



Boonah State School

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Queensland State School Reporting

*Inspiring minds. Creating opportunities. Shaping Queensland's future.*

Every student succeeding. State Schools Strategy 2017-2021  
Department of Education

## Contact Information

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## School Overview

Boonah State School is a caring school strongly connected to its local community, with enthusiastic parent and carer support. Our school was established in 1878 and is located in the picturesque Scenic Rim, an hour's drive from Brisbane and the Gold Coast. With a current enrolment fluctuating around 250 children, it is big enough to provide a wide array of opportunities for our students, yet small enough to maintain the long established tradition of working closely with the community to deliver excellent educational experiences. This connection is made possible by the team of committed professionals we have on staff, each with a genuine passion for student learning. Our key priorities are improving outcomes in Literacy, Numeracy and Science, building the capacity of our staff to provide quality learning experiences and creating a safe, supportive and encouraging learning environment where every child experiences success. We have recently launched a new vision of BOONAH BRILLIANCE – being the best you can be! This vision calls on of our school community members (staff, students, parents and extended family) to expect and be their best in order to foster the best in our children. One of the greatest strengths of our school is the lasting relationships that are developed at the school between staff, students and parents and carers. These relationships promote a safe and caring environment for all of the members of our school community. We are very proud of our school and maintain an excellent reputation in the community.

## Principal's Foreword

### Introduction

#### School Progress towards its goals in 2017

Our purpose is to achieve the best possible outcomes for every student, with an unrelenting commitment to high performance through:

- Distinctive curriculum reflecting local needs
- Quality, professional teaching
- Positive school and community relationships, and
- Development of a safe and supportive learning environment

2017 was characterised by many positive outcomes for Boonah State School. Significant strategic achievements attained by our school include:

- 95% of parents and students are satisfied that they are getting a good education at this school and that this is a good school
- More outstanding NAPLAN results and 80% of students receiving a C or higher in English, 83% in Mathematics and 87% in Science
- Community endorsement of a new strategic plan 2018-2021
- Building the capacity of teachers to implement the BSS Pedagogical Framework and our Model of Instruction
- Embedding key signature strategies – Sensational Spelling, Rainbow Writing and RIP Into Reading
- A comprehensive NAPLAN preparation program with the strategic use of individual student data to inform planning a key aspect
- Continuing to maintain and renew a fleet of Information and Communication Technologies including computers, interactive whiteboards, iPads etc

#### Future Outlook

**Following our Quadrennial School Review Process, our 3 key goals of 2017 are:**

- Improving the quality of student outcomes, particularly in Numeracy, through the development and implementation of consistent classroom practices.
- Nurturing happy, healthy and wise students, staff and families in a safe and supportive learning environment.

- Strengthening the productive partnerships with all stakeholders in the community.

**We look forward to implementing the following strategies to achieve these goals:**

- Building the capacity of teachers to provide rigorous and varied opportunities to learn and make consistent judgements on students' learning.
- Developing an evidence-based Maths Program to implement throughout the school which promotes students' ability to creatively solve problems
- Deepening our feedback culture which supports teachers' development of effective teaching practices.
- Delivering quality Professional Development to staff in key performance areas.
- Adopting consistent assessment and reporting strategies.
- Focussing on reporting to parents the core capabilities, knowledge and skills of their children.
- Developing a social-emotional program which supports students to identify and self-regulate their emotions
- Establishing formal opportunities for students to extend identified talents and gifts.
- Continuing the journey to embed the KidsMatter Framework to develop a positive school culture.

# Our School at a Glance

## School Profile

<b>Coeducational or single sex:</b>	Coeducational
<b>Independent Public School:</b>	No
<b>Year levels offered in 2017:</b>	Prep Year - Year 6

### Student enrolments for this school:

	Total	Girls	Boys	Indigenous	Enrolment Continuity (Feb – Nov)
<b>2015</b>	239	113	126	21	92%
<b>2016</b>	244	118	126	17	89%
<b>2017</b>	255	124	131	20	93%

Student counts are based on the Census (August) enrolment collection.

In 2017, there were no students enrolled in a pre-Prep\*\* program.

\*\* pre-Prep is a kindergarten program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, living across 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, in the year before school (<https://qed.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/families/pre-prep-indigenous>).

