A brief history

Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School was opened by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart on 30 April, 1917, on the site where the Marymac Community Centre now stands. It was originally called the Ipswich Road Convent School. After two years, the Sacred Heart Sisters moved to Stuartholme, to be replaced by the Sisters of St Joseph (1919). The name of the school was then changed to St Joseph’s Convent School.

In the 1950’s the name was changed once again, to Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School. The Sisters of St Joseph continued to run the school for 72 years (1919-1991). Enrolments peaked in the 1960’s with approximately 500 students, and began to decline in the 1980’s due to changing demographics in the local area.

On April 30 2017, the school celebrated 100 years of Catholic education. The school continues the rich tradition of providing quality, inclusive education to members of the Annerley community and beyond.
Our Vision and Mission

Mary Immaculate School is an inner city school providing a Catholic education for children from a variety of social, cultural and faith backgrounds. Our goal is to create a quality Catholic learning community centred on Christ that is caring, life giving and personal, whilst recognising the uniqueness of each child. We strive to build God’s kingdom of justice, inclusion, reconciliation and hope through education.

Vision Statement
Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School is a community of children, families and staff that supports members to be the best we can be and achieve great things together. Through fidelity to the Catholic faith and the recognition of other faiths, we embrace our diversity and celebrate as a unified community.

Mission Statement
Through the principles of Christian living we promote and strengthen relationships that are inclusive, respectful and based on trust. We will:

• Foster our faith and relationship with God;
• Provide quality teaching that engages all learners;
• Maintain and further develop a safe and stimulating environment;
• Provide school leadership and management practices that are efficient, just and responsive to community needs.

Incline your heart
To learn and act justly,
To love and care tenderly,
And to walk humbly with God.
(Micah 6:8 Paraphrased)
Strong Catholic Identity

The Josephite Charism (Be just - Be compassionate - Be humble)

The school seeks to support the nurturing of children’s spirituality and their faith experience through our connection to St Mary of the Cross Mackillop and the Josephite charism.

Our school’s special connection to the Josephite story is etched into our school life in many ways, with many symbols and images located around our school reminding us of Mary’s story. Perhaps the most symbolic acknowledgement of Mary Mackillop can be found in the words of our school prayer. These inspiring words assist in guiding us to be people of faith who ‘Incline our hearts’. The words of our school prayer have been literally etched into the glass doors throughout the Administration Building, acting as a constant reminder to us all of the significance of the charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

One of the most famous sayings of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was ‘never see a need without doing something about it’. This saying has become a mantra for many Australians, particularly all members of Josephite communities. At Mary Immaculate, we look for opportunities to challenge our young people to live out the message of Jesus and to reach their full potential as compassionate, contributing, life-giving members of society.

Each year, our school commits to supporting Social Action and Justice by participating in the following activities and fundraising appeals:

- Caritas
- St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal
- Soup Kitchen Evening (raising awareness of homelessness)
- St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal
The Religious Life of Mary Immaculate is deeply rich and provides the community with opportunities to connect with our School Vision and Mission and our School Motto (Incline your heart). The Religious Life of Mary Immaculate is best defined by its relationships and connection with the following interconnected elements:

- Religious Identity and Culture
- Prayer and Worship
- Social Action and Justice
- Evangelisation and Faith Formation

The Sacramental Program

The Sacramental Program is coordinated through the parish. Collaboration between the parish and the school will ensure that the sacramental material in the RE curriculum complements sacramental preparation in the parish. Parents are encouraged to contact the Annerley Ekibin Parish or visit [https://liturgybrisbane.net.au/assets/christian-initiation-sacramental-policy-20151.pdf](https://liturgybrisbane.net.au/assets/christian-initiation-sacramental-policy-20151.pdf) for further information.
Excellent Learning and Teaching

Vision for Learning
The Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School Vision for Learning provides guidance and direction for all learning across the school community. Our Vision for Learning provides clarity and direction and comprises:

- Beliefs
- Values
- Principles
- Practices

The Mary Mackillop ‘holding cross’ is used as the symbol for our Vision for Learning.
We are a community of Active Learners

The ‘Active Learner’ is a framework made up of eight Ways of Working, referred to as WoWs. Each of the eight WoWs contain three supporting statements that describe both the ‘thinking’ and the ‘behaviours’ required for successful learning. These statements provide students, staff and parents with clear expectations for learning, and are used as part of the reporting process in both semesters.

