



St Mary's College, Toowoomba

Catholic school for boys in Year 5-12

Diocese of Toowoomba

Annual report 2017

Address	129 West Street Toowoomba QLD 4350		Phone number	07 4631 7333	
email	reception@stmaryscollege.com		Principal	Michael Newman	
Year levels	Year 5 - 12		Enrolment	820	
Co-educational or single sex				boys only	
Boarders	no	Outside hours school care	no	Vacation care	no
Contact person for information about the school and school policies			Michael Newman		

The school's mission

St Mary's College is a Catholic community for the education of boys from Years 5-12. It is the only College of this type in Queensland, west of the Brisbane Metropolitan area and north to Yeppoon.

The College was established in 1899 as a Christian Brothers' school to educate boys. The Christian Brothers are a religious order founded in Waterford in Ireland in 1802 by Edmund Rice to educate boys as a response to social inequity. Edmund continues to call us to challenge the values of our world and make them more God-centred. Aware of God's all abiding presence in the 'everyday', we respond to this awareness in right relationships of justice, presence, compassion and liberation. This sacramental consciousness leads us to prayer and liturgy celebrating the whole of life.

St Mary's College has a rich history and tradition and a loyal Old Boys network, many of whom have made significant and worthy contributions to society. The Christian Brothers administered the College for 97 years and it is upon their shoulders that we stand proudly today.

Today, St Mary's College is a Catholic school administered by the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba in the tradition of Edmund Rice.

Our overall goal is to provide the boys with the opportunity to achieve excellence in all areas of their holistic education: spiritual, academic, physical, social and emotional education from Years 5-12.

At St Mary's College, we focus on and are specialists in boys' education, providing various relevant and modern learning experiences and extra-curricular opportunities.

Our Vision

To strive for excellence, so as to reach one's full potential, making a difference to our world.

Our Mission

To provide a quality holistic Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition, empowering our students to be men of faith, integrity, action and excellence.

Our Values

As stated in the Charter of Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition our values are grounded in the Gospel stories of Jesus. We strive for:

- Spirituality (A Gospel Spirituality) - Our community endeavours to foster in each member, the Gospel values and traditions that underpin the College heritage.
- Community (An Inclusive Community) - Our community embraces diversity, through a welcoming spirit and mutual support for all, ensuring the realisation of each person's potential.
- Justice and Solidarity - Our community seeks to support the marginalised by providing practical assistance through Christian service and social justice initiatives that build and promote dignity, compassion, respect and right relationships.
- Excellence (A Liberating Education) - Our community strives for excellence in holistic education aiming to achieve the College motto, Conanti Corona – "the one who strives will win the crown" by nurturing and developing students academically, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually to ensure the realisation of each member's potential.

Our philosophy

As an educational community, St Mary's fosters Christian living in the Catholic tradition. The community is committed to grow a welcoming spirit through which all community members are encouraged and challenged to develop as children of God. We are people of prayer. We often express to God and to others our thankfulness for their goodness to us. We believe that God loves us, each one of us without exception. This is the basis of our relationship with ourselves, others and God. It is also the basis for our educational endeavours, which develop all aspects of our being.

The College reaches out to students from diverse backgrounds. Proud of our heritage, we reach out to all, especially those who need us most, keeping alive the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Our education recognises the worth, the individuality and the unique needs of each person and responds positively to these. Through the experience of community, where social justice is fundamental, all are challenged academically, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

In an environment where the giftedness of everyone is recognised and achievement is valued, the aim for each boy is to 'live life to the full' (John 10:10) with Christ. We are called to excellence in all we do and to live out the College motto Conanti Corona - "the one who strives will win the crown." This means that our aim is to encourage our boys to strive for excellence, to achieve their potential and ultimately their crown. The College values the boys giving their best effort, sportsmanship above winning, and service, rather than personal gratification.

We aim to form character in a compassionate, respectful, accepting and happy environment. Aware of our own worth and dignity, we hope to deepen our awareness of God's unchangeable love for us, which accepts us as we are and forgives our weaknesses, challenging us to grow further. Inspired by this love, we strive to develop relationships through a celebration of our lives together and a commitment to reconciliation. The Holy Spirit is ever present, guiding, leading, encouraging, challenging and empowering us.

