Lowood State School

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

Queensland State School Reporting

Every student succeeding

State Schools Improvement Strategy

Department of Education

Queensland Government

Contact information

Postal address	Peace Street Lowood 4311
Phone	(07) 5427 2333
Fax	(07) 5427 2300
Email	principal@lowoodss.eq.edu.au
Webpages	Additional information about Queensland state schools is located on: • the *My School* website • the Queensland Government data website • the Queensland Government schools directory website.

From the Principal

School overview

Lowood State School is situated in the town of Lowood, thirty-five kilometres from Ipswich in the Brisbane Valley and surrounded by rural and agricultural properties. Lowood State School is proud of it's 125 year history in providing quality education for students Prep-Year 6 and has a strong community connection. Our focus is on every student succeeding and we pride ourselves on providing a rigorous and engaging curriculum that delivers excellence in quality outcomes for students across all strands of Literacy and Numeracy. Lowood State School achieved 'Most Improved School in Queensland' based on 2018 NAPLAN results, ranked number one 'Most Improved School' in the Somerset Region based on 2019 NAPLAN and were recognised as the 2019 'Showcase of Excellence Award' winner- Primary. Over the last 12 months Lowood State School has undergone a beautification and renewal process including the inclusion of a cultural garden featuring bush tucker, a welcoming frontage, modernised 21st century airconditioned classrooms and the provision of a multi purpose outdoor court area inclusive of basketball and tennis. Lowood State School has a supportive, committed and dedicated teaching team that prioritises each individual student's needs within a safe and welcoming classroom environment and one that celebrates success and encourages parents as parteners in their child's educational journey. Students at Lowood State School are offered a varied curriculum including; Instrumental Music, Cooking & Gardening, Sports, the Arts, Auslan Choir and the opportunity to participate in excursions, incursions and camps that enrich their educational experience. National Day Against Bullying, NAIDOC, Readers Cup and Book Week are integral to the curriculum opportunities offered annually at Lowood State School. Our school community has high expectations for behaviour and student engagement and strongly believes that every child can reach their potential and be successful if given the right opportunity. Lowood State School offers a comprehensive approach to Pre-Prep transition developed in partnership with the Early Childhood Providers and is supported by an active Parents and Communities Group focused on continued school improvement. Our school operates a playgroup and has a Special Education Program to support students with disabilities and an Early Childhood Developmental Program to support pre-compulsory education of children with disabilities.

Our school at a glance

School profile

Coeducational or single sex	Coeducational
Independent public school	No
Year levels offered in 2019	Early Childhood - Year 6

Characteristics of the student body

Student enrolments

Table 1: Student enrolments at this school

Enrolment category	2017	2018	2019
Total	276	279	273
Girls	135	144	149
Boys	141	135	124
Indigenous	41	50	51
Enrolment continuity (Feb. – Nov.)	78%	86%	89%

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	18	20	21
Year 4 – Year 6	23	22	21
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)	91%	90%	100%
• this is a good school (S2035)	82%	85%	87%
• their child likes being at this school* (S2001)	91%	90%	100%
• their child feels safe at this school* (S2002)	82%	85%	94%
• their child's learning needs are being met at this school* (S2003)	91%	90%	100%
• their child is making good progress at this school* (S2004)	82%	90%	100%
• teachers at this school expect their child to do his or her best* (S2005)	91%	95%	100%
• teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work* (S2006)	82%	89%	100%
• teachers at this school motivate their child to learn* (S2007)	91%	90%	100%
• teachers at this school treat students fairly* (S2008)	82%	90%	94%
• they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns* (S2009)	91%	100%	100%
• this school works with them to support their child's learning* (S2010)	91%	90%	100%
• this school takes parents' opinions seriously* (S2011)	82%	75%	93%
• student behaviour is well managed at this school* (S2012)	73%	75%	100%
• this school looks for ways to improve* (S2013)	73%	95%	100%
• this school is well maintained* (S2014)	82%	85%	81%

* 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)	85%	94%	98%
• they like being at their school* (S2036)	68%	93%	80%
• they feel safe at their school* (S2037)	73%	93%	91%
• their teachers motivate them to learn* (S2038)	95%	98%	92%
• their teachers expect them to do their best* (S2039)	96%	100%	96%
• their teachers provide them with useful feedback about their school work*	91%	97%	94%

Percentage of students who agree# that:	2017	2018	2019
(S2040)			
• teachers treat students fairly at their school* (S2041)	73%	86%	83%
• they can talk to their teachers about their concerns* (S2042)	74%	79%	79%
• their school takes students' opinions seriously* (S2043)	72%	85%	78%
• student behaviour is well managed at their school* (S2044)	58%	57%	57%
• their school looks for ways to improve* (S2045)	91%	95%	91%
• their school is well maintained* (S2046)	68%	90%	86%
• their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things* (S2047)	77%	94%	81%

* 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)	94%	100%	97%
• they feel that their school is a safe place in which to work (S2070)	91%	100%	97%
• they receive useful feedback about their work at their school (S2071)	80%	92%	93%
• they feel confident embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across the learning areas (S2114)	86%	76%	87%
• students are encouraged to do their best at their school (S2072)	97%	100%	97%
• students are treated fairly at their school (S2073)	94%	100%	93%
• student behaviour is well managed at their school (S2074)	59%	84%	100%
• staff are well supported at their school (S2075)	57%	81%	97%
• their school takes staff opinions seriously (S2076)	71%	88%	100%
• their school looks for ways to improve (S2077)	97%	100%	100%
• their school is well maintained (S2078)	94%	92%	97%
• their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things (S2079)	89%	88%	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	89	67	38
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)	113,987	103,603	108,407
Water (kL)	3,986	4,358	2,119

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.

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.

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	24	15	0
Full-time equivalents	23	11	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 in 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.	95%	96%	97%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 91% 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	90%	91%	90%
Attendance rate for Indigenous** students at this school	87%	89%	87%

* 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
Prep	91%	92%	91%
Year 1	91%	92%	92%
Year 2	88%	92%	94%
Year 3	93%	90%	91%
Year 4	90%	93%	86%
Year 5	91%	90%	92%
Year 6	90%	91%	88%

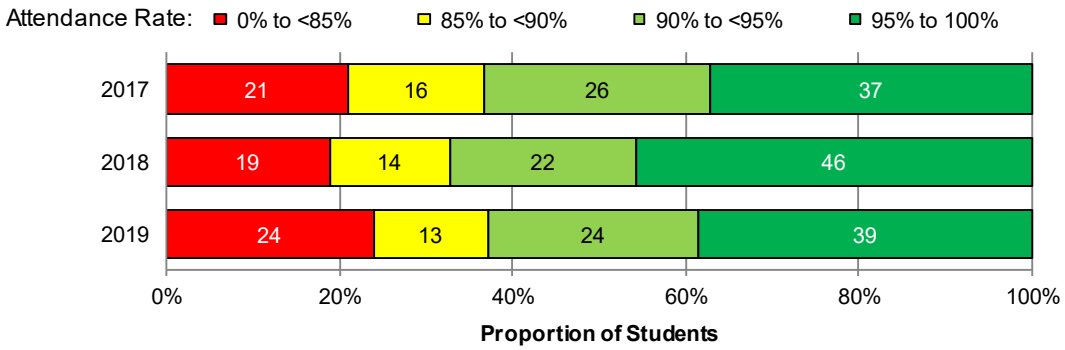
Year level	2017	2018	2019
Year 7			
Year 8			
Year 9			
Year 10			
Year 11			
Year 12			

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.

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

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

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.