2016 School Reporting - Primary

**Performance information and its context**

**The Schools Story**

The school context describes the environment in which the school operates, or is likely to operate in the foreseeable future. It is important that all published data can be interpreted by an audience that has been provided with a working knowledge of the school context.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System:</th>
<th>School Name:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Catholic Education Office - Rockhampton</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Blackall</td>
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<tr>
<th>School Based Contact Person:</th>
<th>Address:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal’s Full Name:</td>
<td>109 Thistle St Blackall QLD 4472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joanne Davison</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone:</th>
<th>Fax:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
<th>Website:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07 4657 4248</td>
<td>07 4657 4807</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjbl@rok.catholic.edu.au">sjbl@rok.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.sjblrok.catholic.edu.au">www.sjblrok.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Total Enrolments:</th>
<th>Year Levels Offered:</th>
<th>Type of School:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Prep – Year 6</td>
<td>Co - educational</td>
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Curriculum Offerings

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Joseph’s is a Prep to Year 6 school organised into four class groupings. Our curriculum reflects Gospel values, while our tradition is based around the work and story of St. Mary MacKillop. Many opportunities are provided for our children to reach their spiritual, academic, physical and emotional best. We believe our students need to be life-long learners, equipped with the skills required to learn, transfer learning, use ICT, contribute to teams, manage change and be self-aware.

Extra Curricula Activities

The St Joseph’s Feast Day provides an opportunity for students of Blackall to combine with St Joseph’s Barcaldine students to celebrate this feast each year. St Joseph’s also engages in a number of feature days including: National Day of Action Against Bullying, Walk to School Day, A Day for Daniel, Under 8's Day and Catholic Education Week celebrations.

Students from St Joseph’s are involved in variety of community and social justice events including: Combined schools ANZAC Day Memorial, Blackall Community ANZAC Day Memorial, visitations/performances to the Blackall retirement village, Mother's Day Breakfast and the Father's Day Pizza Cook-off.

‘Making Jesus Real’ is a value-based program which aims to recognise and be witness to the teachings of Jesus, each day and encourages students to become aware of the goodness in themselves and each other. All students are involved in preparing for Masses or Prayer Assemblies throughout the school year.

The Junior Joey’s Group, inspired by the work of Mary MacKillop, initiates fundraising ventures and community events for charities and causes to support local, national and international organisations.

All students are provided with opportunities to undertake academic opportunities namely, the ICAS - Mathematics, Science and English Testing Competitions and St. Joseph's Speaking Festival.
Students from St Joseph’s are provided with numerous sporting opportunities courtesy of a Physical Education Specialist. Students engage in Swimming during Term 1, Athletics throughout Term 2, Rugby League and Netball during Term 3 and various other sports throughout Term 4. Students also complete at district and regional trials together with the various Rugby League, Touch Football, Netball, Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. The Sporting Schools Community program involves students engaging in sport and physical activities outside of school hours and provides the opportunity to mix with their community peers.

St. Joseph's students are also exposed to various cultural experiences which are greatly aided and supported by RREAP funding. Such funding allows us to engage personnel in the areas of dance, movement, ICT's, creative art and music to provide opportunities which our students would not normally receive in Blackall. The school has commenced a Drama program for all students.

St Joseph’s has two playground areas, a full sized Rugby League/Cricket oval and the MacKillop Centre which is a multi-purpose enclosed space allowing for indoor sports, musical and various community events. We are currently in the process of developing a reflective and sacred community site/space between the church and school to represent to connectedness between both entities.

In recognition of our diverse student needs, our first session contains a five minute ‘Munch and Crunch’ break which allows students to eat healthily, thus breaking the two hour session and enhancing concentration at this peak time of learning.

Through the access of RREAP funds, students of St. Joseph’s experience and participate in learning activities and events they ordinarily would not be able to attend or participate in. Such events include: Shockwave Festival, Year 3/4 Camp to Charleville, Year 5/6 Camp to Tallebudgera/Fairbairn Dam, Writing and Making Music with Josh Arnold, Arts Councils and Challenge Cup Rugby League/Netball.

