Mercy College Mackay
2015 School Reporting
Secondary Schools
**Distinctive Curriculum Offerings**

Mercy College Mackay is a Catholic College which follows a National & State based curriculum infused by the values of Christ. It has adopted a number of specific curriculum and structural changes designed to meet the individual learning needs of middle adolescents and allow them to respond to the needs of a changing world. We have a curriculum of semester units that builds in both challenge and support depending on the student needs. We believe middle schooling should extend a student’s horizon.

**Extra Curricula Activities**

Our curriculum aims to incorporate many extra-curricular activities into the school unit selection. This has the added bonus of allowing students to gain credit for them and other outside activities.

School Magazine can be worked on during and after school, providing the students with exceptional skills in graphics, layout, design and content.

Debating and public speaking. Many students participate in local interschool debating competitions and individuals are encouraged to enter public speaking competitions including Rostrum.

Art Department prepares students for the Mackay "Student Festival of Fashion". Musicals are a regular feature along with annual Music/Arts showcase evening.

Mercy has a Choir, Concert Band, African Drum Ensemble, Strings Ensemble, Kettle Drums and Mass Band. These groups participate in the Mackay Eisteddfod and many other events.

Interact - A very active Interact club operates within the College with a Rotary representative attending school meetings. Other major clubs include St Vincent de Paul, Environment, Social, Sports, Book Clubs, Chess, Student Welfare, Infotech, Student Wellbeing and Radio.

The college is very competitive in all interschool sports, some being – Rowing, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Soccer, Hockey, Futsal, Basketball, Water Polo, AFL, Cricket, Tennis and Bowls.

Within the curriculum the college also offers units including golf, lawn bowls, tennis, basketball, netball, archery, swimming and athletics.

**Social Climate**

Religious Education. Apart from our formal RE program the college places a high priority on the celebration of our Catholic faith through daily prayer and regular celebration of the Eucharist.

Students have the opportunity for self-reflection during retreats.

Days are set aside each year for all students to build friendships and a sense of belonging at the College.

Weekly Mass Contribution. Each week, on a rotating roster, three Homerooms conduct our weekly mass at St Mary’s church. The Homeroom teachers lead in song and prayer with the AP Mission.

Students, as a Homeroom group, do a weekly visit to St Francis Nursing Home and St Mary’s Primary school for a reading program with Prep students. With a newly appointed coordinator, Service learning has a renewed emphasis forging connections between our students and the community.

**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. 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 used for involving parents in their child’s education

Parents and Friends’ Association is active within the college and arranges both social and fund-raising activities. The ‘Just one Thing’ initiative was launched in 2013 and still continues to encourage every parent to make at least one voluntary contribution per year.

Support is also organised in the form of tuckshop and ground improvements.

P&F Bikeathon Fundraiser requires involvement from 100+ families to ensure the safety and general care of our students on their bicycle ride/walk challenge.

College Board. The College Board is of the pastoral model. Guided by a common faith and vision, Board members work with the principal, staff and parent groups to develop policies and provide support.

Reducing the school’s environmental footprint

Mercy College Mackay has embarked, over several years, on a program of green energy and conservation measures. Three installations of solar panels brings our generation capacity up to 15kw. Our carpark security lights are independent of the grid with panel/battery storage units. All air conditioners are on timers and we have energy efficient lighting in all possible installations. Burgeoning energy cost necessitate further work in this area.

Characteristics of the Student Body

The Mercy College student population is highly diverse in terms of socio-economic background ranging from situations where both parents are unemployed to highly paid professionals.

There is a limited ethnic diversity with a strong contribution by the Maltese, Italian community. The school has an educational commitment with specific curriculum initiatives to improving outcomes for Indigenous students.

