



# Emmanuel Catholic Primary School Mackay

## 2021 Annual School Report



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

# **Emmanuel Primary School, Mackay**

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

## **Principal**

Miss Geraldine Rostirolla

## **Address**

Baxter Drive  
Mt Pleasant Qld 4740

## **Total enrolments**

585

## **Year levels offered**

P – Year 6

## **Type of School:**

Co-educational

## School Overview

Emmanuel Catholic Primary School is a three-stream, co-educational, Prep to Year Six school situated in St Joseph's Parish, North Mackay. There is an onsite Kindergarten and the strong connection between school and Kindergarten ensures a successful transition for our youngest learners. In addition, Outside School Hours Care is available to all enrolled families. We offer children a Catholic education in a modern, comfortable and caring atmosphere, and the significant building program completed in 2020 provides state of the art learning spaces for our students. Our school name and motto, 'Emmanuel - God With Us', is most significant in shaping our religious character today. It speaks of our special relationship and union with God, calling us to recognise the presence of God in those we meet and the importance of prayer in our lives.

As a Catholic School, we strive to nurture and develop each child's potential within an environment built on Gospel values, trusting relationships and the person of Jesus Christ. We have full time specialist teachers in Music, Physical Education, Drama and Learning Support and a qualified school counsellor is available weekly to students. We offer a range of extra-curricular activities including an extensive eisteddfod program, involvement in McDonald Maths, Maths Olympiad and Opti-Minds competitions, and active team sporting opportunities in rugby league, netball, touch football, athletics, hockey and cross country. Emmanuel strives to develop leadership potential in students through the Peer Support Program and the Virtue Program which are integral aspects supporting leadership development. Parental involvement is strong, ensuring a close working relationship exists between home and school, essential for the education of every student. The school's core values of faith, honesty, dignity, respect, justice and love provide the foundation upon which we strive to improve as an authentic Catholic school.

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

## Curriculum Offerings

### **Distinctive Curriculum Offerings**

Emmanuel Catholic Primary School is the largest of four parish primary schools in the St Joseph's Parish of North Mackay. The curriculum areas of Physical Education, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts are taught by specialist teachers. In Term 3 of each year, Dance is taught by specialist teachers from "Dance Fever". Students in Prep to Year 2 receive swimming lessons from an external swim school. The school has a well-established and successful choir which performs publicly at religious, school and community events and competitions. A Kindergarten program is available as part of the curriculum and is situated on Emmanuel grounds with its own administration.

### **Extra Curricula Activities**

**Maths Olympiad:** Students in Years 5 and 6 participate in Maths Olympiad. The students are taught problem-solving skills and apply them as part of the program.

**Opti-Minds:** Students in Years 5 and 6 are invited to work as a team for a six-week period and present their solution to a set problem at a regional gathering of schools.

**Robotics:** Students in Years 3-6 may attend Robotic sessions each week.

**School Choir:** Students in Years 4-6 rehearsed weekly, performed at various school/community events and lead the singing at school Masses and prayer celebrations.

**Eisteddfod Choirs:** Students in all year levels were offered the opportunity to participate in the Mackay Eisteddfod as part of choral singing choirs. In 2021, Emmanuel was awarded the Champion Choral School and our Music Teacher was awarded the Conductors Prize.

**Instrumental Music Program:** Our Instrumental Music Program enables students to learn Wind, Brass, String and Percussion instruments. Private guitar and violin teachers also operate within the school.

**Rock Pop Mime:** A group Years 5/6 students participate in an annual community based dance/mime competition for schools.

**Excursions:** Relevant and purposeful excursions are valued within all year levels.

**Major excursions:** Year 5: Leadership Camp at Kinchant Dam; Year 6: Rockhampton Caves/Great Keppel Island Camp.

Minor excursions: Year 6 - Indigenous Significant Sites bus tour; Year 4 – Whitsunday Voices.

Incursions: Year 2 – Greenmount Homestead virtual experience; Year One – dinosaur puppet experience; Years 5/6 - Pumped Up Sports Ninja and leadership activities.

Peer Support Program: The program occurs during Term Two each year and involves all students throughout the school to support student well-being. Once a week, Year Six students lead a group of approximately 11 students, ranging from Prep to Year 5. Units focus on self-esteem, promoting harmony, resilience, and anti-bullying messages.

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

ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) are already an essential component in the function and administration of institutions and businesses throughout the developed world. To prepare our students for their active participation in the 21st century, Emmanuel encourages all students and staff to be competent and flexible technology users. We provide a variety of technologies in the access, delivery, and manipulation of information for assessment, teaching and learning. A range of ICT from interactive whiteboards, laptop and Chromebook computers and iPads, together with the new technology of Vivi's and digital classroom displays, is seamlessly woven into daily teaching and learning experiences from Prep to Year 6. Technology continues to develop at increasing rates and complexities and our students need to be equipped to manage their personal information, connect with others to complete tasks and access information readily. With the rapid developments in information technology, it is imperative that today's school students are confident in the knowledge and skills necessary for its effective use. It is also desirable that our students can access information for research purposes as well as for the solving of complex problems. Students need to be able to critically evaluate and reflect on materials that are digitally presented. Typing Tournament continues to be a tool used across the school to develop keyboarding skills which allow for ease of access to online platforms. Throughout 2021 students engaged in learning through Google Classroom and SeeSaw. These platforms continue to enrich the teaching and learning cycle at Emmanuel.

