



Merrimac State School

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

Queensland State School Reporting

Every student succeeding

State Schools Improvement Strategy

Department of Education



Queensland
Government

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From the Principal

School overview

Merrimac State School is a coeducational state primary school located on Queensland's Gold Coast between Broadbeach and the Hinterland. The school has an enrolment of around 780 students from Prep to Year 6. It is backdropped by a bush setting neighbouring international golf courses. Our school services a wide area with many families passing local schools to attend Merrimac. The school offers a balanced curriculum with a strong emphasis on literacy, numeracy, science, ICT, STEM, sporting and cultural pursuits. Japanese is taught from Prep to Year 6. The School Community has developed our vision statement based on the belief that our children are our future. The school's aim is to develop students who possess the necessary characteristics and skills in order to become successful and active members of the wider community. Merrimac's vision is to prepare our students for life long learning through developing self-esteem in a supportive and caring environment; an emphasis on addressing each child's learning needs and interests; the effective implementation of a quality curriculum; the effective integration of information and communication technologies; providing a range of cultural, sporting and social activities; promoting a respect and appreciation of our natural surroundings; the development of a range of resources and facilities to support quality student achievements; and active participation by students, staff, parents and community members. The school's behaviour management program focuses on a safe and supportive environment. It encourages students to strive to improve their behaviour through acknowledgement of positive behaviour. Behaviour management procedures are consistent through all classrooms and play areas with a level system based on responsible thinking and reflective practices. Individual Behaviour Management Plans are implemented for children requiring additional support. Parent support at Merrimac is very good. We believe strongly in family involvement and parents are invited to develop close links with the school. Good communication between home and school is always promoted. Parents and community members are invited to help as volunteers within the classroom. An active Student Support committee caters for students with any special needs. The school provides opportunities for extending students in many academic, cultural and sporting endeavours and places an emphasis on developing student leadership. Children can take part in a wide range of extra curricula activities including camps, excursions and Japan trips. Merrimac has an accredited International School Program with an established Japanese Sister School program and regular International Fee Paying Students. The school has ample physical resources and a very well equipped Resource Centre, an ICT Centre with Skyping facilities and two computer labs. All classrooms are air conditioned and fitted with Interactive White Boards. The school has a Multi Purpose Centre, a Performance Hall and Science Centre. Merrimac State School is an Independent Public School (IPS).

Our school at a glance

School profile

Coeducational or single sex	Coeducational
Independent public school	Yes
Year levels offered in 2019	Prep Year - Year 6

Characteristics of the student body

Student enrolments

Table 1: Student enrolments at this school

Enrolment category	2017	2018	2019
Total	808	788	787
Girls	380	368	384
Boys	428	420	403
Indigenous	35	31	24
Enrolment continuity (Feb. – Nov.)	96%	94%	97%

Notes:

1. Student counts are based on the Census (August) enrolment collection.
2. Indigenous refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia.
3. [pre-Prep](#) is a kindergarten program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, living in 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, in the year before school.

In 2019, there were no students enrolled in a pre-Prep program.

Average class sizes

Table 2: Average class size information for each phase of schooling

Phase of schooling	2017	2018	2019
Prep – Year 3	23	24	24
Year 4 – Year 6	26	26	26
Year 7 – Year 10			
Year 11 – Year 12			

Note:

The [class size](#) targets for composite classes are informed by the relevant year level target. Where composite classes exist across cohorts (e.g. year 3/4) the class size targets would be the lower cohort target.

Curriculum implementation

The P–12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework specifies the curriculum, assessment and reporting requirements for all Queensland state schools' principals and staff delivering the curriculum from Prep to Year 12. Further information on school implementation of the framework is available at <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/stages-of-schooling/p-12>.

Extra-curricular activities

Queensland state schools provide a wide range of subjects and extra curricula activities such as sport, art, music and school camps. Further information can be found here <https://www.qld.gov.au/education/schools/information/programs>.

