



School Name **Aquinas College**

Postal address PO Box 34, Ashmore City 4214

Phone 55102888 Fax 55102899

Email [leanneb@aquinas.qld.edu.au](mailto:leanneb@aquinas.qld.edu.au)

School website [www. www.aquinas.qld.edu.au](http://www.aquinas.qld.edu.au)

Contact Person Maryanne Finder

### Principal's Foreword

#### Introduction

Aquinas College is a welcoming community enthused by the teachings of Jesus Christ, where academic excellence is valued and students are nurtured and empowered to create a future of hope.

Aquinas College is dedicated to promoting the love of learning and its value as a lifelong process, recognizing each student as unique and developing pathways to suit each individual, developing the whole person, caring for its community members and providing spiritual and faith development experiences.

Our Vision for 21st Century Learning is based on:

- Contribution to, understanding of and respect for the digital world.
- Curiosity and a thirst for knowledge.
- Initiative, imagination and creative problem solving.
- Critical thinking including evaluation of information, sources and bias and effective decision making.
- Collaborative learning and communication across cultural, geographic and language boundaries.
- Effective written, oral and numerate communication to suit different audiences.
- Safe, ethical and wise use of information and resources.
- Resilience and adaptability to change.
- Positive stewardship of an environment as digital citizens.

Aquinas College endeavours to emphasise cooperation and justice leading students to play their critical role in protecting and enhancing Christian values in our world.

### School Profile

Aquinas College is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Coeducational  or Single Sex

Year levels offered: Primary  Secondary  P-12

Total student enrolments for this school 883

Total Enrolment 883 Girls 444 Boys 439

## Characteristics of the student body

Aquinas College Gold Coast opened its doors in 1964 with 136 boys administered by the Christian Brothers. Aquinas College became a coeducational school in 1991 when Star of the Sea Southport closed. Today Aquinas College operates as a Parish school within the Southport Catholic Parish within the auspice of the Archdiocese of Brisbane and under the authority of Brisbane Catholic Education. Aquinas students are mainly drawn from schools on the northern end of the Gold Coast. The learning community of Aquinas College is animated by the spirit of freedom, love and mercy, wherein each student is able to experience respect, self-worth and unconditional acceptance.

## Our distinctive curriculum offerings

Aquinas College aims to develop the talents, skills and attributes of all students. Year 8 is an introduction to secondary school. The curriculum offered in Year 8 welcomes students to the whole range of learning faculties. Students study the core subjects of Religious Education, English, Maths, Science, History, HPE. They are also introduced to the Arts (Visual Art, Music and Drama), Technology (Hospitality, Industrial Technology and Design and Information Communication Technology) and LOTE (Japanese) studying these subjects for part of the year. Year 9 students choose a number of electives to compliment their core study subjects. Year 10 students choose a number of electives. Mandatory subjects in Year 11 and 12 include RE, English and Mathematics for a semester, all other subjects are student choice. Aquinas College offers a wide range of subjects that cater for students varying interest and abilities. The Performing Arts Precinct promotes creative studies in Visual Arts, Music Extension, Dance, Drama, Film/ Television and New Media, with specialist rooms and laboratories for all these subjects. Hospitality studies is popular throughout all year levels. Business studies is well supported in the senior years through Accounting, Business Organisation and Managements, Business Communications and Technology and stand-alone studies in Certificate II in Tourism and Certificate II in Business. The spiritual dimension of Aquinas College is enhanced through the academic pursuit of Study of Religion and Religion and Ethics. The Rugby League and Netball classes of Excellence Years 8-10 have added an even greater variety to the HPE Program.

## Extra curricula activities

Aquinas College is committed to offering students a wide range of activities designed to enrich the curriculum and to extend the students' physical, spiritual, and emotional development. The Performing Arts namely Drama, Music, Dance and Visual Arts, Public Speaking, Debating, Sport and Community Service are an integral part of a student's life at Aquinas. The fine reputation of Aquinas College in these areas is highly regarded. Students are encouraged to become active participants in the many opportunities available. Such activities include: # Social Justice Groups (St Vincent DePaul, Rosies) # Social Activities – Pastoral Days e.g. Edmund Rice Olympics, Chisholm Chant, Romero Triathlon, and McAuley Masterminds. #Cultural Activities – Concert Band, Jazz Band, String Ensemble, Choir, On the Edge Visual Art Show, Dance Eisteddfod, Aquinas Idol. # Interschool Debating, Science, English, Mathematics and Computer competition. Aquinas College offers a wide range of sporting activities. Competitive inter school sport teams that have operated include swimming, athletics, cross country, rugby league, netball, touch football, baseball, AFL and basketball and equestrian.

