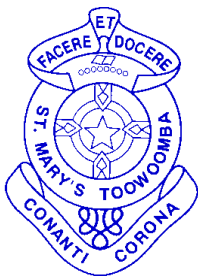




St Mary's College Toowoomba

Providing quality Catholic education for boys since 1899

St Mary's College 2011 Annual Report A Catholic Boys' College of the Diocese of Toowoomba

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Our Mission

Toowoomba Catholic Education challenges all to “act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with their God”, according to the Vision of Jesus Christ and the Mission of the Church. The community at **St. Mary's College Toowoomba** is called to live out that challenge authentically.

St Mary's College as an educational community fosters Christian living in the Catholic tradition. The community is committed to developing a welcoming spirit through which all community members are encouraged and challenged to develop as children of God. The college reaches out to students from diverse backgrounds.

Through their experience of community, where social justice is fundamental, all are challenged spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, culturally and physically. In an environment where the giftedness of each individual is recognised and their achievements valued, emphasis is placed on participation and effort above achievement, sportsmanship above winning, and service rather than personal gratification.

Our aim is 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.

Proud of our heritage, we reach out to everyone, especially those who need us most, keeping alive the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, Founder of the Christian Brothers. 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, love, compassion and liberation. This sacramental consciousness leads us to prayer and liturgy celebrating the whole of life.



We believe that ...

- God loves us, each and every one of us without exception.
- In Jesus, God became man to show us the depth of his love for us and the way to become the best people we can be.
- This is the basis of our relationship with ourselves, others and God.
- It is also the basis of all our educational endeavors, which develop all aspects of our being.
- We are people of prayer.
- We often express to God and to others our thankfulness for their goodness to us.
- We are called to excellence in all that we do.
- 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 education recognizes the worth, the individuality and the different needs of each person and responds positively to these.
- Our teaching is based on a search for quality in content, methods and procedures always open to improvement and seeking what is best for students.

Principal's Foreword

St Mary's College was founded in 1899 by the Christian Brothers, a religious order of Brothers founded in Ireland by Blessed Edmund Rice. The Christian Brothers administered the College for 97 years and it is upon their shoulders that we stand proudly today. To further ensure that their spirit lives on, St Mary's College has recently become an Edmund Rice Associate School.

The Charter of Edmund Rice Schools states that we should strive to achieve the four Touchstones in all that we do:

1. **Gospel Spirituality:** we invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to involve his message of compassion, justice and peace as a living reality within our community.
2. **Liberation Education:** we open hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement, each person is hope-filled and free to build a better world for all.
3. **Inclusive Community:** Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good.
4. **Justice & Solidarity:** We are committed to Justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself.

St Mary's College is a Catholic school for boys. Our overall goal is to provide the boys the opportunity to achieve excellence in all areas of their holistic education: spiritual, academic, sporting, cultural and social 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 motto is: The crown goes to the one who strives, 'Conanti Corona'. So, all boys are encouraged to try continuously and strive to realise their potential in all areas of their holistic education.

The key features of our Mission statement that we aim to achieve at St Mary's College are:

- Live out vision of Jesus Christ;
- Holistic Education: Spiritual, Academic, Social, Cultural and Physical – Excellence in all we do;
- Quality teaching and learning;
- Christian Living Fostered;
- Edmund Rice Spirit Alive;



- Each boy is valued;
- Dignity of all;
- Social Justice is fundamental;
- Reaches out to all backgrounds;
- Welcoming spirit;
- Proud of heritage & history.

The College has a proud history and strong Old Boys' Association and we remain connected and educated about the many past famous old boys who attend the College including: Prime Minister, Frank Forde; Governor Sir Walter Campbell; Rear Admiral, Pat Perry; Air Vice Marshall, Harold Hawkins; Tom Gorman (Australian Rugby League Captain) and more recently; Johnathan Thurston (Australian & QLD half back).

In 2012, St Mary's College will develop a new strategic plan for the future, enabling the College to remain an alive, modern and vibrant educational institution that encourages boys to develop into fine young men, in this, our ever changing world.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

St Mary's College offers a broad curriculum which can be tailored to meeting 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.

Our teaching is based on the continual search for quality content for the teaching of boys. By continually improving our methods and systems, we are seeking the best possible outcomes for boys.

