St Columba's Primary School is situated in the inner northern suburb of Wilston, in Brisbane. Opening enrolments in 2015 were 602.4 from Prep to Year 6. Enrolments in recent years have risen significantly as the inner suburbs of Brisbane continue to grow. A significant feature of the school is its strong reputation in the local community as a school that provides a Christian education in the Catholic tradition, based on Gospel Values. We are committed to the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, cultural and physical development of the whole person. The school has a strong focus on the pastoral care of students, quality teaching and learning and provision of a variety of extra-curricular activities. In the next 12-18 months we commence planning for our centenary celebrations in 2017. Currently our school caters for the primary years Prep to Year 6, across 24 classes. Staff comprise classroom teachers (either in full time or part time capacity), school officers and specialist staff. St. Columba's is in the planning stages of a new multi-million dollar building project. This, and past projects have been and will continue to be a part of a long-term strategy to meet enrolment demand, and to continue to develop modern, first-class educational facilities to meet the challenges of 21st century learning and teaching. Today, St. Columba’s, in strong partnership with the Parish, is recognized for proudly offering a quality inclusive Catholic Education.
Characteristics of the student body

2015 saw the student body of St. Columba’s as a predominantly homogenous group, largely consisting of students born in Australia. Although some were born overseas, the majority of students have English speaking parents. We currently have 1 indigenous student, and only 9 students of the total school population are of an ESL background. Students come from diverse family backgrounds who value education and the parents are well educated; most having tertiary qualifications themselves.

Overall, our student cohort primarily comprises children from families in the local areas of Wilston, Grange, Windsor and Gordon Park. Students are very often well prepared at the time of enrolment having attended a quality Pre-Prep / Kindergarten programme.

Many students from St. Columba’s are involved in extra-curricular activities outside school hours, including sporting and cultural pursuits, making them resilient and confident learners who are well regarded in the local community. Feedback received from local high schools often indicates that students from St. Columba’s are well prepared and have sound academic and social skills.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

In conjunction with the standard Learning Areas as guided by relevant Australian Curriculum and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authorities, St. Columba’s proudly offers the following distinctive curriculum areas;
- Religious Education
- LOTE (Language other than English) - Italian
- The school also has 2 part time Physical Education specialists, as well as 2 part time Music specialists
- Students have the opportunity to be involved in the Sports Program (where children may be involved in tennis, Aussie rules, T-ball, touch football, volleyball, netball, soccer, athletics, swimming and cross country running). There are regular training sessions offered for in-season sports outside of school hours, and children from St. Columba’s compete in a variety of competitions at Zone, District, and in some cases State level.
- Our curriculum is also complemented by an extensive network of available technologies (classroom computers, banks of laptops and iPads available for student use, and from last year, the introduction of the Year 1 1:1 iPad programme. From this year, all students in Years 1 and 2 now have their own iPad. This will continue next year, with all students in Years 1-3 having their own device. The 1:1 Laptop programme was also continued, seeing all Year 4, 5 and 6 students leasing a personal laptop.
Extra curricula activities
The school further offers the following extra-curricular activities;
- Debating, Drama Club, Chess, and Science clubs
- Choirs - comprising Junior and Senior Choirs, Instrumental Music tuition
- Speech and Drama tuition
- Camps in Years 4, 5, and 6 (Students in Year 6 travel to Canberra for an education excursion)
- Inter-school sporting competitions, representative sport - individual and team competitions
- Local choir, dancing, speech and drama eisteddfods
- Maths, English, Science and Computer Skills competitions
- Readers Cup participation
- Incursion and Excursion opportunities, as well as School buddy system, for all Year levels

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning
The online world is very much part of life and learning, and ICT presents some exciting educational opportunities. At St. Columba's we value ICT as a means to assist learners whose preferred learning style combines visual and auditory elements, and we have dedicated IT staff employed to provide instruction to students, as well as professional learning opportunities for staff. We value the prior knowledge and experience of our learners, as well as support provided by technicians and support staff. We see ICT as a valuable communication tool/support between home and school, for example through the launch this year of our Parent Portal. All teachers have access to a laptop computer to support their teaching and learning initiatives, as well as effective and efficient communication. ICT is becoming increasingly embedded in classroom learning opportunities, is best linked to meaningful learning experiences, and has the potential to personalise learning, making differentiation of the curriculum effective. This year we entered into a Robotics partnership with the University of Queensland to work with our Year 4 students on computer programming and coding. This is a partnership we intend to continue so that students in Years 4, 5 and 6 continue to develop skills in this area. We acknowledge that our learners come with varying degrees of ICT experience and access from home, and that our students are well supported in building their resilience in relation to using a range of available devices. We promote a school wide focus on Cyber Safety. The fee structure of the school includes an IT levy to off-set the financial costs of the continued development of our Wireless network, and other endeavours relating to the use of ICT.

Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying
The school's social climate extends a sense of belonging to all members of the community. Students are encouraged to accept that their rights are accompanied by responsibilities. Our school's "Behaviour Support Plan", incorporating the "Bounce Back Program" outlines a whole-school approach to establishing and maintaining a school climate that is characterised by resilience, fairness, charity and a sense of belonging. The school's anti-bullying policy draws on these proactive approaches to implement our procedures. The following are some of the ways in which we have sought to develop pastoral care: Celebrations of welcome, farewell and graduation mark the milestones of student participation in school life, leadership opportunities within the school for Year 6 students, buddy class system which support interactions and friendships across age groups within the school, achievement awards, Principal's awards and birthdays, as a way of promoting self-esteem among students, regular assemblies to keep students and families informed of happenings at school, and class prayer gatherings and celebrations.
Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

We recognize the importance of feedback in relation to community satisfaction with the school. We provide many opportunities for stakeholders to liaise, correspond and discuss various elements concerning school practices. From data gained through community surveys, the internal school review process, and staff goal setting, there is a high degree of satisfaction with St. Columba's. Areas of commendation from the parent community included; being a welcoming, inclusive and supportive culture with a strong community spirit, committed staff, interested and supportive parent body, an environment where children feel happy, safe, valued and respected, strong links with Parish, excellent facilities, willingness for staff and school leadership to listen, and opportunities for extra-curricular activities, including excursions, discos and camps. Our current Strategic Renewal Plan is informed by feedback provided in areas to be strengthened. A copy is available on our public school website: www.stcolumbaswilston.qld.edu.au

Parent involvement in children's education

Parent involvement in children's education, and in the general life of St. Columba's, is both highly valued and a crucial component of the educational team working together for the education of each child. Parental involvement is always welcomed and encouraged. Parents and teachers are encouraged to maintain honest and open communication. The school has an active P & F Association and School Board. The following strategies and activities provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's education: parent teacher evenings and meetings, participation in classroom activities, library and tuckshop support, attendance at celebrations of learning and open classrooms, participation in prayer gatherings and liturgies, P & F Meetings, social functions, parent forums on topics of interest, regular communication with the child's teacher, involvement in the children's camps, excursions, sports days/carnivals, and cyclical review invitations to provide feedback. In addition, our P & F sponsors, Tennis, Tuckshop, Uniform Shop, PALS, working bees, and major fundraisers (E.g., Fete, Art Show, Readathon).

### Staff Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Non-teaching Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcounts</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time equivalents</td>
<td>40.54</td>
<td>17.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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### Qualifications of all teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Number of Teaching Staff (teaching staff includes school leaders)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelors Degree</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2015 was $47,175.

The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

During 2015, a significant amount of professional development funding continued to be directed towards our school goals and the implementation of the Australian Curriculum, in particular Visible Learning, The Arts and Religious Education. Other areas of Professional Development included:
- LIFE (Learning Management System)
- First Aid
- Consistency of Teacher Judgement
- Using data to inform teaching and learning
- Collaborative Curriculum planning
- ICT and 21st Century learning in the Classroom
- Special Learning needs
- Gifted and Talented Education

School Income by Funding Source

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.

To access our school income details, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following:

‘Find a school’ text box.

Type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select ‘GO’. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school’s My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting ‘School finances’ in the menu box in the top left corner of the school’s entry web page.

Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was 96.22% in 2015.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2014 school year, 89.86% of staff were retained by the school for the 2015 year.

Key Student Outcomes

| Whole School Attendance Rate | 96.00% |
| Prep Attendance Rate | 98.00% |
| Year 1 Attendance Rate | 96.00% |
| Year 2 Attendance Rate | 97.00% |
| Year 3 Attendance Rate | 96.00% |
| Year 4 Attendance Rate | 96.00% |
| Year 5 Attendance Rate | 96.00% |
| Year 6 Attendance Rate | 95.00% |
Policy and practice to manage student attendance

The school manages student attendance electronically by way of the school's "Student Administration" system in accordance with our Roll marking policy and procedures document. Members of the school's administration team monitor and check daily attendance reports that are generated by every class group. Parents can monitor their own child's attendance by way of the parent portal, and are contacted if attendance is not regular or absenteeism is not explained.

Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years are available via the My School website at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.

To access our NAPLAN results, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following

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