

Yarranlea Primary School Annual Report 2019



Based on 2018 Data

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Yarranlea Primary School Annual Report 2019

(BASED ON 2018 DATA)

Yarranlea Primary School is an independent school situated within Griffith University's Mount Gravatt Campus in Brisbane, Australia.

Philosophy

Yarranlea is a small, student-focused school operating in a conventional classroom setting that tailors the Australian National Curriculum to enable personalised learning. Teachers facilitate excellent educational outcomes relative to the unique skills and abilities of each student. It is an independent organisation that values a learning partnership between students, their families and teachers. This represents the basis of our community, where we constructively work with each other to enable our students to believe in themselves and to achieve their potential.

Vision

Success with a SMILE (Small, Multi-age, Inspirational, Learning Environment).

Values

Positivity, Integrity, Respect and Responsibility (PIRR) are the "critical few" principles that should always guide our behaviour at Yarranlea.

General School Information

School Sector:

Independent

School's Address:

Griffith University Mount Gravatt Campus 176 Messines Ridge Road, Mt Gravatt, Q 4122

Total Enrolments:

2018 student numbers ranged from 31 at the beginning to 26 at the end of the year. At 2018 year end student numbers were 26.

Year Levels Offered:

Prep – Year 6

Co-educational or Single Sex:

Co-educational

Characteristics of the Student Body

Yarranlea Primary School is co-educational, with approximately the same number of boys and girls. The make-up of our student body is reflective of the diverse cultural backgrounds found in Australia. Within our student body we have students with an Australian, ATSI, European, Asian and Anglo cultural background.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Yarranlea is a small, student-focused school operating in a conventional classroom setting that tailors the Australian National Curriculum to enable personalised learning. Teachers facilitate excellent educational outcomes relative to the unique skills and abilities of each student. It is an independent organisation that values a learning partnership between students, their families and teachers. This represents the basis of our community, where we constructively work with each other to enable our students to believe in themselves and to achieve their potential.

Yarranlea Primary School's teaching is delivered in a unique multi-age setting at a school located on a university campus. Technology is integrated across the curriculum with school provided laptops for all students.

Japanese and music are taught to all students from Prep to Year 6.

Extra-curricular Activities

Students attend swimming lessons at Griffith University's pool as well as participating in athletics and other sporting activities held on the school premises.

During 2018 Yarranlea continued the instrumental music program, providing musical instruments for each student and two weekly in-class music lessons. All students sing in a choir and play musical instruments to an audience on a regular basis. In addition, all students participate in a musical at the end-of year.

Other extra-curricular activities include debating and participating in events such as Opti-MINDS.

Social Climate

Multi-age education develops self-esteem and fosters positive attitudes towards schooling by developing students' social, emotional and communication skills. A multi-age setting significantly reduces instances of bullying. The school has a supportive community and family atmosphere. Parent information sessions are held on current issues within the school. Policies and procedures are in place to ensure all at the school are committed to responsible behaviour and child protection.

Parental Involvement

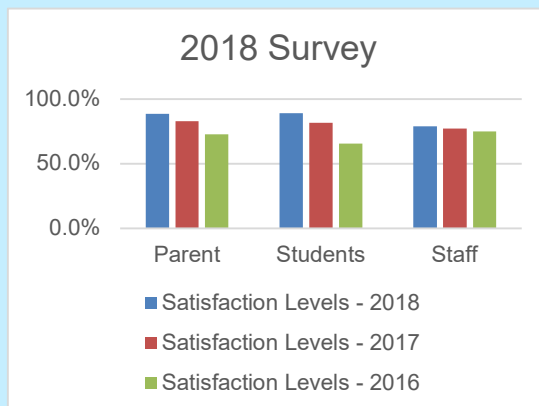
Parents, extended family and friends are actively involved in the life of the school with social and community events, sporting carnivals and fundraising. This is coordinated by the Principal through a P&F.

Some parents, grandparents and friends of the school offer their services as volunteers to assist reading and other school related activities. The School Board is comprised of members of the wider community and past parents from the school.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction with the School

Yarranlea Primary School conducted its fourth annual survey in 2018. The Yarranlea Limited Board engaged educator and experienced consultant, Steve Francis, to independently survey three important groups in our community.

The results indicated increased satisfaction levels compared to the previous year with all sections of the school community.



The main feedback from the survey indicated:

- *The 2018 survey results reflected improvements in all areas and overwhelmingly the best things identified about our school were its small size and the nature of its community. Our Principal and teachers are regarded as being friendly and approachable, taking a genuine interest in each child and making all children and guardians feel welcome.*
- *This is an extremely pleasing result and a special thanks goes out to our awesome teaching team led most capably by Mr Costin.*
- *Personalised learning and our low student to teacher ratio is also highly valued and the teaching staff are regarded as being committed to the best possible education for each child.*
- *Our OSHC service improved in all areas and is also highly valued within our community.*

The purpose of any survey is, of course, to identify areas where things can be improved. Things like increased parental involvement and effective communications have previously been identified as areas for improvement. From this feedback came initiatives such as the formation of our P&F which continues to evolve and add value to the community as a whole. In addition, communication through various digital platforms has been identified and we are working through some excellent ideas as we strive to provide solutions that meet the needs of our community.

More detail on this survey was provided to the community and is available from the Principal.