## How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

Information and Communication Technologies are critical in assisting student learning. At Aquinas College student learning is assisted by ICT in the following ways:

- # Communication, collaboration, information research and interactivity.
- # Presenting information in an electronic format.
- # Allowing students to present work more professionally.
- # International collaboration and communication.
- # Preparing students for the real world.
- # Processing data.
- # Industry standard tools.
- # Using professional architecture software and creating original arrangements.
- # Digitalizing and manipulating visual graphics and multimedia resources.
- # Developing instrumental and promotional video presentation.

A focus on ethics and information discernment in the New Digital Media is a priority at all levels in the College. This is in response to research that indicates that with the move to 'digital media' a different approach needs to be taken to ensure students reap the full benefit of this information rich resource in an ethical, respectful and moral manner.

## Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

Aquinas College maintains a safe and happy learning community. The social climate of the College has its basis in our Mission Statement which calls for nurturing, self-esteem by promoting respect for each person's uniqueness, dignity and worth in a community that promotes spiritual, emotional, cultural and intellectual assistance to each of its members. The College is organized through a vertical pastoral care structure where students from each year level work together in a VPC class under the guidance of their VPC teacher. Groups of VPC classes form a House group (Chisholm, Edmund Rice, McAuley, Romero) under the care of the Head of House who oversees the care of the students in that House. Pastoral Care lessons cover such topics as study skills, goal setting, friendships, personal development, cyber-bullying, camp preparation, career education, driver education, healthy habits, lifestyle and relationships. The College operates a distinctive anti-bullying and cyber bullying policy which is explained to students upon enrolment and reinforced throughout their time at the College. The commitment of all to pastoral care and a safe and happy learning environment ensure all students reach their full potential.

## Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parents continue to display high levels of confidence in the College, Year 8 as well as other cohort enrolment, families regularly speak about the excellent reputation of the College and report choosing the College for their child's education based on the recommendation of family and friends. Student satisfaction is very high. On exit from the College Year 12 students speak of being supported and challenged in their learning and well prepared for the next stage of their journey. Students also have opportunities through the Student Representative Council to have their views heard and the feedback received is very positive. Comments such as "Year 12 cohort have been given life lessons and experiences during their time at school that will make them contributing citizens of the world" are often heard to be said by the wider community. Currently the College is surveying parents during enrolment interview. The College is collecting data on the reasons why parents are choosing Aquinas College to educate their child. Preliminary reading of this data suggests parents are choosing Aquinas College for a variety of different positive reasons.

## Parent involvement in their child's education

Aquinas College believes students achieve best when family and College work closely together. We appreciate the involvement of families:

- # Supporting faith development at College and Parish through attendance and participation in such events as House Masses, Induction and Graduation Masses, Easter Liturgies, Mother's Day Liturgies etc.
- # Attending Parent/Teacher Information Evenings to discuss student progress.
- # Actively participating in the Parent and Friends Association.
- # Volunteering to assist in the College Library.
- # Providing feedback both formally and informally about how Aquinas College can become even more effective.
- # Keeping in contact with the College regarding changes in family circumstances.
- # Reading and noting information received each fortnight in the College Newsletter.
- # Attending the many sporting and cultural events throughout the year.

## Staff Profile

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff
Headcounts	62	30
Full-time equivalents	64.5	23.5
Indigenous		0

## Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of teachers and leaders at the school attaining this level
Doctorate	0
Masters	26
Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate	25
Bachelors Degree	44
Diploma/Certificate	1

## Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2012 was \$ 42,513.23

The major professional development initiatives were as follows

QTAC Seminars, QSA conferences, VET seminars, Interactive Conferences, Digital School Conference, Asian Foundation Study, Generation Next, Reading Roadshow, APA/DP conference, Twilight seminars, Ignite conference, HOH Planning days, PD days held at the start of the year.

Also the priorities adopted by the College for the School Cyclical Review included professional development were: Religious Identity and Culture, Curriculum, Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care, and Learning and Teaching.

## School Income by Funding Source

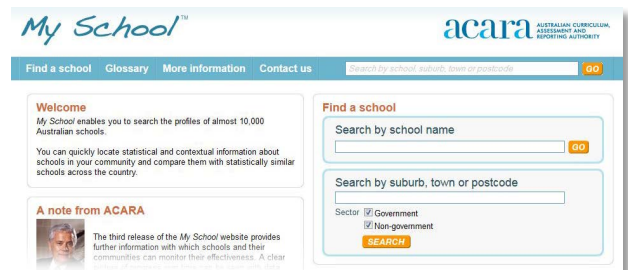
School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

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.

Where it says 'Search by school name', 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 96.78 % in 2012.

## Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2011 school year, 89.1 % of staff were retained by the school for the 2012 year.

## Key Student Outcomes

Whole School Attendance Rate	%
Prep Attendance Rate	N/A
Year 1 Attendance Rate	%
Year 2 Attendance Rate	%
Year 3 Attendance Rate	%
Year 4 Attendance Rate	%
Year 5 Attendance Rate	%
Year 6 Attendance Rate	%
Year 7 Attendance Rate	%

## Policy and practice to manage student attendance

### 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/>.

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