- In 2011, Year 8 students studied core subjects (English, Maths, Science, SOSE, and Religious Education). Elective units in Year 8 included Metal Technology, Wood Technology, Graphics, Art, Music, Drama, Japanese and Physical Education.
- In Years 9 and 10 students studied a wide variety of Semester units within the same KLAs as mentioned in Year 8.
- Learning Support programs
- ESL (English as a Second Language) unit
- Rock and Water Program in Year 8
- Personal Development Unit in Year 9
- Careers Education
- Whole school approach to Study Planner Program
- Rigorous QCS preparation program including workshops, lessons and practice skills.

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*.

- English and Mathematics tuition is provided by the Mathematics and English departments giving individual and Group tutoring to primary/secondary students in the library one afternoon each week.
- Students are offered Latin classes
- Public Speaking Competitions; Chess Competitions
- ICAS Competitions
- Science and Engineering Competitions
- Optiminds



Spirituality and Service

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

Students from all year levels also engage in supporting community projects which helps 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 helps 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 groups include:

- Pirrakanta
- ROSIES volunteer program
- Money Men

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 present with boys excelling in sports including Rugby League, Soccer, Basketball, Touch, Athletics and Swimming. Boys participate in both the local Toowoomba competition, the Brisbane Competitions and in state wide competition. A number of students are members of representative sides for the Darling Downs Region and many staff coach these teams. Students are also provided with the opportunity to participate in House Competitions in athletics, swimming and cross-country.

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
- Speaking Choirs
- Instrumental music programs

Social Climate

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

- House Pastoral System
- Mentor System
- Learning Framework statements in each classroom
- Welcoming Community statements in each classroom
- Student Protection
- Guidance Counselling
- Career Counselling



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 and 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 practising that leadership.

Mentor Groups

Mentor groups are at the heart of our pastoral system. To ensure students' individual needs are met, each House is divided into mentor groups comprising of approximately 20 students. Students remain in the same group with their mentor teacher throughout their schooling at St Mary's, offering continued support and guidance throughout their journey. The relationships within each group are unique yet all groups exemplify a familiar quality where our older students also mentor the younger boys in their group.

House Activities

Under the direction of the Heads of House and mentor teachers, students are encouraged to become involved in all aspects of College life. Belonging to a House now provides many avenues for students to interact on a social level to support each other, to learn from each others' strengths and weaknesses, to develop leadership skills and to actively serve the College and wider community.

Organised activities range from house liturgies and prayer, house assemblies, challenges, barbeques and break-up events; all of which aim to support a sense of belonging and brotherhood.



Bullying Policy

In response to bullying issues, the school community supports the school policy on bullying. This is found on the school's website. Incidents of bullying are addressed through the behaviour management policy and procedure. Student to Student Bullying – Process is conducted only by members of College Leadership Team (CLT), Head of House (HOH) or Counsellor. Paperwork is kept centrally in the Assistant Principal – Student Welfare office and HOH is made aware at every stage.

At any stage students can have a support person.

Process –

1. *Complainant approaches member of CLT, HOH or Counsellor*
2. *Discuss Bullying, Concern form completed*



3. *Investigation by CLT, HOH/ Counsellor*
4. *Interview by CLT, HOH/ Counsellor*

Option 1 – Available for complainant

A) no further action – misunderstanding

B) no further action – instructed to (note: ‘Warn’ bully)

C) Face to Face interview – alleged and complainant – warning official

D) Face to Face interview – formal complaint

E) Lodge external complaint

OUTCOMES

- The School will deal seriously with those who retaliate against a person for reporting bullying.
- Consequences of bullying will include counselling and consultation with home and may result in suspensions and forfeiting the right to remain at the school if it is not addressed.

Parental Involvement – Involving Parents in their son’s education

- Ongoing email and telephone contact with parents to discuss student progress
- Curriculum Information Evenings for Subjects selections – Year 8 students going into Year 9 and Year 10 students going into Year 11.
- All Year 10 parents are encouraged to attend the SET planning interviews with their son’s Careers teacher and a Head of Department in term 3.
- All Year 10 parents are encouraged to attend an interview with their son’s Head of House to review their behaviour and applications before enrolling in Year 11.
- All parents of students from years 5 – 12 are encouraged to attend Parent Teacher Interviews twice yearly.
- All students in Years 5-10 receive 4 report cards a year.
- Parents and students are able to access advice from the College Counsellor or advice from students’ mentor teachers, classroom teachers, Head of House or Head of Departments.
- 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
- Mother’s Day and Father’s Day breakfasts
- P&F meets every month providing fellowship and general school support
- The College is undertaking a renewal of its website with a dedicated parents section.
- College Board meets each month and focuses on policy development, review and strategic planning.
- Finance Committee meet each term