As a school, we formally celebrate learner growth and achievement at weekly Whole School Assemblies where Active Learner awards are presented. Each learner receives this award twice yearly.
The butterfly symbol is often seen as a symbol of transformation and hope because of its impressive process of metamorphosis. Observing the butterfly and learning her symbolic meanings offers us an opportunity to apply her movements to our own lives. As Active Learners, we can relate the butterfly’s stages of life to our own learning progressions...often vulnerable as we sometimes struggle with the stages of growth necessary for moments of miraculous expansion. The butterfly beckons us to be Active Learners, keeping a ‘growth mindset’ to be curious, respectful, resilient, safe, reflective, curious, responsible and collaborative. Her unwavering acceptance of her metamorphosis is also symbolic of faith.

The human form reminds us that the learner is always central to all that we do. We are all learners. The green is symbolic of a GROWTH MINDSET.

The greatest effects on student LEARNing occur when TEACHERs become LEARNers of their own TEACHing and when students become their own TEACHERs.

(Visible Learning, 2009)
Celebrations of Faith and Learning

Each Monday afternoon at 2:10pm, our school community gathers for an assembly. This gathering is an important part of the life of the school and parents are invited and welcome to attend.

Prayer
Assemblies give us an opportunity each week to come together in prayer. Throughout the year, each class has an opportunity to lead the community in prayer.

‘Active Learner’ Awards
Each child is awarded two Active Learner awards throughout the year. These awards are much valued and are celebrated at our weekly assemblies.

‘Incline your heart’ Award
Each week one student is awarded the ‘Incline your heart award’. The recipient is a student who lives out our school motto by following the example of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop to:
  - Act justly,
  - Love tenderly and
  - Walk humbly with you, our God.

A staff member nominates a student to receive this award. Parents are notified and invited to attend.
The Australian Curriculum sets the goal for what all students should learn as they progress through their school life – wherever they live in Australia and whichever school they attend.

The Australian Curriculum is designed to help all young Australians to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens. Presented as a developmental sequence of learning from Foundation - Year 10, the Australian Curriculum describes to teachers, parents, students and others in the wider community what is to be taught and the quality of learning expected of young people as they progress through school.

The three-dimensional design of the Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum recognises the importance of disciplinary knowledge, skills and understanding alongside general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities.

Disciplinary knowledge, skills and understanding are described in the eight learning areas of the Australian Curriculum: **English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies and Languages**. The latter four learning areas have been written to include multiple subjects, reflecting custom and practice in the discipline. In each learning area or subject, content descriptions specify what young people will learn, and achievement standards describe the depth of understanding and the sophistication of knowledge and skill expected of students at the end of each year level or band of years.

Further information for parents can be found at [https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/parent-information/](https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/parent-information/)
Excellent Learning and Teaching

Term Overviews of Learning

At the beginning of each school term, parents receive a copy of the Term Overview of Learning. The Term Overview of Learning provides parents with detailed information on the planned learning to occur with their child’s class. This information assists parents in supporting their child’s learning by making the learning visible for the term ahead. This overview also provides other organisational information specific to your child’s class that parents may find useful. Specialist teachers will also provide a Term Overview of Learning for their specialised subject areas.
Excellent Learning and Teaching

Specialist Learning Areas
At Mary Immaculate, students receive expert instruction from qualified specialist teachers across the following curriculum areas:

• Music (Prep to Year 6)
• Art (Prep to Year 6)
• Languages (Indonesian - Years 4 to 6)

Extra-Curricular Learning Opportunities

Sporting
• School Cross Country – Term 2 (Prep to Year 6)
• Athletics Program – Term 3 (Prep to Year 6)
• GALA Sporting Days twice yearly (Years 4 to 6)
• Swimming Program - Term 4 (Prep to Year 6)

Music
• Junior Choir (ALL Prep-Year 2 students)
• Senior Choir (Optional Years 3 to 6)
• Instrumental Music (Optional Years 3 to 6 - DDJ Music)

Camps
• Year 4 and Year 5 Camp (2 nights)
• Year 6 trip to Canberra

Speech and Drama (Optional - Shine Speech and Drama)

Dance (Dance Cart Prep to Year 6)

Chess (Optional Prep to Year 6)

Choirs @ Mary Immaculate
Students at Mary Immaculate have the opportunity to be involved in a school Choir.

Junior Choir
Students in Prep to Year 2 are all involved in the Junior Choir. The Junior Choir rehearses weekly and performs at various school events and annually at the Queensland Colleges Music Festival.