## Characteristics of the Student Body

### Overview

In 2017 we again welcomed significant number of new families to Boonah State School who were looking for a tree change at a school with students demonstrating a high standard of behaviour and learning. The majority of our students travel by bus from local rural properties while others walk or travel with their families from houses within the immediate township.

### Average Class Sizes

The following table shows the average class size information for each phase of schooling.

AVERAGE CLASS SIZES			
Phase	2015	2016	2017
Prep – Year 3	23	21	23
Year 4 – Year 6	24	25	28
Year 7 – Year 10			
Year 11 – Year 12			

## Curriculum Delivery

### Our approach to curriculum delivery

The community and staff of Boonah State School recognise that the fundamental goal of our teaching is to facilitate the development of literate and numerate lifelong learners who are critical, creative thinkers, striving to excel. Our vision is simple, Boonah Brilliance – Being the best we can be in learning, behaviour and relationships with others. It recognises that if we want students to be the best they can be, then the people around them (staff, parents and community) need to be the best they can be. The 4 Pillars to Boonah Brilliance are:

Safety – Respect – Responsibility – Active Learning

Our curriculum for Prep – Year 6 has a central focus on high levels of Literacy and Numeracy. Specialist teachers in Physical Education, Japanese and Music deliver programs in these areas.

The influences on our curriculum framework are evident through:



- Focus on explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy
- Data to inform a personalised learning pathway for students
- The Productive Pedagogies embedded in units
- ICTs and Technology integrated into all units of work
- A reporting framework which supports the 5 point scale

The distinctive features within this design are:-

- Partnerships with local and state sporting groups to provide skill development in many sports
- Instrumental Music Program
- Academic Awards program recognising top performing Maths, English and Science students in years 3-6 and the Active Learners in each of these classes
- A camping program which includes a transition camp with other local primary schools
- Increased integration of technology in the classroom with tablets, data projectors, Interactive Whiteboards and iPads.
- Enrichment days sharing skills and knowledge within our school community and cluster
- Arts program that includes a concert written and produced by staff at the end of the year with two sold out performances that are enjoyed by members of the wider community
- Sporting program including inter school Futsal, netball, soccer, AFL & Rugby League.
- Support a Reader program with trained staff and community volunteers
- 'Games Club' to encourage development of social skills
- 'Friends Program' and Seasons for Growth conducted by our chaplain
- Chaplaincy program to support students
- Gifted Education Policy and Action plan developed and implemented
- Festival of Gifted Workshops for identified students in the Cluster

We identify and support the individual learning needs of students through our Student Wellbeing Forum which meets fortnightly and is attended and actioned by:

- Early Intervention Teacher and Middle Years Intervention Teacher
- Guidance Officer
- Special Education Program teachers
- Head of Special Education Services
- Chaplain
- Principal
- Head of Curriculum

#### **Extra curricula activities**

Our students have the opportunity to participate in many activities including

- Award winning Band and Choir which perform in community events and Regional competitions
- End of year concert which is widely established as a whole of community event
- Fassifern Public Speaking Competition with students winning for consecutive years
- Fassifern Writers' Conference
- Art & Dance program run with the support of the Boonah Arts Collective to participate in Ritchies Arts Festival
- Year 6 participate in a cluster camp and transition program for high school including days of excellence
- Student Council in senior grades, where students are encouraged in decision making practices to support school, local and global charities through fund-raising events.
  - Camping / excursion program throughout the school which allows students to broaden their learning experiences in line with current classroom programs

#### **How Information and Communication Technologies are used to improve learning**

Our vision is that Boonah State School students will be comfortable, competent, confident and critical using ICT as a tool for learning with future positive outcomes for students in the workforce, their recreational pursuits and society as a whole. We believe successful integration of ICT is integral to the success of our students as life long learners.

We maintain a fully functioning computer laboratory as well as computers in various classrooms throughout the school. A replacement schedule is in place to ensure that all computers are less than 4 years old. While all classrooms are equipped with data projectors and tablet, 5 classrooms are also equipped with Interactive Whiteboards, allowing teachers to access interactive resources to enhance learning opportunities. We also have a fleet of over 70 iPads for classroom use and each teacher has an iPad to build their capacity to integrate them effectively.