- Parent and volunteer program

Staff Composition

Workforce Composition	Total Teaching Staff	Total Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	48	30	0
Full-time equivalents	46.7	22	0

Teacher Qualifications

Qualification	Number of Teaching Staff
Doctoral / Post Doctoral	0
Masters	3
Bachelor Degree	35
Diploma	5
Certificate	3

Professional Development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in Teachers, including TRS Release was \$28,347

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Pastoral workshops
- Australian National Curriculum implementation
- Conferences, subject specific courses and workshops
- Syllabus, curriculum, assessment and reporting review
- School policy development
- Electronic Whiteboard and Software training
- ICT in-servicing
- 1:1 laptop in-servicing

Average Staff Attendance

During 2011 staff average attendance was 98.17%

Staff Retention



For 2011 the retention rate for staff was 90.91%

Average Student Attendance Rate

The average student attendance rate for 2011 was 92.35%

Student Attendance for Each Year Level

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
95.8%	93.4%	93.7%	94.7%	93.8	92.7	93.5	92.5

Description of How Non-Attendance is managed by the School

At St Mary's College, mentor teachers mark rolls at the beginning of the school day (8.30am) and again at the end of the school day (3pm). 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 9 2011

Year 9 Test Results (2011)			
	OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark
Reading	581	579.5	98
Writing	556	565.9	86
Spelling	556	581.3	91
Grammar and Punctuation	565	572.3	93
Numeracy	584	583.4	98



Year 5 Test Results (2011)			
	OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark
Reading	467	488.1	96
Writing	454	482.6	93
Spelling	463	484.1	98
Grammar and Punctuation	471	499.1	91
Numeracy	468	487.8	100

Year 7 Test Results (2011)			
	OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark
Reading	525	540.2	100
Writing	513	529.1	93
Spelling	517	537.7	97
Grammar and Punctuation	517	532.4	95
Numeracy	537	544.6	97

Year 10-12 Apparent Retention Rates

Year 10		Year 12		Years 10-12 Apparent Retention Rate (%)
Year	Enrolled	Year	Enrolled	
2005	105	2007	76	72.4%
2006	133	2008	106	79.7%
2007	108	2009	60	55.6%
2008	106	2010	80	75.5%
2009	119	2011	96	80.67

Queensland and Australian retention rates:

QLD	%	Australia	%
2008	77.6	2008	75.6
2009	78.8	2009	76.7
2010	81.0	2010	78.5
2011	80.7	2011	



Year 12 Outcomes

St Mary's College

Toowoomba

Outcomes summary

SEP	QCE	QCIA	VET	SAT	OP	IBD	Senior Statement only		% with a QCE, VET, SAT or IBD		% QTAC applicants with a tertiary offer	
95	85	1	68	23	49	–	4		96%		92%	
		N	VET	SAT	VET Cert I	VET Cert II	VET Cert III	VET Cert IV	VET Dip or AdvDip	Uni subject at school	VET Dip or AdvDip unit at school	
Students who received a QCE	85	62	20	25	33	1	–	–	–	3	–	
Students yet to receive a QCE	9	5	2	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	
		N	VET	SAT	VET Cert I	VET Cert II	VET Cert III					
Students who received a QCIA	1	1	1	–	1	–						
		N	QCE	VET	SAT	VET Cert I	VET Cert II	VET Cert III	VET Cert IV	VET Dip or AdvDip	Uni subject at school	VET Dip or AdvDip unit at school
OP-eligible students	49	49	30	3	4	28	–	–	–	–	3	–
OP-ineligible students	45	36	37	19	23	7	1	–	–	–	–	–
OP distribution							OP1–5	OP6–10	OP11–15	OP16–20	OP21–25	
							9	13	13	13	1	

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2011

Number of students awarded a Senior Statement	95
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA).	1
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	85
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	0
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications.	68
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	23
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	49
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	71%
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.	95%
Percentage of QTAC applicants receiving a tertiary offer.	92%