Staff members share this task as they assist students to learn and learn with them. Our teachings are based on our understanding of the learning needs of boys, a search for quality in content, method and procedures, and always open to improvement and seeking what is best for the students.

Future Outlook - Our Strategic Focus

1. Uses its collaboratively developed Mission Statement and Philosophy to guide College activities. These Statements encompass the Edmund Rice charism, St Mary's College history and tradition and the diocesan vision and mission.
2. Operates within a boys' education framework where all programs and practices are audited with a view to continual improvement.
3. Emphasises excellence, through the realisation of potential and contribution to community, now and in the future.
4. Supports the College community proactively to embrace growth and continual improvement.
5. Empowers staff to engage with, embrace and undertake St Mary's College future directions

Distinctive curriculum offerings

St Mary's College offers a broad curriculum which can be tailored to meet the needs of each boy's education so they can successfully take their place in a modern society.

The senior school curriculum offers a wide range of subjects that allow for students on completion of Year 12 to continue study at university or to continue vocational studies.

In 2016, Year 7 and 8 students studied core subjects (English, Maths, Science, Humanities and Religious Education). Elective units in Year 7 and 8 included Wood Metal Technology, Food Technology, Graphics, Art, Music, Drama, Japanese and Information Technology.

In Years 9 and 10 students studied a wide variety of semester units within the same learning areas as those offered in Year 8, as well as offering further specialisation in the areas of Information Communication Technology and Health and Physical Education.

In the primary school, students studied subjects from all key learning areas. In addition to their class-based subjects, students accessed the specialist areas of the Secondary school in the areas of Science, Wood Technology, Japanese, Art, Drama and Music.

All students in Year 5 and 6 also participated in the Junior Band program where every student is offered instrumental tuition.

In addition, the College offers specialised programs including:

- Guided Reading
- Individualised Learning Plans through the HUB Learning Enrichment Centre
- Curriculum Modification Programs through classroom teachers, Curriculum Leaders and Learning Enrichment
- Learning Support programs
- EALD (English as a Second Language) unit
- Personal Development Unit in Year 9
- Careers Education

- QCS and NAPLAN preparation programs

Extra-curricular activities

Academic excellence

Students are encouraged and challenged to undertake a range of activities that provide them with extension and encourage them to strive for the crown including:

- tuition by all departments giving individual and group tutoring, by appointment, to primary/secondary students in the library with English holding tutoring sessions every Monday morning
- targeted extension classes for gifted and talented students
- public speaking competitions
- chess competitions
- ICAS competitions
- science and engineering competitions.

Spirituality and Service

Student leadership is encouraged and developed across all year levels with opportunities for students to be part of the Student Representative Council school and House assemblies.

Students from all year levels also engage in supporting community projects which help them to develop a sense of responsibility for those less fortunate than themselves. Our Service Groups are embraced by students in Years 10–12 which help our students understand and value the concept of support for our community. St Mary's College has a vibrant Service Group program. The aim of these programs is to offer opportunities for as many boys to partake in service activities as possible and live a life of service.

These programs include

- Papua New Guinea Immersion
- ROSIES volunteer program
- House nursing home visits
- ERA for Change
- Just Leadership

Sporting opportunities

Boys at St Mary's College are provided with numerous opportunities to participate in a wide range of sporting activities and competitions.

The College has a vibrant sporting presence with boys excelling in sports including rugby league, soccer, basketball, touch, athletics and swimming.

Boys participate in both the local Toowoomba competition, the Brisbane/South East Queensland competitions and in state-wide competitions. Many students are members of representative sides for the Darling Downs Region and many staff coaches of Darling Downs teams.

Students are also provided with the opportunity to participate in House Competitions in athletics, swimming and cross-country.

The College offers specialised streams of athletic development and rugby league within the Physical Education Learning Area.