How information and communication technologies are used to assist learning

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are an important part of contemporary schooling. The Australian Curriculum includes ICTs as a general capability across all learning areas, as well as Digital Technologies as a specific learning area. Further information on models used by schools to assist learning is available at <https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/school-information/student-ict-device-programs/one-to-one-models>.

Social climate

Overview

Each Queensland state school develops and enacts policies to support an integrated approach to behaviour, learning and teaching.

Our Student Code of Conduct is our school's behaviour policy, with information about school rules, consequences and processes for addressing bullying and the use of technology. A copy of this is available on our school website.

Further information is also available at <https://www.qld.gov.au/education/schools/health>.

Parent, student and staff satisfaction

Tables 3–5 show selected items from the Parent/Caregiver, Student and Staff School Opinion Surveys.

Table 3: Parent opinion survey

Percentage of parents/caregivers who agree# that:	2017	2018	2019
• their child is getting a good education at school (S2016)	100%	97%	90%
• this is a good school (S2035)	99%	97%	95%
• their child likes being at this school* (S2001)	99%	98%	94%
• their child feels safe at this school* (S2002)	99%	97%	94%
• their child's learning needs are being met at this school* (S2003)	99%	97%	89%
• their child is making good progress at this school* (S2004)	100%	94%	89%
• teachers at this school expect their child to do his or her best* (S2005)	99%	98%	97%
• teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work* (S2006)	99%	97%	85%
• teachers at this school motivate their child to learn* (S2007)	97%	95%	94%
• teachers at this school treat students fairly* (S2008)	96%	94%	90%
• they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns* (S2009)	97%	97%	92%
• this school works with them to support their child's learning* (S2010)	97%	97%	89%
• this school takes parents' opinions seriously* (S2011)	94%	95%	90%
• student behaviour is well managed at this school* (S2012)	99%	89%	89%
• this school looks for ways to improve* (S2013)	96%	97%	88%
• this school is well maintained* (S2014)	99%	92%	92%

* Nationally agreed student and parent/caregiver items.

'Agree' represents the percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement.

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Table 4: Student opinion survey

Percentage of students who agree# that:	2017	2018	2019
• they are getting a good education at school (S2048)	98%	98%	99%
• they like being at their school* (S2036)	97%	97%	98%
• they feel safe at their school* (S2037)	93%	95%	97%
• their teachers motivate them to learn* (S2038)	95%	98%	97%
• their teachers expect them to do their best* (S2039)	99%	100%	99%

Percentage of students who agree# that:	2017	2018	2019
• their teachers provide them with useful feedback about their school work* (S2040)	97%	97%	96%
• teachers treat students fairly at their school* (S2041)	93%	89%	88%
• they can talk to their teachers about their concerns* (S2042)	89%	93%	88%
• their school takes students' opinions seriously* (S2043)	93%	91%	93%
• student behaviour is well managed at their school* (S2044)	93%	93%	84%
• their school looks for ways to improve* (S2045)	97%	98%	98%
• their school is well maintained* (S2046)	96%	98%	94%
• their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things* (S2047)	97%	97%	98%

* Nationally agreed student and parent/caregiver items.

'Agree' represents the percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement.

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Table 5: Staff opinion survey

Percentage of school staff who agree# that:	2017	2018	2019
• they enjoy working at their school (S2069)	100%	100%	100%
• they feel that their school is a safe place in which to work (S2070)	100%	100%	100%
• they receive useful feedback about their work at their school (S2071)	96%	98%	99%
• they feel confident embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across the learning areas (S2114)	95%	95%	96%
• students are encouraged to do their best at their school (S2072)	100%	100%	100%
• students are treated fairly at their school (S2073)	100%	100%	99%
• student behaviour is well managed at their school (S2074)	100%	96%	96%
• staff are well supported at their school (S2075)	98%	97%	96%
• their school takes staff opinions seriously (S2076)	93%	97%	96%
• their school looks for ways to improve (S2077)	99%	98%	100%
• their school is well maintained (S2078)	100%	99%	98%
• their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things (S2079)	99%	99%	96%

* Nationally agreed student and parent/caregiver items.