Senior Choir
The Senior Choir is optional for students in Years 3 to 6. Students rehearse weekly 8am-9am and perform at various school events and annually at the

• Queensland Colleges Music Festival
• David Lawrence Combined Schools Workshop
• Choral Festival
Written Reports

At the end of each semester, parents are issued with a formal written report by the school. Parents/caregivers are interested in finding out how their child is achieving, the quality of that achievement and where their learning needs to be directed in the future. This report summarises evidence of student learning about how the student is achieving, provides feedback about the quality of this achievement and provides direction about where to next. Reporting involves teachers making a professional judgement on a body of evidence about a student’s progress and achievement against the curriculum. These judgements are made against the achievement standards of the Australian Curriculum. A teacher's professional judgement is at the heart of reporting student achievement. At Mary Immaculate, teachers use a number of assessment tools and evidence of student work to inform their judgments.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews offer a great opportunity to build partnerships between parents and the school. In particular, mid-year interviews allow teachers the opportunity to talk with parents about their child's school progress and any issues the student may be experiencing. At Mary Immaculate, parents are invited to a Parent Teacher Interview as per the following:

- Term 1 (Informal opportunity - voluntary)
- Term 2 (Formal Meeting - essential)
- Term 4 (Formal Meeting – voluntary)
Excellent Learning and Teaching

Homework

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, be Active Learners beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural activities where appropriate. Teachers are responsible for negotiating flexible expectations that reflect each learner’s unique family context. These expectations will be discussed at the informal Parent/Teacher Meetings in Term 1 and at the Parent Teacher Information Evening in February each year.

Homework that enhances student learning:

• is purposeful and relevant to student needs
• is appropriate to the phase of learning
• is appropriate to the capability of the student
• develops the student’s independence as a learner
• allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities.
Excellent Learning and Teaching

Student Code of Conduct
As a school community, all learners are guided by the Active Learner framework. This framework describes the behaviours and Ways of Working (WoWs) which articulate the appropriate and positive behaviours and thinking expected of all learners.

Establishing Behaviour Expectations
At Mary Immaculate, there are many ways in which staff establish the behaviour expectations of our students. This behaviour is established at the classroom and whole school level when:

• Teachers use a variety of age appropriate pedagogies to explicitly teach the Active Learner WoWs which may include, but are not limited to: modelling, social stories, role-play, analysis of Literature, Circle Time and use of digital technology.
• Teachers display and regularly refer to the Active Learner WoWs through the resources (banners, display poster and individual desk strips)
• Teachers give consistent feedback to students in relation to the Active Learner WoWs.

Positive School Culture
The school community gathers together weekly for a Whole School Assembly. During these times, we create and enrich our positive school culture through class prayer, awards and education about the WoWs within the Active Learner framework.

At Mary Immaculate School, we teach the ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority) General Capabilities which outline content that promotes resilience and pro-social behaviours. These include the:

• Personal and Social Capability
• Critical and Creative Thinking Capability
• Ethical Capability
Bullying and Cyber Safety

Bullying is the “repeated oppression, psychological or physical of a less powerful person by a more powerful person or group of persons” (Rigby, 1996).

Bullying is when someone gains power over another person by hurting or harming that person, more than just once. Bullying is intentional, and involves an imbalance of power. Bullying is continuing to ‘pick on’ someone, torment, them or exclude them, so that the person feels helpless. Cyber bullying is another form of bullying using technology, such as a computer or mobile phone via text messaging, MSM, social networking, photographs, and web pages.

A Bystander is a person who witnesses a bullying incident as an onlooker. At Mary Immaculate School, we agree that, if you are a bystander who encourages bullying behaviours, or if you witness bullying and do not report the incident, your behaviour is considered to be bullying.

Bullying may include:

- **Physical**: hitting, kicking, any form of violence, threat or intimidation that could cause physical harm
- **Verbal**: name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing, intimidation, lying about someone
- **Emotional**: excluding, tormenting, ridiculing, humiliating, intimidating
- **Racist**: taunts, graffiti, gestures, intimidating
- **Sexual**: unwanted physical contact, abusive comments, intimidation
- **Cyber**: unwanted text messages, emails, information technology, intimidation

The Student Behaviour Support Plan is available in its entirety on the school website. This plan was updated in 2017.
The Staff Team of Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School

A number of dedicated staff members contribute to the wholistic education of children at Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School. Together, these staff members work collaboratively to achieve our vision of ‘achieving great things together’.