St Joseph's has recently incorporated online Japanese lessons. Through the support and assistance of The Cathedral College in Rockhampton, students engage in Japanese lessons every Wednesday via Skype with Japanese teacher Rachelle Belz. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to not only learn the Japanese language, but to also learn about Japanese Culture.

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

The use of ICTs is particularly evident at St. Joseph’s. Interactive Projectors and Apple TVs have been installed in every classroom; ensuring students are exposed to and immersed in the technological and interactive processes of teaching and learning. A computer trolley housing a classroom set of laptop computers is readily available to each class, while thirty five iPads complete the interactive and technological transformation of our school. Edison Robots, Probots and Bee Bots have also been introduced to engage students and to enhance and explore the concepts of coding and computational thinking within digital pedagogies. Teachers are expected to incorporate ICTs and IT in all Key Learning Areas when teaching the students.
**Social Climate**

Our school’s Religion Program and the 'Making Jesus Real' Program, led by the year 6 students provides a basis for the way we treat each other and how we interact. It is a value-based program, which aims to recognise and be witness to the teachings of Jesus in everyday living.

Whole school assemblies are held every Monday and Friday recognising academic achievement, children’s birthdays, and extra-curricular individual achievements. During Friday assemblies class grouping present classroom work and lead the assembly in prayer.

Our Mini Joey’s program in term 4 provides prospective parents and students an insight into the values and practices inherent not only within St. Joseph’s, but also within Catholic Education. Further, prospective Prep students are given an insight into the daily routines and expectations within the school.

The Junior Joey’s Group, made up of Year 5/6 students, initiate fundraising ventures and community events for charities and causes. Students from St Joseph’s are involved in a variety of community and social justice events and continually work to support their local and wider community by showing generosity and serving others.
Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies
(What the school does to promote cyber safety)

The school has anti-bullying and behaviour management policies in place to go hand-in-hand with behaviour modification programs. Students, staff and parents have collaboratively worked toward enacting this policy thus ensuring bullying and behaviour management strategies are implemented when the need arises. Every person in the St Joseph’s Primary School community has a right to feel safe and be safe. St Joseph’s Primary School strives to create an educational environment where each individual is respected, accepted, included and free from fear or threat. This safe environment will enable all members of the community to reach their full potential. Dealing with bullying in all its forms is a shared responsibility. Where possible, St Joseph’s Primary School will co-operate with parents to address any bullying that occurs inside or outside the school environment.

Strategies used for involving parents in their child’s education

Parents/Guardians and Grandparents are integral members of the St Joseph’s family who are continually invited and welcomed to attend school activities. Parents are encouraged to be involved in classroom procedures, educational experiences, sporting opportunities and join with us in celebrating special events throughout the year. e.g. assemblies, Mother’s Day breakfast, Father’s Day Cook off.

The St. Joseph’s Parents and Friends’ Association meets monthly and maintains a high and positive involvement in the school in a variety of ways. The St. Joseph’s School Board also meets monthly and makes a valuable contribution in policy regulation and implementation. Both groups play an integral role in supporting our school.

At the beginning of each year classroom teachers facilitate a concise presentation, which covers a variety of topics including, curriculum content, classroom, homework and behavioural expectations. It is a great opportunity for parents to personally meet their child’s teacher. A welcome BBQ is aligned with the Parent Information evening as a medium to bring the school community together. Similarly, Parent/Teacher interviews are conducted twice throughout the year.
Reducing the school’s environmental footprint

With the rising costs associated with electricity, at St. Joseph’s we are very conscious of energy consumption. We ensure that lights, air conditioners and any electrical appliances are turned off after use, or when students/teachers are not in rooms.