Currently the ICTs are used to broaden the educational options and opportunities available for our students. ICTs (particularly the Internet) are used to allow students to access 'experts' for curriculum activities and resources from a wide range of sources. ICT will also be used to allow teachers to network with other teachers outside of the school, engaging in learning and development activities and forming networks.

Ways we utilise ICTs in students' learning include

- Online learning and Web-based homework
- Collaborative problem solving projects
- Accessing relevant websites for teaching and learning opportunities
- Students and teachers using still and movie digital cameras

- Creating stories using programs such as Photoshop and Movie Maker
- Interactive web based resources to enhance learning opportunities

## Social Climate

### Overview

Our school is a warm caring community where respect for self and others is fostered. Staff/student relations are considered a major strength at our school and student behaviour is extremely positive as a direct result. Our school has an outstanding reputation in the community for the fantastic behaviour standards of our students and anti-bullying climate.

Our school is extremely fortunate to host a chaplaincy service. Our school chaplain is an extremely valued member of our school and community. Our chaplain's role is to enhance the life and culture of our school. She works with students to ensure they are happy and have friends and assists them with emotional and social issues.

Through a comprehensive review of our Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students and action planning by our KidsMatter Team, we have developed a Bully Buster Program. This program makes explicit what bullying is and identifies strategies for supporting all parties involved in bullying (bully, target, by-standers and associates). It also identifies key personnel who have been given context specific training to facilitate a conference approach to managing bullying.

The positive school culture has resulted in students and parents expressing a satisfaction rating with the school's social climate significantly greater than that of state and like school means.

### Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

#### Parent opinion survey

Performance measure			
Percentage of parents/caregivers who agree# that:	2015	2016	2017
their child is getting a good education at school (S2016)	100%	94%	93%
this is a good school (S2035)	100%	94%	97%
their child likes being at this school* (S2001)	100%	97%	97%
their child feels safe at this school* (S2002)	95%	94%	93%
their child's learning needs are being met at this school* (S2003)	95%	91%	93%
their child is making good progress at this school* (S2004)	95%	88%	93%
teachers at this school expect their child to do his or her best* (S2005)	95%	94%	97%
teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work* (S2006)	95%	91%	90%
teachers at this school motivate their child to learn* (S2007)	95%	94%	97%
teachers at this school treat students fairly* (S2008)	100%	97%	97%
they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns* (S2009)	95%	97%	97%
this school works with them to support their child's learning* (S2010)	95%	91%	90%
this school takes parents' opinions seriously* (S2011)	100%	91%	93%
student behaviour is well managed at this school* (S2012)	100%	88%	75%
this school looks for ways to improve* (S2013)	100%	91%	93%
this school is well maintained* (S2014)	95%	88%	90%

#### Student opinion survey

Performance measure			
Percentage of students who agree# that:	2015	2016	2017
they are getting a good education at school (S2048)	100%	95%	100%
they like being at their school* (S2036)	92%	92%	98%
they feel safe at their school* (S2037)	94%	93%	100%

Performance measure			
Percentage of students who agree <sup>#</sup> that:	2015	2016	2017
their teachers motivate them to learn* (S2038)	98%	95%	98%
their teachers expect them to do their best* (S2039)	100%	98%	98%
their teachers provide them with useful feedback about their school work* (S2040)	97%	97%	100%
teachers treat students fairly at their school* (S2041)	93%	92%	96%
they can talk to their teachers about their concerns* (S2042)	93%	90%	96%
their school takes students' opinions seriously* (S2043)	94%	90%	93%
student behaviour is well managed at their school* (S2044)	94%	90%	89%
their school looks for ways to improve* (S2045)	100%	95%	100%
their school is well maintained* (S2046)	98%	93%	98%
their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things* (S2047)	94%	80%	93%

### Staff opinion survey

Performance measure			
Percentage of school staff who agree <sup>#</sup> that:	2015	2016	2017
they enjoy working at their school (S2069)	100%	100%	94%
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%	85%	87%
they feel confident embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across the learning areas (S2114)	80%	88%	75%
students are encouraged to do their best at their school (S2072)	100%	100%	100%
students are treated fairly at their school (S2073)	100%	100%	100%
student behaviour is well managed at their school (S2074)	100%	100%	61%
staff are well supported at their school (S2075)	100%	100%	77%
their school takes staff opinions seriously (S2076)	100%	96%	90%
their school looks for ways to improve (S2077)	100%	100%	94%
their school is well maintained (S2078)	96%	85%	74%
their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things (S2079)	100%	100%	90%

