	PO address	PO Box 231, St George Q. 4487
	Phone	(07) 46 208333
	Fax	(07) 46 208300
	Email	the.principal@stgeorgess.eq.edu.au
	Website	stgeorgess.eq.edu.au

Principal's foreword

Introduction

The St George State School provides high quality education that assists students to build the knowledge, skills and creativity to enable them to contribute to an economically prosperous, strong and vibrant community and to enhance lifelong well-being.

The School's three essential programs of **Learning, Schools** and **Workforce** are the cornerstones of School strategic operations that guide us in pursuit of our vision of "**Caring, Learning, Achieving Together**".

2008 Highlights

- **Smart Classrooms** – Our School is committed to providing opportunities for staff and students to build on ICT skills through our **School ICT Plan**. This year, all teachers with a workload of two or more days per week, have been provided with networked laptop computers to support ICT teaching. Teachers have greater access to Professional Development and training, helping them to explore new ICT enriched ways of learning. Laptop computers continue to be used daily by students in our classrooms and these, along with our new mobile Smartboard, ensure that our students maintain and build on their skills. For a rural/remote School such as ours, this is one way to ensure that we remain connected with the world and provide the best possible learning experiences for staff and students alike.
- **School Chaplain** - This School, along with other Schools in the Cluster (Thallon, Bollon and Dirranbandi) has enjoyed the services of a School Chaplain, funded by the Federal Government through the National School Chaplaincy Programme. In our School, the program comprises a breakfast club, personal development programs, Lunch Time Activities and one on one support with referred students. This has proven to be a valuable initiative in our School.
- The implementation of the **School Intervention Management** Plan which encompasses: the provision of Educational Adjustment Programs, Learning Support, Year 2 Net Intervention and the **Gifted and Talented Education Program**, which are all designed to identify and cater for the individual needs of our students. **Even Start Tuition** was provided for identified students in Years 4 and 6. Years 6 and 7 **Literacy and Numeracy Intervention** continued. **ITAS** tutors provided daily support to students and Teachers across the School.
- **Homework Group (Community Learning Support Program)** was operational Monday to Thursday during the School terms.
- Participation in the **Community Education Forum**, meeting regularly to discuss and plan to meet the needs of Indigenous students and the wider community.
- Students once again participated in the **International Competitions and Assessments for Schools** in the following: Computers, Mathematics, English, Spelling, Writing and Science. The following awards were received by students at our School – 12 Credits and 6 Distinctions. These results again place us either measurably or significantly above the State average.
- A large number of students from Years 2-7 participated in the annual **School Spelling Extravaganza**. This event provided another opportunity for our 'word smart' students to shine.
- Three St George State School students were recognised at the **Balonne Shire Australia Day Awards** – Young Citizen of the Year, Young Sportsperson of the Year and Junior Cultural Achievement.
- The **Student Council** commenced a program of regular visits to the Warrawee Aged Care facility to chat with residents and on one occasion participated in the Seniors Games. Student Council also regularly visited the Early Education Centres in St. George (St. George Community Childcare Centre, Balonne Kindergarten) to read with the children.
- **The Sunrise Playgroup**, open to children of pre– school age and their parents with weekly activity mornings conducted three days each week.



- **Literacy** - Education Queensland has developed a strategy to ensure every student from Prep to Year Twelve has the best chance to meet the high literacy standards required to succeed in School and beyond - "Literacy: the Key to Learning" Framework for Action 2006-2008. An integral component of this strategy is Literacy Professional Development for Teachers and Teacher Aides. In 2008 our **Teacher Aides** were fortunate to be included in the early stage of this key strategy and completed the 3 day intensive program, developed to enhance their knowledge and skills in the area of Literacy.
- **Behaviour Support** – our Teachers with less than four years of experience and Teachers returning from leave have completed the Essential Skills for Classroom Management program, delivered by trained facilitators in the area of student behaviour support.
- The **Professional Standards for Teachers** describes the knowledge, skills and abilities that Teachers demonstrate in providing relevant and worthwhile learning experiences for individuals and groups of students. In professional development this year our School staff have been engaging with each other, reflecting on their work, sharing strategies with others and transferring these reflections and strategies into practice in the classroom.
- **School Opinion Survey** - Our school, along with all other State Schools in Queensland, collected information via a standardised and confidential questionnaire, on the opinions of staff, parents and students, in order to develop further understanding about how well our School is progressing in meeting the needs of the School community. For the eighth successive year, the overwhelming majority of students, staff and parents are satisfied/very satisfied with our School's performance in each of the key result areas. The results further indicate that the overall satisfaction rating again this year is around, in several areas above and in some areas well above the State average.



School Profile

The St George State School is a Band 8 School located in Education Queensland's Roma District, some 400 km west of Toowoomba and 200 km south of Roma. The School, which was established in 1874, services the township of St George and the districts of the Balonne Shire, some as far as 100 km from St George. St George township has a population in excess of 2500, while the population of the Balonne Shire is in excess of 3500.

During 2008 School enrolments hovered around 250 Preparatory Class and Years 1-7 students allocated in coeducational classes. This student population consists of a diverse range of cultural, socio-economic, urban and rural backgrounds. A significant proportion of the St George population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. A proportion of students have additional learning needs, including students with intellectual impairments, learning difficulties, physical impairments, and students with specific gifts and talents. Reflecting this diversity, the interests, needs and abilities of the students vary enormously.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive Curriculum Offerings:

The curriculum in the various Key Learning Areas is delivered via the School Curriculum Plan to each of the multiage/straight year level class groupings. The Early Years Curriculum, delivered in the Prep Class, provides the foundation for life-long learning as well as literacy and numeracy development.

