



# Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

## Toowoomba

Catholic co-educational primary school  
Diocese of Toowoomba

### Annual report 2017

<b>Address</b>	PO Box 6356 2 Ascot Street Toowoomba QLD 4352		<b>Phone number</b>	07 4634 1922	
<b>email</b>	lourdes@twb.catholic.edu.au		<b>Principal</b>	Christopher Golightly	
<b>Year levels</b>	Prep-Year 6		<b>Enrolment</b>	394	
<b>Co-educational or single sex</b>				co-educational	
<b>Boarders</b>	no	<b>Outside hours school care</b>	yes	<b>Vacation care</b>	no
<b>Contact person for information about the school and school policies</b>			Christopher Golightly		

### The school's mission

Our Lady of Lourdes is a Catholic School...

- where God is the centre of all we do
- where we live our faith
- where children can work, and play in a safe and caring environment
- where the gifts of all are encouraged to grow
- where participation is, what counts
- where fun, laughter and enjoyment are important
- where people listen to and care about one another and what they do
- where the partnership between school and home is valued
- where we respect one another
- where friendships grow
- where quality teaching and learning prepares children for the challenges of Secondary Education and Life.

## Distinctive curriculum offerings

### Curriculum delivery

Curriculum is delivered in a manner that reflects the needs of our students and ensures meaningful learning experiences. Staff at Our Lady of Lourdes plan, assess and report by following ACARA and QCAA syllabus documents and the Toowoomba Religious Education Curriculum. This includes following Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office policy and procedures which includes using the Diocesan Learning Profile for planning and reporting. Further, Religious Education and the Religious Life of the School is the focal point of our school community and is integrated into our daily routine so that a Christian atmosphere is fostered as a way of life.

### Digital Technology

Computers, interactive Smart Boards, interactive TVs, class sets of iPads and laptops and associated software are integrated throughout the curriculum. Teachers and students view the use of technology as part of their daily teaching and learning. Basic computer skills for year levels are outlined in an ICT scope and sequence document. Further, these technologies are essential tools in developing, maintaining and extending students' information literacy.

### Additional support

Every effort is made to ensure every child is supported to reach their full potential. Priority budgeting is provided to increase Learning Support Teacher and Teacher Aide assistance as well as recognising the need to extend students and provide opportunities for them to demonstrate their optimum level of ability. The school also employs a Literacy/Numeracy teacher for 3 days per week to assist with lower primary literacy development and mathematics extension for Years 4-6.

## Extra-curricular activities

These activities complement the everyday curriculum experiences offered to our children.

- celebration for school feast day
- school camps for Year 5 (3 days) and Year 6 (5 days)
- concerts for Parish elders
- interschool sport for Year 5 and 6
- Year 4 Gala Sports Days - Terms 1, 2 and 3
- Gymnastics Program – Prep
- specialist indoor sport opportunities
- leadership groups for senior students – Mini Vinnies, Environment, Sport, Cultural, Fundraising and Year Book
- fundraising activities for Caritas, Catholic Mission and St Vincent de Paul
- school concerts
- Lourdes Got Talent (every two years)
- school musical (every two years)
- annual speaking festival
- Maths challenge
- chess club
- University of New South Wales Math, English and Science competitions (Years 4 to 6)
- athletics coaching before and after school
- tennis coaching - before and after school
- class excursions - Prep-Year 6
- Reader's Cup
- swimming programs at local indoor heated pool complex each semester

- Language Other than English – German – taught across all year levels
- You Can Do It program

The emphasis at Our Lady of Lourdes is on participation. All children are encouraged to ‘have a go’ to become the best they can be.

## Social climate (including pastoral care and student behaviour support)

Our school acknowledges that parents are the first educators of their children. As a school, we support, encourage and nurture the development of the whole child. We provide many opportunities for the wider school community to be part of the teaching, learning and celebration process as our children grow and develop.

In supporting the social development of our children and wider community we

- invite all community members to our weekly prayer assembly
- involve parents and community member in class liturgies and culminating learning activities
- organise our students in ‘buddy systems’ where our older students are ‘buddied’ with younger students for games, reading and social support
- incorporate the ‘You Can Do It’ program into the school curriculum and activities to encourage the foundational skills for success – persistence, organisation, confidence and getting along
- value respect – respect for self and for one another.
- organise interschool gala days with other Catholic primary schools in town
- recognise all Year 6 children as school leaders; these children fulfil many leadership tasks during their final year at the school involving aspects of service to the school and wider community involving activities which are by nature focused on pastoral, environmental, peer support and social characteristics
- each year the Parents and Friends Association organise ‘social activities’ for the parent body that are aimed at building community eg Welcome Barbecue and Christmas Concert.