Teaching Staff
- Principal
- Assistant Principal Religious Education
- Primary Learning Leader (PLL)
- Classroom Teachers
- Support Teacher Inclusive Education (ST-IE)
- English as a Second Language Teacher (ESL)
- Specialist Teachers (Music, Art and Indonesian)
- Teacher Librarian

Non-Teaching Staff
- School Officers (Teacher Assistants)
- Secretaries (Front Office & Finance)
- Workplace Health & Safety Officer
- Groundsman
General Information

Communication
Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School is a community of children, families and staff that supports the members to be the best we can be and achieve great things together. The school community is culturally diverse, and comes from a variety of backgrounds. Communication is vital to foster relationships that are open, inclusive and based on trust. In providing inclusive and effective communication, we embrace our diversity, thereby promoting and strengthening relationships. At Mary Immaculate, we acknowledge that methods of communication are becoming more diverse and digital forms of communication are becoming widely used.

The following forms of communication are used to foster relationships within our community:

**Newsletter** – The School Newsletter is emailed to parents/caregivers each Thursday. It provides important information and messages for parents/caregivers.

**Parent Portal** – The Parent Portal is becoming the official ‘information and communication hub’ for the school. It is a secure (password protected) online space for our families to receive important school information. The Parent Portal provides parents with the opportunity to manage and update their family details and access student reporting information.

**BCE Connect App** – BCE Connect provides a platform for parents to securely access school information, making it easier to keep track and stay in touch. The App integrates with our Public Website and Parent Portal. BCE Connect works on both Apple and Android devices and is available to download free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply “favourite” Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School to receive push notifications direct from the school as well as badges to identify new items (newsletters, documents and events). It is a quick and easy way to report student absences. There is also now a feature which allows you to add school events to your personal calendar.
General Information

Communication @ Mary Immaculate cont

**SMS** – The school uses an SMS service to send out important reminders and attendance alerts to parents.

**Email** – The school uses and encourages parents to use email as an efficient form of communication. Teachers, and other relevant staff members, will respond appropriately within 48 hours. Teachers are not in a position to read and reply to emails during the school day. **Parents are asked to contact the school office if there is a need for urgent communication.**

**Term Overviews of Learning** – At the beginning of each term, parents are emailed an Overview of Learning for the term. This overview provides parents with clarity and direction in regard to the planned learning for their child.

**Complaints and Grievances** - Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School encourages individuals to feel safe to express their points of view openly, honestly and constructively. From time to time, concerns regarding educational, behavioural or school environment issues may arise. For this reason, Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School had adopted a Complaints and Grievance Procedure for community members to guide parents/carers on raising issues that they believe to be unfair or inappropriate. This procedure is guided by both our Communication Policy and our Relationship Policy. The Complaints and Grievance Procedure is available on the school website.

**Please Note:** For the school to communicate effectively, parents are expected to keep the school up to date with contact details.
Daily Timetable

8.35  Session 1 commences (Teachers collect classes lined up outside Year 1 and 2)
11.00 1st Break Eating Time (lunch)
11.15 1st Break Play Time
11.35  End of Play Time (first bell - toilet and lining up @ Cooinda awaiting collection)
11.40  Session 2 commences
1.40  2nd Break (snack + short play time)
2.00  End of Playtime (first bell - Toilet and lining up @ Cooinda)
2.05  Session 3 commences
3.00  End of the school day

ABSENCES
Parents are required to notify the school if their child is not attending due to illness or other reasons. Parents can notify the school via phone or via the BCE Connect App. If the school is not contacted by 9am, an automatic SMS message will be sent to the parent requesting that they contact the school to verify the child’s absence and reason.

LATE ARRIVALS
Students are expected to be at school for the commencement of the school day. Any student arriving at school after 8.50am is noted in our attendance records as late. Parents are required to accompany their child to the office to officially sign their child in.

Before School Procedure
Students arriving at school prior to 8:15am are to wait seated outside the Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms. Supervision commences at 8:15am.

After School Procedure
At the end of the school day, students transition to one of the following:
• Pick up Zone Ferndale St
• Onsite parent collection (Terraces)
• Outside School Hours Care
School Uniform
All children are expected to wear the correct school uniform as per the details below:

**Boys Formal Uniform**
- Blue School Shirt
- Grey shorts
- Navy blue school hat
- Black leather shoes
- White socks
- Navy blue school jumper / jacket
- Navy blue tracksuit pants

**Boys Sports Uniform** (2 nominated days per week)
- School Polo Shirt
- Navy blue rugby knit shorts
- White sneaker and white socks.