Specific curriculum offerings include:

- A Gifted and Talented Education Program.
- A Special Education Unit.
- A Pastoral Care Program.

Extra curricular activities include:

- An Excellence in Music Program which includes Junior and Senior Choirs, Junior and Senior Bands and the School Rock Band.
- An extensive sport program that includes a Gymnastics Club and instruction in a range of team and individual sports.
- Out of School Hours Care and Vacation Care programs operate.
- An After School Homework Group operates four days a week.

How computers are used to assist learning:

Information Communication Technology is utilized to enhance daily teaching and learning. All teaching blocks have wireless access to the internet which enables the School's three mobile lap top computer laboratories to be accessed by all students from Prep to Year Seven.

Social climate

The School's commitment to providing a safe, tolerant and disciplined learning environment is recognized through our extensive Pastoral Care Program. Features of this program include awards to celebrate students' successes and achievements, early intervention for students at risk, social skilling and anti-violence programs, Team Time, lunch time activities, nutrition and personal care program, Student Mentoring Program, Chaplaincy Program.

The results of the School Opinion Survey indicate that students and parents are satisfied to very satisfied with the School Climate. Students were especially glowing in their responses to the questions "How satisfied are you"?

- "With the interest your Teacher takes in your learning?"
- "About the behaviour of students at this School?"
- "That you are treated fairly at this School?"
- "With how easy it is to access the internet for learning when you need to?"
- "With the computer technology skills you have learnt at this School?"

In fact students responses were measurably above the State average.

Involving parents in their child's education.

A variety of strategies are used to involve parents and the wider community, including:

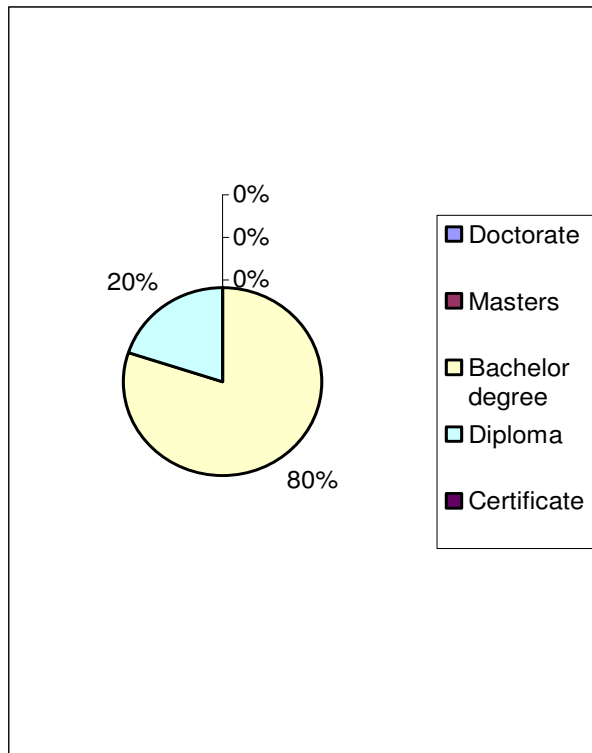
- A classroom and administration "open-door" culture.
- Special community activities eg Book Week, Education Week, NAIDOC Week.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- Staff involvement in the P&C.
- Staff involvement in community activities.
- School involvement in community activities eg ANZAC Day.

The School Opinion Survey results indicate that parents are satisfied to very satisfied with their involvement in the School. Parents gave their strongest response to the question, "That you have opportunities to participate in the life of the School?"



Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	80
Diploma	20
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$21931.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Professional Standards.
- Gifted and Talented Education.
- Information Communication Technology.
- Assessment.
- Literacy and Numeracy.
- Workplace Health and Safety.
- Code of Conduct and Student Protection training.
- Managing Challenging Behaviours.
- Early Childhood/Preparatory Year.

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 94%.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2006 school year, 81 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.



Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 90 %.

Key outcomes

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5 and 7.

Domain	Measures	Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school	276	437	469
	Average score for Queensland	371.1	466.1	528.1
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark 2008	41%	54%	67%
Writing	Average score for the school	337	418	459
	Average score for Queensland	391.8	468.9	522.7
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark 2008	66%	74%	71%
Spelling	Average score for the school	275	422	497
	Average score for Queensland	366.7	462.0	528.0
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark 2008	41%	63%	74%
Grammar And Punctuation	Average score for the school	283	456	472
	Average score for Queensland	370.4	476.6	518.0
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark 2008	66%	69%	71%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	315	420	482
	Average score for Queensland	367.9	458.2	539.0
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark 2008	74%	60%	92%



Other Key Outcomes

Value added

In recognition of our significant cultural diversity, geographic isolation and the diverse needs of our students, implementing a rigorous and distinctive curriculum and managing student welfare, are critical components of School culture and operations.

The rigorous and distinctive curriculum addresses the various Key Learning Areas via the School Curriculum Plan. It also includes:

- A Gifted and Talented Education Program,
- A Special Education Program.
- An Excellence in Music Program which includes Junior and Senior Choirs, Junior and Senior Bands and the School Rock Band.
- An extensive sport program.
- Smart classrooms Technology which includes wireless mobile computer laboratories.

Student welfare management initiatives include:

- A Pastoral Care Program.
- A Chaplaincy Program.
- Social and emotional skilling programs.
- A Mentoring Program.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The results of the School Opinion Survey indicate that parents, students and staff are satisfied to very satisfied with the overall performance of the School, to the point of the satisfaction rating being measurably above the State average in some areas. Students in particular were very glowing in their opinions, to the point where in the six key result areas, their responses were significantly above the State average.