Parent Satisfaction

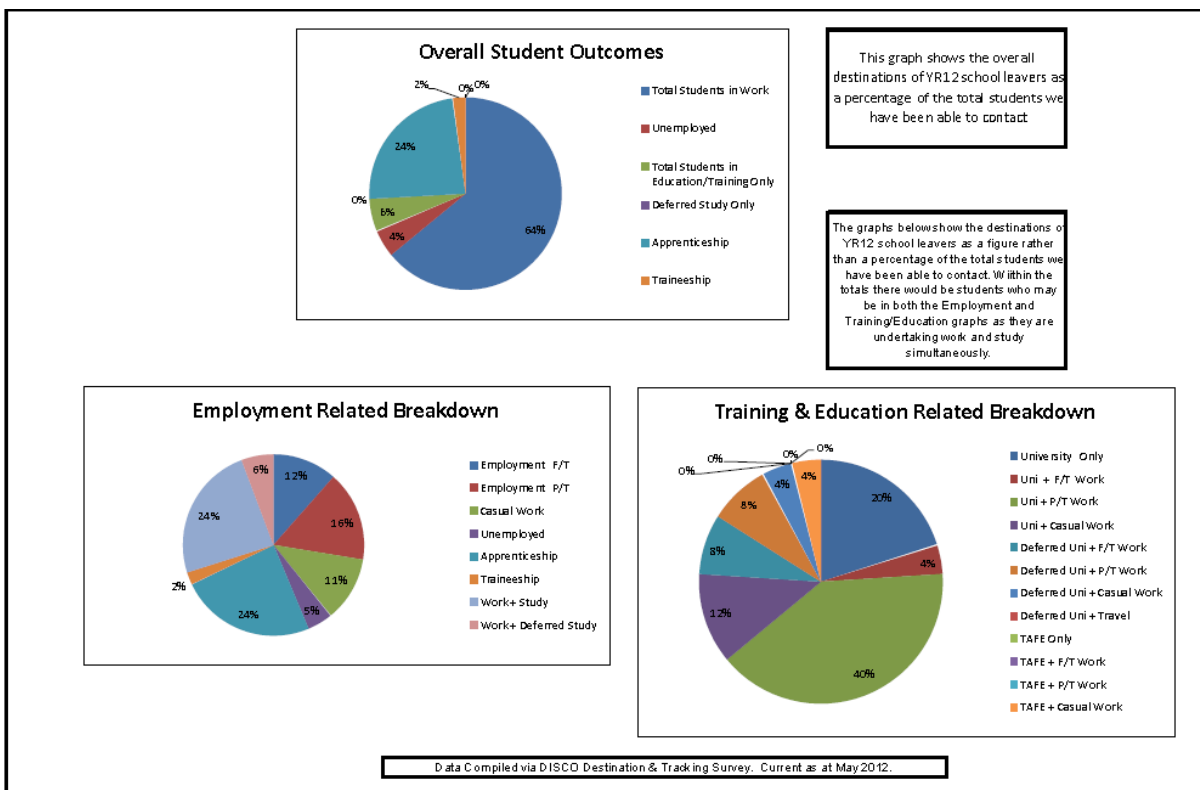
The College has undertaken a comprehensive survey of parent satisfaction as part of the Five Year Review process. The following levels of satisfaction can be reported:

- 94.8% reported they were pleased with the subject choices offered.
- 92.2% felt their son's individual needs are met by the teaching and learning pathways offered.
- 92.1% were pleased with the communication between the College and families.
- 97.4% felt the College is a safe and secure environment for their son.
- 95.2% were pleased with the behaviour management standards at the College.



Post-School Destinations

St Mary's College Data for the 2011 Year 12 Graduates					
The information below has been prepared based on recent contact with St Mary's College 2011 Year 12 graduates.					
The total number registered was 94 and the total number able to be contacted was 66.					
A number of graduates are doing multiple activities this year such as studying and working and this has been factored into the data below.					
Overall Student Outcomes		Employment Breakdown		Training & Education Breakdown	
Total Students in Work	57	Employment F/T	10	University Only	5
Unemployed	4	Employment P/T	14	Uni + F/T Work	1
Total Students in Education/Training Only	5	Casual Work	10	Uni + P/T Work	10
Deferred Study Only	0	Unemployed	4	Uni + Casual Work	3
Apprenticeship	21	Apprenticeship	21	Deferred Uni + F/T Work	2
Traineeship	2	Traineeship	2	Deferred Uni + P/T Work	2
Travel Only	0	Work + Study	21	Deferred Uni + Casual Work	1
Deferred Uni + Travel	0	Work + Deferred Study	5	Deferred Uni + Travel	0
Total Students Contacted	94			TAFE Only	0
				TAFE + F/T Work	0
				TAFE + P/T Work	0
				TAFE + Casual Work	1



For further information on the College and its policies, you can contact the following people:

Principal:	Mr Michael Newman
Deputy Principal:	Mr Kort Goodman
Assistant to the Principal (Curriculum)	Ms Jessica Davidson

A hardcopy of this report is available by request from the Principal.