'Agree' represents the percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement.

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Parent and community engagement

Our approach to engaging with parents and the community is aligned to the departments Parent and community engagement framework. The framework helps students, schools, parents and the community to work together to maximise student learning and wellbeing. Research shows parent and community engagement that is effectively focused on student learning can deliver powerful outcomes. Further information is available at <https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/community-engagement>

Respectful relationships education programs

Our school has implemented the Respectful relationships education program (RREP) as part of the broad multi-departmental Queensland Government approach to ending domestic and family violence.

The RREP is a Prep to Year 12 prevention program that focuses on influencing behavioural change to build a culture based on equality and respect in our students, staff, parents and wider community. Students are provided opportunities to explore social and emotional learning in self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships, ethics, values, social norms, gender roles, stereotypes, human rights, risk and responsible decision-making. A growing body of evidence shows that social and emotional learning of this nature leads to:

- improved social and emotional skills, self-concept, bonding to school and classroom behaviour
- less disruptive classroom behaviour, aggression, bullying and delinquent acts
- reduced emotional distress such as depression, stress or social withdrawal.

Further information is available at <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/stages-of-schooling/respectful-relationships>

School disciplinary absences

Table 6: Count of incidents for students recommended for school disciplinary absences at this school

Type of school disciplinary absence	2017	2018	2019
Short suspensions – 1 to 10 days	6	18	20
Long suspensions – 11 to 20 days	0	0	0
Exclusions	0	0	0
Cancellations of enrolment	0	0	0

Note:

School disciplinary absences (SDAs) are absences enforced by a school for student conduct that is prejudicial to the good order and management of the school.

Environmental footprint

Reducing this school's environmental footprint

Environmental education has been a feature of Queensland schools for more than 30 years. In many schools it has been creatively and proactively incorporated into the curriculum in each phase of learning, and is also reflected in the school's facilities and in the actions of its principals, teachers and students.

Table 7: Environmental footprint indicators for this school

Utility category	2016–2017	2017–2018	2018–2019
Electricity (kWh)	205,985	220,143	241,148
Water (kL)	2,902	19,882	3,379

Note:

Consumption data is compiled from sources including ERM, Ergon, CS Energy reports and utilities data entered into OneSchool* by schools. The data provides an indication of the consumption trend in each of the utility categories which impact on this school's environmental footprint.

*OneSchool is the department's comprehensive software suite that schools use to run safe, secure, sustainable and consistent reporting and administrative processes.

School funding

School income broken down by funding source

School income, reported by financial year accounting cycle using standardized national methodologies and broken down by funding source is available via the [My School](#) website.

How to access our income details

1. Click on the *My School* link <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.
2. Enter the school name or suburb of the school you wish to search.

Search by school name or suburb School sector School type State

3. Click on 'View School Profile' of the appropriate school to access the school's profile.



4. Click on 'Finances' and select the appropriate year to view the school financial information.

School profile NAPLAN Attendance Finances VET in schools Senior secondary Schools map

Note:

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a hard copy of the school's financial information.

Our staff profile

Workforce composition

Staff composition, including Indigenous staff

Table 8: Workforce composition for this school

Description	Teaching staff*	Non-teaching staff	Indigenous** staff
Headcounts	59	35	0
Full-time equivalents	51	20	0

*Teaching staff includes School Leaders.

** *Indigenous* refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia.

Qualification of all teachers

The Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) is responsible for ensuring that teaching in Queensland schools is performed by an appropriately qualified person, that has successfully completed either -

- (a) a four-year initial teacher education program including teacher education studies of at least one year (e.g. a Bachelor of Education, or a double Bachelor degree in Science and Teaching) or
- (b) a one-year graduate initial teacher education program following a degree (e.g. a one-year Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary) after a three-year Bachelor degree) or
- (c) another course of teacher education that the QCT is reasonably satisfied is the equivalent of (a) or (b). These are considered on a case-by-case basis.

