



# St Patrick's Catholic Primary School Emerald

2022 Annual School Report



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

# **St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald**

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

## **Principal**

Mr. Chris Ferguson

## **Address**

41 Yamala Street  
Emerald Qld 4720

## **Total enrolments**

515

## **Year levels offered**

Prep – Year 6

## **Type of School:**

Co-educational

## **School Overview**

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School Emerald is situated in the Central Highlands of Queensland. This area is influenced by both vibrant mining and agricultural industries. Founded in 1902 by the Presentation Sisters, we are inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ and by our school motto to be "Faithful and True". We maintain strong links with St Patrick's Catholic parish community as well as with local Catholic schools - St Brigid's Primary and Marist College. St Patrick's is a three-stream school, Prep to Year 6, with approximately 490 students. Our school boasts beautifully designed facilities and classroom learning places with spacious and well-maintained school grounds. We aim to develop within our students the ideals of academic excellence and personal growth, which are centred around the deepening of our Christian faith. This vision is the centre point of all relationships and learning that occur within our community. An essential aspect of student learning and development is the relationship between school and home, and we welcome parental support and participation in the school community. St Patrick's Wellbeing program aims to develop a school culture where all students feel safe and secure. All students are involved in our Robotics and dance programs, while students in Years 4 to 6 have access to an instrumental music program. Our extensive range of extracurricular activities includes debating, bands, choirs, Readers' Cup Competition, and sporting teams in netball, rugby league and touch football. School camps, excursions and social justice activities, including Mini Vinnies and visits to the local aged care home, are important aspects of our school.

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

## **Curriculum Offerings**

### **Distinctive Curriculum Offerings**

St Patrick's is a three-stream school. School-based 'MJR- Making Jesus Real' and 'Peer Support' programs have been implemented across all year levels.

St Patrick's has strong ties with Marist College Emerald, and many joint curriculum and community activities are coordinated between both schools.

The school is also strongly tied to the St Patrick's parish community.

A Robotics program is implemented for students in Years 4, 5 and 6.

The school is actively involved in the Readers' Cup competition, where they have been regional and state finalists.

The school is also involved in a Primary Schools Debating competition.

St Patrick's competed in a Math Tournament for Year 5 and 6 students. Four teams represented the school, with one of the four teams placing first.

A Mini Vinnies' social justice group is well supported.

A strong P.E. program exists with an emphasis on netball, rugby league and touch football.

### **Extra Curricula Activities**

St Patrick's School has an instrumental music program which is offered from Years 4 to 6. St Patrick's has a junior and a senior band, and both compete in local and regional eisteddfods.

Junior touch football is also coordinated through the school with many teams from Year 3 to Year 6 playing touch football on a Wednesday evening. This competition is run in conjunction with the Emerald Touch Association.

The school is involved in the Central Highlands' Eisteddfod. The children participate in choral and verse speaking competitions.

Year 5 and Year 6 children are involved in camps to Fairbairn Dam and The Caves, respectively.

In-school athletics training is provided during Terms 2 and 3 for interested children.

St Patrick's School offers a school choir program which is conducted during school by our music specialist. St Patrick's has a junior and senior choir.

In Terms 2 and 4, all classes attend dance sessions with instructors from the 'Footsteps' dance company.

A school social function is held every term, for example, a coffee van, information evening or school disco.

Our Year 6 children visit the local home for the elderly on a regular basis to run a coffee shop.

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

All classrooms, including our Prep classrooms, are equipped with interactive touch ViewSonic boards, with internet access. Three class sets of iPads are currently being used for classroom studies across all Learning Areas and are accessible in our library. Chromebooks are also utilised by classes to access Google Classroom, to support online learning. School laptops are currently located in our Robotics Rooms. An IT Support person is employed by the school for two days a week. The Robotics program caters for all students from Prep to Year 6, utilising the Scratch and EV3 robot programs. Students in Years 5 and 6 are invited to join our St Patrick's Code Club every Friday morning 8:00 – 9:00am. During this time, students are encouraged to analyse and solve problems whilst learning new computational skills.

