembered as a special milestone in the life of St Philomena School.

Our school at a glance

School Sector

Independent

Total Enrolments

247

Year Levels Offered

Preparatory – Year 12

Co-educational or Single Sex

Co-educational

Characteristics of the student body

Girls 129

Boys 118

Full-time equivalent enrolments 247

Indigenous students 0

Language background other than English 25%

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings:

- Catholic education (Prep – Year 12)
- Latin (Years 5 – 12)
- Rhetoric (Year 5 -12)
- Classical historical studies (Years 1 – 12)
- Classical literature (Prep – Year 12)
- Distance based education classes (Years 11 & 12 Physics and Year 12 Chemistry)
- Classical music (Prep – Year 12)

How computers are used to assist learning

Our computer lab provides our children with the opportunity of becoming proficient in Microsoft Office software, research skills and several practical programs, such as Typing Club and photo imaging. A staff member-issued laptop and a data projector in each classroom, assists teachers to use technology wherever they need in their daily teaching and learning. Our senior students are also issued with a laptop which enables them to use technology in various aspects of their coursework at school and home.

Our school at a glance

| Extra-curricular activities | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Netball | Book week |
| Basketball | School play |
| Futsal | Corpus Christi procession |
| Swimming | Excursions and field trips |
| Cross country running | Music (singing, piano, cello, ensemble and theory) |
| | Debating (Queensland Debating Union) |

| Social climate |
|---|
| <p>St Philomena's has an excellent record when it comes to student behaviour. Parents agree that the environment is a safe one, where bullying is not a common problem. Where complaints arise, the staff takes immediate action and communicates effectively with the parents of all parties concerned.</p> <p>The school succeeds in instilling a high degree of Christian courtesy in the children in regard to their superiors (teaching and administrative staff, and adult visitors) and their peers.</p> <p>The students have easy access to a number of priests, trained in pastoral care, and well versed in the school's duty of care policies.</p> |

| Parental Involvement |
|--|
| <p>St Philomena's prides itself on its record of communication between teachers and parents. By using a homework diary with daily entries, parents can supervise their children's homework and advise the teachers of any particular difficulties. Teachers are further available after school for informal meetings with individual parents to advise them of their children's progress.</p> <p>The principal, moreover, has an open-door policy whereby parents can drop in to see him at any time of the school day to discuss any issues that may have arisen.</p> |

| School Income Broken Down by Funding Source |
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| Please refer to the My School website http://www.myschool.edu.au under School finances. |

Our staff profile

Staff Composition

| | |
|---|------|
| Teaching staff | 22 |
| Full-time equivalent teaching staff | 21.0 |
| Non-teaching staff | 15 |
| Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff | 10.8 |

Qualifications of all teachers

| Qualification | Number of classroom teachers holding this |
|---------------------|---|
| Doctorate or higher | - |
| Masters | 1 |
| Bachelor's degree | 14 |
| Diploma | 7 |
| Certificate | - |

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2024 was \$17,043.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows: Class observations and feedback; goal setting and monitoring; mentoring; curriculum development; educational leadership; senior school development.
- The Circe Institute intensive with Andrew Kern
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2024 was 100%.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary classroom teaching staff and school leaders the average staff attendance rate was 96.67% in 2024.

Our staff profile

| Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year. | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Number of permanent teaching staff at end of previous year | Number of these staff retained in the beginning of the current year (the program year) | % retention rate |
| 15 | 13 | 87% |
| From the end of the 2023 school year, 76% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2024 school year. | | |

Value added and School community satisfaction

Average student attendance rate (%) for the whole school

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2024 was 94.4%.

Average student attendance rate (%) for each year level

| Year level | Average student attendance rate (%) |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Prep | 94.4% |
| Year 1 | 93.5% |
| Year 2 | 94.3% |
| Year 3 | 94.6% |
| Year 4 | 93.9% |
| Year 5 | 95.7% |
| Year 6 | 94.4% |
| Year 7 | 94.8% |
| Year 8 | 94.0% |
| Year 9 | 94.0% |
| Year 10 | 94.2% |
| Year 11 | 94.3% |
| Year 12 | 94.1% |

Management of non-attendance

- Parents advise the school of absences via school land line, school e-mail or dedicated mobile phone
- Absences and reason for absence are captured electronically by administration staff in the morning before the class roll is taken
- Class teachers completes the roll morning and afternoon
- Students marked absent by the class teacher with no previous advice from parents are flagged. Administration staff contact parents for confirmation and reason
- Medical certificates are required for absences over 2 days
- Explained and unexplained absences are recorded on the term report card

Value added and School community satisfaction

| NAPLAN results for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in 2024 | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Please refer to the My School website http://www.myschool.edu.au | | |
| Year | Average Score (School) | Average Score (National) |
| Reading | | |
| Year 3 | 404 | 404 |
| Year 5 | 520 | 492 |
| Year 7 | 582 | 535 |
| Year 9 | 629 | 565 |
| Writing | | |
| Year 3 | 430 | 416 |
| Year 5 | 454 | 485 |
| Year 7 | 560 | 540 |
| Year 9 | 590 | 574 |
| Spelling | | |
| Year 3 | 415 | 401 |
| Year 5 | 493 | 486 |
| Year 7 | 585 | 540 |
| Year 9 | 600 | 567 |
| Grammar and Punctuation | | |
| Year 3 | 414 | 409 |
| Year 5 | 517 | 498 |
| Year 7 | 635 | 537 |
| Year 9 | 657 | 555 |
| Numeracy | | |
| Year 3 | 412 | 404 |
| Year 5 | 515 | 489 |
| Year 7 | 583 | 540 |
| Year 9 | 604 | 565 |

Value added and School community satisfaction

| Apparent Retention Rate Year 10 to 12 | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| | Year 10 Base (2 years ago) | Year 12 | Apparent Retention Rate % |
| Number of Students | 23 | 16 | 70% |

| Year 12 Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort 2024 | |
|--|------|
| Number of students awarded a Senior Education Profile | 16 |
| Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement | 0 |
| Number of students who received an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) | 16 |
| Number of students or are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT) | 0 |
| Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications | 1 |
| Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12 | 16 |
| Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD) | - |
| Percentage of Year 12 students who received an ATAR above 90% | 42% |
| Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification | 100% |
| Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer | 65% |

| Value added |
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| Any profits that the school may make through its income are put back into educational facilities, and particularly the new buildings currently being erected. |

Value added and School community satisfaction

Post -school Destination Information

Post-school destination survey was conducted by contacting alumni and enquiring about their destination post school.

| School Year 2024 | Number of Students in each category | Percentage of Students in each category |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| University (degree) | 9 | 56% |
| VET total (Cert IV+ III, I-II, apprenticeship, traineeship) | 2 | 12.5% |
| Working full-time | 2 | 12.5% |
| Working part-time/casual | 3 | 19% |
| Seeking work | - | - |

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

With a high degree of academic achievement and character formation, parents, teachers and students are happy to be involved in St Philomena School.