## Social Climate

### Strategies to Promote a Positive Culture

The school's 'Casserole Club' provides meals to families who may be experiencing hardship and difficulty and is an important component of pastoral care within the school.

As a Catholic school, we strive to provide all students with prayerful and meaningful liturgical celebrations. In 2021, our school participated in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity Project. Year level Masses and class prayer were celebrated in the Chapel in Semester Two.

School Counsellor: All students have access to our School Counsellor. A referral system allows parents and staff to refer a student to the counsellor. Students can also self-refer.

Peer Support Program: This program encourages the development of relationships from across the school. Bullying is less likely to occur if we have good relationships with one another. Teachers regularly address the "Bullying - NO WAY!" message in classrooms. Special focus days such as the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, Day for Dolly, Harmony Day, Reconciliation Week are highlighted throughout the school year.

We have a Making Jesus Real (MJR) focus across the school which supports a positive culture of respect and gratitude.

### Cyber Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Our school has implemented Diocesan policies on Acceptable Use Agreements for students and staff. The school regularly communicates to parents and the school community about cyber safety issues. Students in Years Three to Six participate in the Alannah and Madeline eSmart Digital Licence+. The school participates in community programs such as "Safety Circus" and engaging guest speakers to address the issue of bullying. These initiatives are supported and facilitated through our close partnership with Sgt Nigel Dalton and Senior Constable Steve Smith from the Queensland Police service. We also have appropriate policies in place to deal with the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices. Our school has a number of social/emotional learning programs in place to assist students in guarding against bullying at school. The school community is kept up to date about developments in this area. All Diocesan and school policies are reviewed on a regular basis.

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

Parental involvement is widespread and varied. Again, due to Covid-19, the involvement of the parent body was modified in line with restrictions. Parents assisted with Reading, Writing, Maths, Art, Class Excursions, Sporting Activities, Class and School Liturgies, Sacramental Programs, etc.

Parents and Friends Association: All parents are welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the P & F Association. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

School Board: There are three parent positions on the Emmanuel School Board. One major role of the School Board is to respond to current and future school needs through policy review.

Parent-Teacher Interviews: Parents may arrange an interview with their child's teacher at any stage during the year. Formal meetings are held once a year.

School Based Committees: At times, there will be a need for school based committees to be formed to work on specific projects. Parents are encouraged to join these committees.

Tuckshop: The Emmanuel School Tuckshop operates five days per week and parent participation is required. Our tuckshop strives to provide a nutritious and varied menu for students.

## Reducing the school's environmental footprint

The school community is committed to reducing our environmental footprint on the planet. Cardboard and paper products are recycled in classrooms and placed into the council recycling bins found throughout the school. Solar panels are installed and used throughout the school to reduce energy costs. Air-conditioners are run only during Terms One and Four and are set at 25 degrees. Lights and fans are switched off when exiting classrooms to minimise electricity use. The 'Containers for Cash' program is run across the school by the Mini-Vinnies Group and Student Council. WOW Wednesday (Wipe Out Waste) encourages students to pack lunches in reusable containers to reduce waste.

## Characteristics of the Student Body

Approximately 585 students attend Emmanuel. A substantial proportion of the families have employment within the mining industry, with one parent working a rostered work schedule. Approximately 4% of the student population is of Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander heritage. Mobility of families within the school community is associated with employment opportunities outside of Mackay. Each year approximately 20 to 30 students are enrolled in classes other than Prep at Emmanuel. A small percentage of students speak a language other than English at home.

## Average student attendance rate (%)

The average student attendance rate for 2021 was 96.32%.

## Management of non-attendance

If a child is absent from school, parents are asked to notify the school office. There are two options for notification. Firstly, in the case of a planned absence (e.g. holidays, eisteddfod) a note to the teacher outlining the date/s of absence would suffice. In the event of a sudden absence (e.g. sickness) a phone call to the school is required. Rolls are marked by classroom teachers at 8.40am and again at 1.40pm each day. If the school has not been notified of a child's absence, a text message alerting parents that their child has been marked absent for the day will be sent.

## Staffing Information

### Workforce Composition

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	40.00	37.00	0.00
Full-time equivalents	32.90	19.26	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

- Bishop’s In-service Day
- WPHS/ Student Protection / Code of Conduct
- Professional Learning Teams
- Scripture and CST – Brother David Hall (What Makes our School Catholic)
- Minds Align – Teacher and Student Wellbeing
- REd Ex discussions (new RE curriculum)
- Inquiry Learning Workshop

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 \$56,600.