Some of the competitions and sporting opportunities St Mary's College participates in include

- Bill Turner Cup U/15 soccer

- UHL Sport Cup in Open Soccer and ISSA Cup in Under 14 Soccer
- SSI Red Lion Open Soccer
- AFL Gala Days
- Golden Glove Softball
- Confraternity Carnival - Rugby League
- Broncos U/13, U/14 U/15 and Open Age Rugby League
- Toowoomba Friday Night Basketball
- McDonalds Cup and CBSQ Basketball
- Development Cup – Rugby League
- SWQ and QLD All Schools' Touch competition
- SQW Football Championship
- State T20 Cup Cricket competition
- TSSSA competitions in Touch, Basketball, Futsal, Swimming, Rugby League, Soccer, Volleyball, Hockey, Softball, Cross Country and Athletics.

Culture

All students are provided with opportunities to engage with students with diverse cultural backgrounds through involvement in our mentor pastoral system. Some students are hosts for our international study tour visitors from Japan. Some examples of cultural opportunities for students include

- Sydney-Canberra excursion.
- Japanese immersion excursions
- leadership programs
- debating
- Eisteddfod
- choirs, concert band, show band and drumline
- instrumental music programs
- 'White Poppies' play with St Ursula's College.

Social climate (including pastoral care and student behaviour support)

The welcoming, inclusive and nurturing nature of St Mary's College is a defining feature of this community. Our commitment to such a social climate is reflected in our Vision and Mission statements. The following social and pastoral programs are in operation

- House pastoral system
- mentor system
- The Responsible Thinking Process and Responsible Thinking Classroom
- Student Protection
- Guidance Counselling
- Career Counselling
- Year level camps and activities
- Social interactions with girls' schools.

Our four Houses are the foundation for our pastoral system. Waterford, Purcell, Bowdler and McGoldrick Houses have all developed their own identity and spirit. Each of our four Houses comprises approximately 160 students from Year 5 to Year 12. Belonging to a House provides all staff, students and their families with the opportunity to form positive and lasting relationships with students across all year levels.

Together with this familiarity and continuity, the House system is meant to make possible greater participation by the boys' in-House and inter-House activities. Being active, contributing, cooperating - all can build in boys a growing sense of belonging and ownership. Likewise, the necessity for leadership, increasing as it does as the boys move into higher year groups, should result in more boys assuming ever widening responsibilities and practicing that leadership

Characteristics of the student body

Students from St Mary's College come from a broad range of families, areas and backgrounds.

The College has significant populations of regional and farming families from the surrounding areas as well as students from Toowoomba city.

There are many students from the city's refugee families and there are also many students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

The College prides itself on being a welcoming and inclusive community which supports the needs of all students and families.

Parent/carer involvement

- ongoing email and telephone contact with parents to discuss student progress
- curriculum information evenings for subject selections – Year 8 students going into Year 9 and Year 10 students going into Year 11
- the College communicates with parents via SMS messaging for a number of purposes including non-submission of assessment tasks, absence and RTC referrals
- parents are encouraged to access student Task Sheets and assessment dates, as well as student-specific reports via the secure Parent Portal section of the website
- all Year 10 parents are encouraged to attend the SET planning interviews with their son's careers teacher and a Curriculum Leader in Term 3.
- all Year 12 parents are encouraged to attend OP interviews with a member of the College Leadership Team to discuss progress, ranking and performance
- all parents of students from Years 5-12 are encouraged to attend parent-teacher interviews twice yearly.
- all students in Years 5-11 receive four report cards a year
- parents and students can access advice from the College Counsellor or advice from students' mentor teachers, classroom teachers, Head of House or Head of Department
- parents are encouraged via newsletters and letters home to contact the relevant senior member of staff about curriculum issues (Assistant Principal - Curriculum) or Pastoral issues (Assistant Principal – Student Welfare)
- Open Day for parents to tour the College and view the learning opportunities offered
- Grandparents' Day
- Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day breakfasts
- P&F Association meetings every month providing fellowship and general school support
- College Board meetings each month to focus on policy development, review and strategic planning
- Finance committee meeting each term
- parent and volunteer program

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.

Staff

Workforce composition

	Total teaching staff	Total non-teaching staff	Indigenous staff
Headcount	68	38	0
Full-time equivalents	64.9	31.3	0

Teacher qualifications

Qualification	% of teaching
Doctoral / Post-Doctoral	1
Masters	13
Bachelor Degree	43
Diploma	8
Certificate	0

Average staff attendance

95%

Staff retention

89%

Professional Development (participation and expenditure)

2017 School Budget Allocation: \$50,040

Professional development during the 2017 school year focussed on Positive Psychology, high yield teaching strategies and readying teachers for the implementation of the new Senior School Curriculum in 2019.