\* 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 community actively participates in the school through attendance at monthly Parents and Citizens meeting, and through volunteering and support for classroom/co-curricula activities. Fortnightly newsletters, parent-teacher interviews and regular contact enable the partnerships between school, parents and community to be further developed and maintained.

We actively encourage parents and community members whenever possible to the school through activities such as:

- Sporting Events & Enrichment Days
- Disco or movie night and a community afternoon each term
- School Assemblies, Special celebrations and Leadership ceremonies
- Classroom Support, Support-a-Reader and Parent Partnership Information sessions and letters
- P&C Initiatives and fundraiser events

A Tuckshop with a high standard of Smart healthy food choices operates each Tuesday with committed volunteers.

We have an engaged and active P&C that support school initiatives and community expectations. In the past 12 months our P&C has raised funds to support the purchase of resources for class programs, the subsidising of school excursions and purchasing 30 new iPads. Our P&C's long term project of installing air-conditioning in each learning area has been achieved.





Many of these financial contributions were a direct result of a highly successful, community events. We also have a growing number of families attending our weekly playgroup, which operates in the Activities building each Wednesday morning. This gives us a unique opportunity to engage with children who are of pre-prep age. In an effort to develop a seamless transition for our incoming Prep students, we also offer 2 Prep Open days each term.

## Respectful relationships programs

The school has developed and implemented a program or programs that focus on appropriate, respectful and healthy relationships. Our key strategy is our Bully Buster Program which explicitly teaches children to use the High-5 to resolve conflict. Conflicts which are on-going and identified as bullying are resolved through a Bully Buster Conference. These conferences are facilitated by trained staff and aim to change the behaviour of the bully and empower the target to return a balance of power in the relationship.

The school has developed and implemented a program/or programs that focus on appropriate, respectful, equitable and healthy relationships.

## School Disciplinary Absences

The following table shows the count of incidents for students recommended for each type of school disciplinary absence reported at the school.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY ABSENCES			
Type	2015	2016	2017
Short Suspensions – 1 to 10 days	12	7	17
Long Suspensions – 11 to 20 days	0	0	0
Exclusions	0	0	0
Cancellations of Enrolment	0	0	0

## Environmental Footprint

### Reducing the school's environmental footprint

With the increased installation of air-conditioners, the school displays its air-conditioning protocols in every room to ensure their efficient use. This has significantly reduced the use of inefficient fans and heaters. The toilets make use of rain water storage for operation. Paper usage has reduced significantly with the increase in digital technologies. Our Garden Club has established a highly productive vegetable and herb garden which thrives on the compost collected at each fruit break.

ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT INDICATORS		
Years	Electricity kWh	Water kL
2014-2015	107,476	1,208
2015-2016		1,045
2016-2017	137,857	1,467

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

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

To access our 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.

## Find a school

GO

Sector:

Government

Non-government

SEARCH

Where it states '**School name**', type in the name of the school you wish to view, select the school from the drop-down list and select <GO>. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to confirm that you are not a robot then by clicking continue, you acknowledge that you have read, accepted and agree to the **Terms of Use** and **Privacy Policy** before being given access to the school's *profile* webpage.

School financial information is available by selecting '**School finances**' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's profile webpage. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of income by funding source.

## Our Staff Profile

### Workforce Composition

#### Staff composition, including Indigenous staff

2017 WORKFORCE COMPOSITION			
Description	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	23	16	<5
Full-time Equivalents	18	10	<5

#### Qualification of all teachers

TEACHER* QUALIFICATIONS	
Highest level of qualification	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Graduate Diploma etc.**	7
Bachelor degree	15
Diploma	0
Certificate	0

\*Teaching staff includes School Leaders

\*\*Graduate Diploma etc. includes Graduate Diploma, Bachelor Honours Degree, and Graduate Certificate.