Staffing Information

110 Staff members (incl. 5 Leadership Team members); 60 Teachers; 38 non-teaching staff (incl. 2 Indigenous IELO – 5 Grounds/Maintenance staff)

Qualifications of all teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification – highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Percentage of staff with this Qualification</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral / Post-doctoral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor Degree</td>
<td>89 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>3 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
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</table>
Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

(i) TOTAL FUNDS expended on teacher professional development according to Australian Government Quality Teacher Program reporting requirements.

$ 246,200

(ii) MAJOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Large cohort of staff undertook an intense 2 day training program in the “7 Habits”. All teaching staff received professional training in personal/professional goal setting, behaviour management, OH&S, child protection and Google Docs. Bishop’s Inservice Day - full day training in spirituality for all teachers followed by two 3 hour twilight inservices; one devoted to subject area knowledge, the other to spirituality & our Catholic identity. All teaching staff have access to $1000- PD funds.

(iii) The percentage of the TEACHING STAFF INVOLVED IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

100 %

Average staff attendance

97.06 %

Percentage of teaching staff retained from the previous school year

97.18 %

School Income

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at www.myschool.edu.au.
(The School information below is available on the My School web site).
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy Results

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for Year 9 are available via the My School website at 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

Mercy College Mackay has achieved and sustained pleasing result profiles in Yr 9 NAPLAN testing. Our scores are very comparable to schools of a similar profile and our students and staff maintain a positive attitude to the rationale for tests.

Average student attendance rate (%)
94.3 %

Describe how non-attendance is managed by the school

• Student Absentee Line – 4969 4188 (operates 24 hrs 7 days), absentee email, parent/caregiver phone daily to advise of student absence with reason
• Daily SMS to parent/caregiver regarding student’s unexplained absence for that day
• Phone call to Office from parent/caregiver to explain student absence
• Office contacts parent/caregiver on third consecutive day of absence if there is no notification to College for the absence
• Homeroom Teacher has a list of unexplained absences for students in Homeroom to obtain explanations for their absences
• Parent/caregiver use Student Diaries to explain absences
• Letters forwarded to parent/caregiver fortnightly regarding student’s unexplained absences since beginning of Term - return slip on bottom of letter for parent/caregiver completion.

House Coordinator follows up on a student’s continued absences

Avoidable extended absences i.e. holidays during Term time – parent/caregiver is required to provide a written detailed letter or email addressed to the Principal

Retention Rates – SECONDARY COLLEGES ONLY

Year 10 to 12 Apparent Retention Rate

MERCY IS YEAR 7 - 10 ONLY
Year 12 Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2013</th>
<th>(Data are available to schools from the QSA secure website using your existing security code)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of students awarded a Senior Statement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement (QCIA)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of students who are completing a School-based apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of OP eligible students with an OP 1-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE or VET qualification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer</td>
<td></td>
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Value Added

The story of distance travelled

• Strong positive enrolment trend
• Good progress in increasing the number of students who identify with an indigenous background
• Revitalised co-curricular Music and Instrumental Music program
• Best high school in Mackay for language study offerings
• Co-ordinated sports initiatives with sister school St Patrick’s College
• Good progress on improving school attendance generally
• Strong pastoral program to complement academic curriculum
• All students have an individual iPad/laptop computing device
• Expansion in language program
• Consolidation of Pastoral program with new Houses at full strength
• Best secondary school in Mackay for co-curricular offerings (sporting & cultural)
• Suite of new facilities to accommodate Year 7’s at Mercy
The story of where you are going


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

• Strong growth in enrolment demand
• Board and P&F spent time on school resourcing, fundraising and policy direction. Minimal time needed on concerns
• Ready access to teachers for parents through advertised email, parent evenings and school occasions
• Strong pastoral emphasis at the school
• Student Representative Council meets fortnightly. General representatives have a role to gauge student concerns - thus far these have been of a minor nature
• Spectrum of active student committees to address school
• Significant anti-bullying program
• Something for everyone in co-curricular

Comprehensive surveying of parents, students & staff to gauge progress and areas to develop identified by the NSIT (National Schools Improvement Tool).