For more information, please refer to the following links

- https://cdn.qct.edu.au/pdf/Policy_Teacher_registration_eligibility_requirements
- <https://www.qct.edu.au/registration/qualifications>

Professional development

Teacher participation in professional development

Queensland state schools undertake 5 staff professional development days (25 hours) throughout the year:

- 2 days at the end of the summer holidays (fixed)
- 2 days during the Easter holidays (flexible)
- 1 day in the third last week of Term 3 (fixed) on the student free day.

Staff attendance and retention

Staff attendance

Table 10: Average staff attendance for this school as percentages

Description	2017	2018	2019
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders.	96%	96%	95%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 98% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2019.

Performance of our students

Key student outcomes

Student attendance

The overall student attendance rate in 2019 for all Queensland state Primary schools was 92%.

Tables 11–12 show attendance rates at this school as percentages.

Table 11: Overall student attendance at this school

Description	2017	2018	2019
Overall attendance rate* for students at this school	94%	93%	93%
Attendance rate for Indigenous** students at this school	88%	86%	93%

* Student attendance rate = the total of full-days and part-days that students attended divided by the total of all possible days for students to attend (expressed as a percentage).

** *Indigenous* refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia.

Table 12: Average student attendance rates for each year level at this school

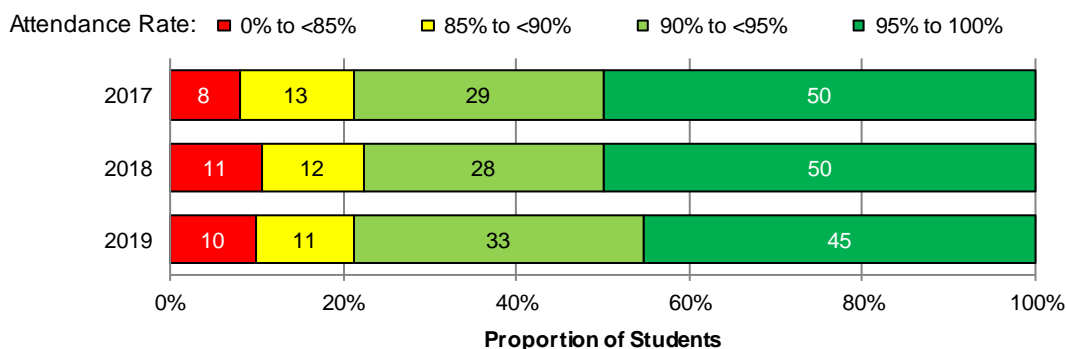
Year level	2017	2018	2019	Year level	2017	2018	2019
Prep	94%	94%	93%	Year 7			
Year 1	94%	93%	92%	Year 8			
Year 2	94%	93%	93%	Year 9			
Year 3	94%	93%	93%	Year 10			
Year 4	94%	92%	93%	Year 11			
Year 5	92%	94%	94%	Year 12			
Year 6	94%	92%	93%				

Notes:

1. Attendance rates effectively count attendance for every student for every day of attendance in Semester 1.
2. Student attendance rate = the total of full-days and part-days that students attended divided by the total of all possible days for students to attend (expressed as a percentage).
3. DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Student attendance distribution

Graph 1: Proportion of students by attendance rate



Description of how this school manages non-attendance

Queensland state schools manage non-attendance in line with the Queensland Department of Education procedures: [Managing Student Absences and Enforcing Enrolment and Attendance at State Schools](#); and [Roll Marking in State Schools](#), which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

NAPLAN

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 NAPLAN tests are available via the [My School](#) website.

How to access our NAPLAN results

1. Click on the *My School* link <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.
2. Enter the school name or suburb of the school you wish to search.

School sector ▼
School type ▼
State ▼
🔍

3. Click on 'View School Profile' of the appropriate school to access the school's profile.

[View School Profile](#)

4. Click on 'NAPLAN' to access the school NAPLAN information.

School profile
NAPLAN ▼
Attendance
Finances
VET in schools
Senior secondary
Schools map

Notes:

1. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a hard copy of the school's NAPLAN results.
2. The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy ([NAPLAN](#)) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.