## Social Climate

### Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

St Patrick's employs a team of teachers in our inclusive practices area. The team comprises one full-time inclusive practices coordinator, three teachers who work together in case management and one dedicated English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher part-time. Our inclusive practices team works closely with staff, families, and children to implement individual and classroom-based programs that support learning.

The 'MJR- Making Jesus Real', 'Peer Support' and 'Daniel Morcombe' programs are incorporated into the school curriculum and school life for every child.

The Resilience Project has been implemented to ensure all students have an understanding of mental health strategies to assist them in dealing with everyday situations and relationships.

A school counsellor is employed for three days each week, addressing children's needs.

A 'Mini Vinnies' group, which is led by our Year 6 children, addresses social justice issues in our community.

### Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

St Patrick's has implemented Catholic Education Office policies on Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff. The school regularly communicates to parents/carers and the school community about cyber safety issues. Our local police come each year and speak with our Year 6 children about cyber safety. We also have a policy in place to deal with the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices. Our school has social/emotional learning programs, 'Making Jesus Real' and 'Daniel Morcombe', in place to assist our children in guarding against bullying at school. Children are instructed on cyber safety during their weekly computer study lessons with specialist IT teachers. All staff members are kept up to date about developments in this area. All system and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis at St Patrick's, Emerald.

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

St Patrick's School Board meets the first Tuesday of the month and develops policies and procedures that assist in the successful operation of our school. Our Parents and Friends Association meets the first Tuesday of the month after the Board meeting and plays a very active role in developing our school environment and resources. Diocesan, Parents and Friends and Board conferences are offered every second year and are well attended by our members. Many parents/carers are involved in training sporting teams which compete in town competitions. Our school website and Facebook page provide opportunities for families to stay abreast of their children's education.

### Reducing the school's environmental footprint

Our senior and junior toilets use rainwater for flushing purposes. All classrooms and learning areas have reverse-cycle air conditioners, and these are set to the most energy-efficient temperatures. The school's oval is watered by bore water. Hand dryers in boys' and girls' toilets operate on cold air. Over 300 solar panels have been installed at St Patrick's to assist in offsetting our electricity usage. St. Patrick's has recently registered for and been given approval to participate in the "Containers for Change" initiative. St Patrick's recycles paper and cardboard separately with different coloured bins at lunchtimes for different recyclable materials.

## Characteristics of the Student Body

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald is located in Central Queensland and is part of the Central Highlands region. Our region is rich in minerals and agriculture, thriving on irrigation sourced from water storage on the Nogoa and Comet rivers. We claim the largest sapphire-producing fields in the Southern Hemisphere. We are a three-stream school with approximately 515 students. Our student body consists of local and rural residents. Students travel by bus and by private vehicle from towns within the Central Highlands region, including the Gemfields, Blackwater, Comet and Capella.

Enrolments are currently quite stable but our school population can, at times, be quite transient. St Patrick's has a high number of ESL enrolments. An ESL teacher is employed to work with these children.

### Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2022 was 91.42%.

### Management of non-attendance

A text is sent to every family with a student who has an unexplained absence for that day. Records are regularly checked and reported to the Catholic Education Office or to Child Safety for extreme cases.

## Staffing Information

### Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	38.00	22.00	0.00
Full-time equivalents	34.90	12.49	0.00

### Qualifications of all teachers

Qualification – highest level of attainment	Percentage of staff with this Qualification
Doctoral / Post-doctoral	
Masters	
Bachelor Degree	100%
Diploma	
Certificate	

### Major Professional Development Initiatives

Leading Mathematics Education Project - St Patrick's is participating in this ongoing project. The goal is to develop and form high-performance Mathematics coaches, leading to outstanding Mathematics learning in every classroom in project schools.

The Resilience Project – St Patrick's has implemented this project to ensure all students have a knowledge of mental health strategies to assist them in dealing with everyday situations and relationships. This will enable all students to discuss and use the key principles of GEM (Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness) to build resilience.

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 \$58,500.