### Positive behaviours and anti-bullying

The community of Our Lady of Lourdes supports the recently developed Positive Behaviour and Anti-bullying policies. Students and parents are reminded of the school's response to bullying through the school newsletters, website and classroom activities.

Students are encouraged to speak to a responsible adult if they themselves feel intimidated or are aware of incidents of bullying. The school has three Student Protection Contacts whom the children can speak to. Classroom teachers are also made aware of their responsibilities through regular student protection professional development. Parents and students are reminded to contact their child's teacher for any concerns.

Serious behavioural issues are raised with the Special Needs Committee and principal. The school has weekly access to a School Counsellor. Once bullying incidents are identified, all persons involved move through the staged process as outlined in the school's Positive Behaviour and Anti-bullying policies.

These strategies ensure that we are developing the social and emotional wellbeing of our students.

## Characteristics of the student body

Our Lady of Lourdes has two classes in each year level from Prep through to Year Six, accommodating both boys and girls. The school community consists of students from a wide variety of socio-economic, cultural and religious backgrounds, with 72% of our students identifying as Catholic.

A number of our students are supported in the areas of Speech/Language, Intellectual Impairment, Social/Emotional, Physical Impairment, Medical Impairment and ASD.

Most of our students continue through to complete Year 6 at Our Lady of Lourdes.

## Parent/carer involvement

We recognise that clear and open communication between the school and home is vital to ensure that an optimum learning environment is maintained. Ways in which parents are involved in the Our Lady of Lourdes learning environment include

- beginning of the year class information nights
- twice yearly parent-teacher face to face reporting
- assistance with classroom activities
- helping with sport activities and motor development activities
- participation in school camps and excursions
- P&F monthly meetings and subcommittees eg grounds committee
- attendance at school assemblies, masses, liturgies, end of unit culminating activities and other special celebrations
- School Board membership
- tuckshop volunteer
- school banking
- completion of school surveys and other data collection devices
- Volunteers' Morning Tea
- parent-run playgroup, meeting once a week

We value the interest, talents and gifts parents and carers bring to our school.

## 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](http://www.myschool.edu.au).

## Staff

### Workforce composition

	Total teaching staff	Total non-teaching staff	Indigenous staff
Headcount	23	15	2
Full-time equivalents	20	7.3	1.5

### Teacher qualifications

Qualification	% of teaching
Doctoral / Post-Doctoral	0%
Masters	19%
Bachelor Degree	52%
Diploma	29%
Certificate	0%

### Average staff attendance

96%

### Staff retention

92%

### Professional Development (participation and expenditure)

2017 School Budget Allocation: \$2,459

The following information is an overview of staff participation in professional development at OLOL Primary School for 2017.

All Prep-Year 4 teachers participated in the Reading Improvement Strategy training, provided by the TCSO. Staff also participated in professional development in the areas of student protection, data analysis, utilising assistive technologies in the classroom and using the Worlds of the Texts in Religious Education.

## Student attendance

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

95%

### 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
92.1%	91.8%	92.4%	90.3%	92.6%	91.5%	92.5%	91.8%

## Description of how non-attendance of students is managed by the school

Class rolls are marked twice-daily by teachers. This roll marking occurs at 9:00am and at 1:45pm. If students are absent parents are required to notify the school. Any unexplained absence for a student is followed up with parents on the day. Should absences become an issue, an interview with the principal to discuss the situation is required.

## 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	501	425	431	100%
Writing	429	402	413	100%
Spelling	425	408	416	98%
Grammar and Punctuation	447	437	439	92%
Numeracy	446	402	409	98%

Year 5 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading	560	502	505	100%
Writing	505	461	472	100%
Spelling	524	496	500	100%
Grammar and Punctuation	544	496	499	98%
Numeracy	540	490	493	100%

## School renewal and improvement

### Overview of procedures

Our Lady of Lourdes 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 Cultural Diversity, Use of Facilities, Resources and the Learning Environment, and Stewardship.

## **Parent, staff and student satisfaction**

Each year Our Lady of Lourdes 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**

97% of parents satisfied with children's educational progress at the school.

99% 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**

94% of Years 5 - 6 students satisfied with their learning at this school.