Contact Person for Further Information

Mr David Costin, Principal

School Income Broken Down by Funding Source

Please refer to the My School website <http://www.myschool.edu.au/> for financial data. Alternatively, the Audited Financial Report for Yarranlea Limited for 2017 is available on the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission website <http://www.acnc.gov.au/>

Staffing Information

Staff Composition, Including Indigenous Staff:

One part-time teaching Principal
One part time classroom and Japanese teacher
One part time classroom and music teacher
Two part-time classroom teachers

Qualifications of all Teachers:

Qualification	Either detail the number or the percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school who hold this qualification
Doctorate or higher	
Masters	1
Bachelor Degree	4
Diploma	
Certificate	

Expenditure on and Teacher Participation in Professional Development:

a) Teacher Participation in Professional Development

Description of PD activity	Number of teachers participating in activity
Child Protection and Workplace Health and Safety	5
Curriculum Development	5
Total number of teachers participating in at least one activity in the program year	5

b) Expenditure on Professional Development

Total Number of Teachers	Total expenditure on teacher PD	Average expenditure on PD per teacher
5	\$17,245	\$3,449
The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2018		\$17,245
The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2018		100%
A major focus for 2018 was to provide teaching staff with opportunities for professional development in new teaching methods in literature, along with continued mentoring of staff into their teaching and leadership roles. As an independent school located on a university campus staff also have access to professionals within the university enabling attendance at professional development events as well as peer learning and mentoring opportunities.		

Average Staff Attendance

Based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave periods of up to 5 days:

Number of Staff	Number of School Days	Total Days Staff Absences	Average Staff Attendance Rate
5	980	20.6	97.89%

For permanent and temporary classroom teachers and school leaders the average staff attendance rate was 97.89% in 2018

Proportion of teaching staff retained from the previous year

Number of permanent teaching staff at end of previous year	Number of these staff retained in the following year (the program year)	% retention rate
4	4	100%
From the end of 2017, 100% of staff were retained for the entire 2018 school year.		

Key Student Outcomes

Average student attendance rate (%) for the whole school:

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2018 was 94.59%

Average student attendance rate for each year level:

Year levels	Average attendance rate for each year level as a percentage in 2016
Year Prep	93.66%
Year One	94.73%
Year Two	92.62%
Year Three	97.64%
Year Four	92.26%
Year Five	98.30%
Year Six	92.15%

Management of non-attendance by the school:

As a small school with close relationships with families, non-attendance is managed by contacting parents of children who are absent, where the family has not already made contact to notify the school of the child's absence. Our Principal ensures that any absences are consistent with the health and well-being of the student concerned.

NAPLAN results for Years 3 and 5 in 2018

To assure the privacy of individual students we do not report on NAPLAN results as our school has small enrolment numbers. Please refer to the My School website <http://www.myschool.edu.au/> for NAPLAN information.

Our achievements

The directors are delighted with the school's progress in 2018, during which time we:

- ☐ Established a P&F for the school,
- ☐ Provided an instrumental music program providing musical instruments for each student and two weekly in-class music lessons,
- ☐ Offered a one to one device program providing
- ☐ Ipads for Prep to Year 2 classes
- ☐ Laptops for Year 3 to Year 6 classes,
- ☐ Continued our research partnerships with Griffith University, building upon our multi-age literature review,
- ☐ Operated with our established Principal, bringing continued stability and prior experience as a Principal to the role,
- ☐ Appointed a highly skilled and experienced OSHC Director with the skills to run and be fully accountable and responsible for the OSHC service,
- ☐ Conducted our fourth independent survey indicating high satisfaction levels among all stakeholder groups, and

Successfully applied for a Brisbane City Council grant for capital improvement to the bathroom facilities to provide improved accessibility.

Appreciation for great effort

The board sincerely acknowledges the valuable efforts of our dedicated supporters, in particular our leadership team comprising our Principal, OSHC Director and Business Manager, in 2018. Following the trend set in prior years, a lot was achieved by a small but fantastic community of parents, relatives, care-givers, teachers, OSHC staff, support staff and volunteers in progressing Yarranlea's philosophy and objectives.

Objectives for 2019 and beyond

Our short-term objective is to improve the school's sustainability, whilst our long term objective is to be recognised as a leading provider of multi-age education and operator of an outstanding Outside School Hours and Vacation Care Service (OSHC).

Our strategies for achieving our objectives

The strategies by which the Yarranlea Ltd board, Yarranlea Primary School and OSHC staff will achieve these objectives include:

- Improving organisational sustainability by:
 - Completion of our first NSSAB cyclic review
 - Building on work done in 2018 and expecting high quality community engagement to continue in 2019 through:
 - Support of community enhancing activities including the P&F group
 - Access to newsletters, website and social media
 - Supporting our OSHC Director such that she can be accountable for the OSHC operation
 - Improving board governance by
 - Active participation in the NSSAB cyclic review
 - Monitoring of risk management plans
 - Renewed focus on director succession planning
 - Working within the approved 2019 budget to provide sustainable teaching and support staffing levels reflected by student enrolments and a low student to teaching staff ratio
 - Maintaining and upgrading facilities and resources to a high standard including improving the school oval, and renovating the bathroom/toilet amenities to allow better access for all users
 - Maintaining an effective working environment for our staff
 - Supporting OSHC to enable continued service, improved programs, financial sustainability and autonomy
 - Monitoring IT contract and improving IT functionality for communication, curriculum and administration
 - Developing an IT Plan, and
 - Continued support of our P&F structure and enhanced engagement with our parent body through the P&F

- Embedding educational excellence by:
 - Encouraging an open and positive approach to learning
 - Continuously improving teaching quality and curriculum
 - Reviewing data collection
 - Working with Professor Donna Pendergast in preparing a paper on multi-age teaching using Yarranlea as the focus, and
 - Drawing on expertise available within Yarranlea and from Griffith University to investigate and to apply best practice in multi-age teaching.

- Extending and deepening Yaranlea Ltd's learning partnerships and community collaboration by:
 - Establishing a building fund
 - Supporting active Alumni and external community engagement
 - Connecting with local high schools to assist with Year 6 students' transition to high school, and
 - Forging alliances with relevant schools and countries