## Professional Development

### Expenditure On and Teacher Participation in Professional Development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2017 were \$12 800.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Data and Differentiation
- Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum
- Complex Texts for Upper 2 Band Readers
- Technical and curriculum support for developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Libraries
- Collaborative Planning
- Individual Curriculum Plan development
- Supporting Diverse Learners
- Essential Skills for Classroom Management
- Building Blocks to a Comprehensive Reading Framework
- Principal's conference and Business Days
- Mandatory Training (Code of Conduct, Asbestos Management, Curriculum Risk Assessment, Student Protection etc)

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2015 was 100%.

## Staff Attendance and Retention

### Staff attendance

AVERAGE STAFF ATTENDANCE (%)			
Description	2015	2016	2017
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders.	97%	97%	95%

### Proportion of Staff Retained from the Previous School Year

From the end of the previous school year, 98% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2017.

## Performance of Our Students

### Key Student Outcomes

#### Student Attendance

##### Student attendance

The table below shows the attendance information for all students at this school:

STUDENT ATTENDANCE 2017			
Description	2015	2016	2017
The overall attendance rate* for the students at this school (shown as a percentage).	92%	93%	92%
The attendance rate for Indigenous students at this school (shown as a percentage).	87%	87%	86%

\*The student attendance rate is generated by dividing the total of full-days and part-days that students attended, and comparing this to the total of all possible days for students to attend, expressed as a percentage.

The overall student attendance rate in 2017 for all Queensland Primary schools was 93%.

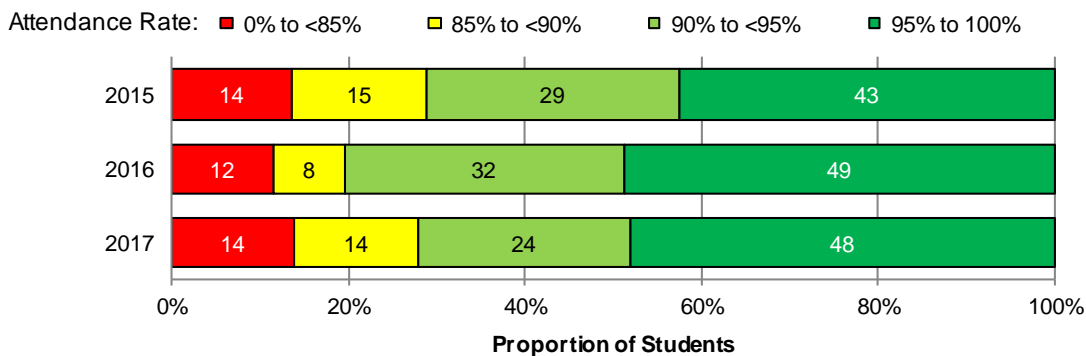
AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE* (%) FOR EACH YEAR LEVEL													
Year Level	Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
2015	89%	93%	91%	93%	92%	92%	92%						
2016	93%	90%	94%	93%	94%	95%	92%						
2017	94%	91%	90%	95%	93%	91%	93%						

\*Attendance rates effectively count attendance for every student for every day of attendance in Semester 1. The student attendance rate is generated by dividing the total of full-days and part-days that students attended, and comparing this to the total of all possible days for students to attend, expressed as a percentage.

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

### Student Attendance Distribution

The proportions of students by attendance range:



### Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Non-attendance is managed in state schools in line with the 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.

Non-attendance is managed in state schools in line with the DET policies, SMS-PR-029: Managing Student Absences and SMS-PR-036: Roll Marking in State Schools, which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

Students are actively encouraged to make every minute count through newsletters and on parade. We offer an engaging, personalised curriculum as a reward to those who attend school. We also award Active Learner awards each semester using regular attendance as one of the key criteria. Each term students with 100% attendance are invited to a pizza party.

Despite this work, a small percentage of students still do not attend regularly. In these instances we first make contact with home to ascertain the cause of inattendance. Our response then becomes tailored to the students' needs. Strategies have ranged from phone support, to home visits, to referrals to professional support services and in extreme cases results in official letters home.

## NAPLAN

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 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 'Find a school' text box.

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School NAPLAN information is available by selecting '**NAPLAN**' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's profile webpage. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of our school's NAPLAN results.