## Average Staff Attendance and Retention

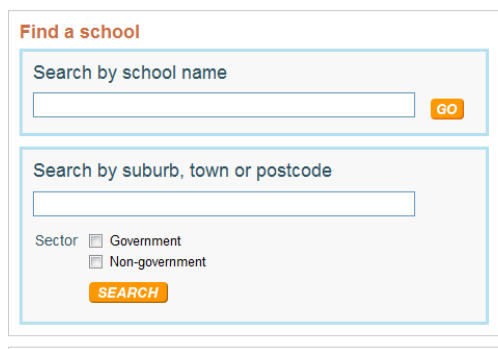
The average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to five days, was 91.06%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 91.67%.

## School Income

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

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



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Find a school". It contains two search boxes: "Search by school name" with a "GO" button, and "Search by suburb, town or postcode" with a "SEARCH" button. Below the second search box, there are two radio buttons for "Sector": "Government" and "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

We are continually developing ways to use data to drive quality teaching practice. Students have continued to achieve good results in Years 3 and 5 testing with most students achieving at or above expected levels. Standardised reading and mathematics testing is completed on all students to track their progress and give teachers direction for their planning. St Patrick's continues to use this data to identify areas of need within the school by way of resourcing and professional development. We are continuing to engage with our reading data from the Diagnostic Reading Assessment (DRA) testing. Each year this data is improving with an ever-increasing percentage of our students at or above the expected level for their age.

## Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

### Strategic progress in 2022

**Goal:** To improve student learning outcomes in Mathematics.



**Student-focused Target:** By the end of 2022, students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 cohorts will at least meet or exceed the PAT-Mathematics Norm Growth as measured by change in scaled scores.

**Key Improvement Strategies:**

- Provide professional development by Educational Consultant Di Siemon on The 6 Big Ideas in Number
- Set Learning Goals and Success Criteria for each concept introduced
- Build teacher capacity through coaching as part of the Leading Mathematics Education Program
- Reflect on pedagogical practices that support student improvement
- Utilize the Maths 300 site
- Provide more opportunities for students to participate in the Maths Enrichment Program
- Facilitate meetings between teachers and Assistant Principal Curriculum (APC) to identify areas of student growth
- Utilise staff meetings to focus on student growth and celebrate these successes
- Participate in Monitoring Learning Growth (MLG)
- Implement walkthroughs as part of our feedback culture.

After reflection upon 2022's data, these insights emerged:

- The key strategic focus for teacher capacity in recent years has been 'Knowing the Learner' and 'Knowing the Curriculum'
- The focus on collective teacher efficacy through professional conversations on Big Ideas of Mathematics and making a difference with consistent pedagogies in Mathematics resulted in meaningful change in data
- The use of regular diagnostic assessments to collect Maths data and time spent in analysing and responding to this data has been beneficial to student learning
- The staff and leadership team have built up teacher literacy in PAT-M data.

As a school, our data improved, achieving our goal of improving student learning outcomes in mathematics. Two of the four focus cohorts achieved their targets, with the remaining two cohorts still working towards the growth required.

### Strategic Priorities for 2023

**Goal:** To improve student learning outcomes in Reading by providing quality feedback.

**Student-focused Target:** By the end of 2023, students will be above the diocesan average for DRA.

**Key Improvement Strategies:**

- Provide professional development by External Consultant about Responsive Teaching
- Order of instructions given by teachers
- Conduct a Mini attention audit of classrooms
- Focus on lesson design and delivery
- Build teacher capacity through coaching
- Reflect on pedagogical practices that support student improvement
- Provide students with techniques for success
- Facilitate meetings between teachers and APC to identify areas of student growth
- Utilise staff meetings to focus on student growth and celebrate these successes
- Implement walkthroughs as part of our feedback culture.

### Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

Families and the wider community on the whole, appear happy with the education St Patrick's School is providing for their children. Our School Board and Parents and Friends Association continue to work well with the staff of St Patrick's to provide a holistic education for our children. We received positive feedback through our National School Improvement Tool parent satisfaction surveys.