## 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 94.12%.

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year was 88.43%.

## School Income

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

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

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## 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

Our response to identified current needs is set within the context of the core messages within our Mission and Vision statements. NAPLAN results and 2020 PAT testing results were analysed. Both sets of data reflect the high standard in which curriculum is provided in all year levels and the ongoing teaching of new skills required to successfully complete NAPLAN online in Years 3 and 5 annually. Students gained the highest level of growth in the areas of Reading and Spelling. Year 3 students maintained above State Mean results in all areas of Writing, Grammar/Punctuation, Reading and Numeracy with results above the National Mean in Grammar and Punctuation and Writing. Year 5 students achieved above State and National Mean results in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar/Punctuation and Numeracy with results above the National Mean in Grammar and Punctuation, Spelling and Writing.

This is a result of many contributing factors:

- Daily literacy/numeracy blocks in every year level.
- Curriculum support time with APC and year level teachers.
- On-going Professional Development in all subjects.
- Professional Learning Team meetings to inform strategic responsive teaching approaches.
- Common assessment tasks and collaborative year level planning.
- Learning Support assistance in classrooms for students needing intervention.
- Reading Intervention programs throughout all year levels – PreLit, MiniLit, MultiLit.
- Special consideration to students with a diagnosis to access test conditions.
- High expectations from teachers in all year levels regarding curriculum planning, preparation and delivery.
- Well-resourced provision of technological devices across the school.
- Focused teaching of ICT capabilities for students to engage with the NAPLAN Online Platform.
- Analysis and review of PAT Tests to triangulate and monitor Data to inform further teaching and learning.
- Continuation of Data Response teachers.

## Strategic Improvement Progress and Next Steps

### **Strategic progress in 2021**

#### Catholic Identity and Ethos

- For all members of the school community to continue to strive and maintain Emmanuel as a dialogue school through the traditions and practices; celebrations; teaching and learning.

#### Effective Teaching and Learning

- That our school has a culture of data informed practice where every student is engaged and learning successfully in their own ways at their own pace.
- That our school has a feedback culture of continuous improvement which builds a schoolwide team of professional highly able teachers who use data and evidence-based teaching strategies to support deep student learning.

#### Pastoral Support and Wellbeing

- To enhance student learning and wellbeing outcomes through the development of a school well-being framework.

#### Leadership, Partnership and Resourcing

- That deliberate and strategic school community partnerships are developed to enhance teacher understanding of flexible learning and collaborative teaching environments.

The school made good progress on the goals for 2021 by:

- Providing time to collaboratively plan and review student data. Regular opportunities as a whole staff and year levels have been provided to reflect on NAPLAN and other data to implement strategies to enhance student growth.
- The continuation of “Typing Tournament” throughout all Prep-Year 6 classrooms, to continue to support the implementation of NAPLAN Online.
- Continued use of the DRA data wall to monitor and track student growth, and the continuation across all year levels of Daily 5 routines.
- Continuation of Daily Writing in all classrooms with a focus on spelling with explicit teaching. Teachers used Christine Topfer “Effective Spelling” as a model to implement consistent whole school practice.
- Whole staff Professional Development in the area of Inquiry Learning,
- Continuation of Professional Learning Teams.
- Providing Curriculum Support time, Staff Meeting and Board Meeting opportunities to provide professional development and conversations around the use of Scripture and Catholic Social Teachings in the teaching of RE and the development of Learning Goals and Success Criteria.
- Current parent/school partnerships have been identified within the context of the National School Improvement Tool (NSIT) audit and have been enhanced.
- All Years 4, 5 and 6 students have Chromebooks within classrooms. As well as this, the school also provides two working areas which are equipped with laptops, Chromebooks, and iPads, for use by all Prep-Year 3 classes, and this is working well across the school. STEM and Robotic equipment are continually upgraded to enhance extension and interest groups.
- A wellbeing committee was formed in response to the Diocesan Wellbeing Framework. This committee collected and responded to student well-being data as identified through the Be You survey tool.

## Strategic Priorities for 2022

The 2022 Strategic Priorities are:

- To continue to strive and maintain Emmanuel as a dialogue school.
- Every student is engaged and learning successfully in their own ways at their own pace.
- Students to be self-directed learners.
- To establish deliberate and strategic school community partnerships that enhance student learning.

## Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

Emmanuel Catholic Primary School has a very good reputation within the Mackay community for offering a quality, inclusive Catholic education where expectations are high, where students are encouraged to reach their potential, where a variety of academic, social, spiritual, and physical opportunities are provided for students and where students are seen as individuals and emphasis is placed on the values of respect, justice, dignity, honesty, and love. Such opinions are shared in a variety of forums, including enrolment interviews, parent and student satisfaction surveys, school social functions, excursions within the community, staff, and P & F meetings and by visiting personnel and new staff. The 2019 NSIT report reflected the high degree of parent, teacher, and student satisfaction at Emmanuel Catholic Primary School.