Characteristics of the Student Body

St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School is located in the isolated Central Queensland Outback town of Blackall, population approximately 1500 in town and 1800 in the shire. The Josephite Sisters established our school in 1917. The population of the school has increased over the past three years. St. Joseph's is part of St. Patrick's Parish, Blackall. The school is the only Catholic (or Christian) school in the area. Each of the four classes in our school consists of two year levels in a multi-age setting.

This results in a strong family atmosphere which is based on Gospel Values. As a staff we model these values by our word and actions. These gospel values are reflected in all our dealings with all members of our school community. The St. Joseph’s community enjoys the close knit family qualities of many small town Catholic schools. Children, parents and teachers work in partnership to provide and nurture the development of each individual. We believe that this is one of the strengths of our school. We believe that this partnership is vital in our mission of proclaiming the Good News.

MAJOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES should be described. Details regarding in-kind professional development initiatives (e.g. mentoring or peer learning circles) can also be included. Remember to also account for the 7 Pupil Free Days allocated by the Director each year – including the Bishop’s In-service Day and Religious Education PD

Limit = 500 characters

- Numeracy and Literacy national partnerships training
- Mentoring and peer support times
- Child Protection In-Service
- Workplace Health and Safety training
- Bishop’s In-service Day
- Religious Education Professional Development
- First Aid training
- Literacy Professional Development
- HASS Professional development
- Australian Curriculum: Technologies Professional development
- Whole staff planning days
- Seven Steps to Successful Writing In-service
- Great Teachers = Great Results
- Creative iPad use within the Classroom

The percentage of the TEACHING STAFF INVOLVED IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

100%
Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, and 7 are available via the My School website at [http://www.myschool.edu.au/](http://www.myschool.edu.au/).

Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the [Terms of Use](#) and Privacy Policy before being able to access NAPLAN data.

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

St Joseph's tends to score at, or around the state and national average in all year levels across most testing areas. While we have had significant improvements in the last two years in most areas, these scores can be impaired by students who are struggling with aspects of their learning. By tracking and supporting these students and implementing individual Literacy and Numeracy plans based on students’ needs improvements have been evident in students’ general work as well as in test results. Results have indicated that we have significantly improved our scores in Language Conventions, Reading, Writing and Numeracy, while the area of Spelling continues to improve.

### Value Added

#### The story of distance travelled

At the commencement of 2015, the Learning Areas of Language Conventions and Writing were identified as priority goals across the school. Through the implementation of Language Conventions and Writing structures and models, professional development opportunities, and quality teaching and pedagogy, significant improvement across all year levels, especially in Years 3 and 5 were recorded. Subsequently, at St Joseph’s, wonderful progress is being made by our students in achieving and maintaining the Reading, Numeracy, Language Conventions and Writing standards around the state mean level.

#### The story of where you are going

Throughout the year we will continue to review our Literacy and Numeracy plans with a particular focus on maintaining Reading and Language Convention achievements and continue to develop our Writing knowledge further.

Student performance during last year’s NAPLAN testing informs some of our goals as a school. This data allows us to focus on areas which require further development and to reaffirm the aspects of learning that have been working or making a difference to student learning. Our School Development Plan developed in 2013 assisted in setting goals and pathways for St Joseph’s School over the next five years.

Sharing of knowledge and best practice is encouraged and celebrated at St Joseph’s.
Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

Information, in plain language, about parent, teacher and student satisfaction with the school

As part of our School Review and Improvement process information will be collated from school community members, students, staff and parish to devise a School Development plan which will guide our journey for the next five years. Some positive feedback to come from the School Review and Improvement include: exhibiting an atmosphere that is positive, family oriented and welcoming to all, while promoting a safe learning environment for the students. The various giving activities in which the students engage in assisting them to develop empathy, compassion and a sense of social justice. The contribution by the P&F and School Board to improve facilities and the overall appearance of the school, together with contributions towards teaching resources and materials. The sense of ‘team’ and shared responsibility by staff and parents which create varied opportunities for students. The positive student - teacher relationships and the efforts made by the school to encourage parents to contribute to the future direction of the St. Joseph's.