Staff engaged in numerous school-based and external professional development opportunities that focused on specialised teaching strategies.

The College also upskilled staff in the Rock and Water Program which underpins pastoral care at the College, to allow for explicit teaching of resilience strategies.

Student attendance

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

90%

Student attendance for each year level (expressed as %)

Year 5	Year 6	Average student attendance rate
95.3	94.8	95.1

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Average student attendance rate
88.2	87.8	88.2	90.6	88.9	83.9	87.9

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

At St Mary's College, mentor teachers mark rolls at the beginning of the school day (8.30am). Students who are identified as being away are marked absent and the College contacts each family to notify them that their son is not at school.

During the school day, individual teachers mark rolls lesson by lesson.

Mentor teachers also follow up with students for notes explaining absences.

Students at risk are identified by mentor teachers and Heads of House (Pastoral position) are notified. The Heads of House and Assistant Principal - Student Welfare and College Counsellor work with students and families.

Continual absenteeism is addressed by the principal of the College. A letter is sent to the student and family requesting an interview and show cause for continued enrolment.

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results

Year 5 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading	510	502.7	505.6	100%
Writing	491	461.4	472.5	97%
Spelling	507	496.5	500.9	100%
Grammar and Punctuation	526	496.0	499.3	100%
Numeracy	494	490.4	493.8	100%

Year 7 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading	536	450.3	544.7	96%
Writing	501	502.5	513.0	89%
Spelling	535	546	549.6	98%
Grammar and Punctuation	544	537.9	541.6	95%
Numeracy	545	549.2	555.3	98%

Year 9 test results				
Focus	Our school average	State average	National average	Percentage of students at or above the national benchmark
Reading	588	574.9	580.9	99%
Writing	576	538.6	551.9	90%
Spelling	571	576.9	581.5	94%
Grammar and Punctuation	579	573.5	574.1	95%
Numeracy	586	585.1	592.0	100%

Apparent retention rates for Years 10 and 12

Year 10		Year 12		Year 10-12
Year	Year 10 enrolment	Year	Year 12 enrolment	Apparent retention rate %
2011	118	2013	93	79%
2012	115	2014	97	84%
2013	117	2015	99	85%
2014	124	2016	99	80%
2015	133	2017	112	84%

Year 12 outcomes

Number of students awarded a Senior Education Profile (SEP)	112
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)	112
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)	0
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications	55
Number of students who are completing or have completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)	28
Number of students who received an Overall Position (OP)	58
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD)	0
Number of students who completed Year 12 and received a statement of results (Senior Statement) only	0
Percentage of students who were awarded at least one of the following: QCE, VET (including students who participated in a SAT), IBD	100
Percentage of students who applied for and received an offer of a tertiary place through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC)	100

Value added

There are many areas of school life that have been value-added to in 2017.

Specific areas of value-add in NAPLAN include

- Year 7 Writing and Grammar and Punctuation
- Year 9 Reading, Writing and Grammar and Punctuation.

The College also celebrated its above National Mean performance in the following domains of NAPLAN

- Year 5 Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy
- Year 7 Grammar and Punctuation
- Year 9 Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation.

In the Senior Schooling area, the College celebrated its excellent performance in the OP1-5 category in 2017. 22.5% of OP Eligible students received an OP 1-5. The College has also continued to improve its number of students attaining the QCE, reaching 100% in 2017.

Year 12 post-school destination

This information is published by 30 September each year.

School renewal and improvement

Overview of procedures

St Mary's College 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 Partnership with Parish, Religious Life of the School, Staff Wellbeing, Stewardship and Use of Resources, Facilities and the Learning Environment.

Parent, staff and student satisfaction

Each year St Mary's College 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

95% of parents satisfied with children's educational progress at the school.

98% of parents satisfied that school's educational program enable children to learn.

Staff

97% of staff satisfied overall with educational progress of students.

100% of staff satisfied that school's educational programs enable students to learn.

Students

96% of Years 5-6 students satisfied with their learning at this school.

86% of Years 7-12 students satisfied with their learning at this school.