**Girls Formal Uniform**
- Blue check dress or blouse and skorts
- Navy blue school hat
- Black leather shoes
- White socks
- Navy stockings (optional)
- Navy blue school jumper / jacket

**Girls Sports Uniform** (2 nominated days per week)
- School Polo Shirt
- Navy blue rugby knit shorts or skorts
- White sneaker and white socks.

**Prep Uniform**
The Prep students wear the sports uniform only (as per the above details).

**Accessories**
- School bag is compulsory
- Hair Accessories - must be in school colours—navy, white or maroon
- Long hair (longer than shoulder length) must be tied at the back of the head at all times.
- Earrings - Sleepers or studs are the only earrings to be worn, limited to one per ear.
- No jewellery to be worn (wrist watches excluded)
Parent Involvement

We extend an open and warm welcome to all parents, and encourage your participation and involvement in the on-going process of the education of your child.

At Mary Immaculate Primary Catholic Primary School, there are many opportunities for parental involvement in the life of the school including:
• supporting activities in the classroom
• volunteering to assist with class excursions, the school tuck-shop, the uniform shop, working bees and sporting days
• becoming a member of the School Board or Parents & Friends Committee

• **School Boards** within the Brisbane Archdiocese are Boards of pastoral governance. A model of discernment called 'sharing wisdom' has been adopted as the most appropriate form of school governance in the Archdiocese. The School Board listens to the wisdom of the members of their community and their own Board membership in order to know how best to lead and serve them.

• **The P and F** aims to provide an avenue for parents and supporters to work with the school Principal to further enhance children’s education, to maintain, care for and develop the school and grounds, and to promote the interests of the children and the school. Every parent and carer is automatically a member of our P and F and are invited to consider coming along to meetings and nominating for either a role on the Executive Team or by volunteering to take on a Sub-Committee role.
Volunteers

Volunteers play an important role in the life of our school. There have been some recent changes to the Student Protection Training and Code of Conduct Training for School Volunteers. These changes impact on any Mary Immaculate parent wishing to volunteer in the school. All current parents wishing to volunteer at Mary Immaculate in 2018 will need to complete the new mandatory online training by clicking on the link below. It is estimated to take approximately 45 minutes to complete both training sessions.

The link below will take parents to a training page with step by step instructions (see image below):


If parents do not have access to a laptop/tablet and printer, you are able to complete the training at school by coordinating a time with the school’s guidance counsellor, Mrs Angela Bromfield at abromfield@bne.catholic.edu.au or on 07 3848 8965.
Outside School Hours Care

Centacare provides an onsite outside school hours care from 3.00pm to 6.00pm Monday to Friday. This service is available for all students from Prep to Year 6. Centacare uses the general purpose space adjacent to the school tuck-shop to provide a high quality and much valued service.

For all bookings and enquiries, please contact the coordinator by phone on 3392 6291 or 0467 800 558 or by email annerleyoshc@bne.centrecare.net.au. Enrolment forms are also available at the school office. Please note that paperwork must be filled out and processed before families can access this service. Many families can claim a rebate for the costs.
ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS AT SCHOOL

At Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School, we are committed to ensuring the health and well-being of students whilst under our care.

This care extends to helping students to manage any health conditions that require medication. Designated staff may give oral medication, provided it is given strictly in accordance with instructions by the student’s medical practitioner, and is requested by the parents in writing. A Medication Authority Form is available at the Office, to be filled out by parents whose children require medication. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that their child’s medical information is current.

In the event of minor accidents at school, responsive and suitable first aid will be administered by a qualified and designated First Aid Officer. Likewise, if a child is considered too ill to be at school, parents will be consulted and, if possible, asked to collect their child. In the case of a serious accident, the Ambulance is called, and upon consultation with the parents, the child will be transported to hospital if necessary.

Medical Action Plans

Some students at the school have medical conditions that require Medical Action Plans. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that these plans are reviewed annually and provide the school with any updated details. It is the school’s responsibility to ensure that these plans are available and known to all staff members.
The School Tuckshop operates each Friday, providing a range of choices for lunch. Children must have orders written on a paper bag with money secured inside and handed in on Thursday. These are placed in a tuck shop basket in each classroom. A menu/pricelist is available from the School Office and also on the school website and Parent Portal.

The Tuckshop Convenor is a volunteer parent who relies on other parents to assist in providing this service. Volunteers are rostered one shift every four weeks on average. If you think you could spare a few hours every now and then, please contact the school office.