SUPPORT PROGRAMS

English as a Second Language
Children for whom English is a Second Language are supported in the classroom by English as a Second Language teachers and teacher aides, including a bilingual aide.

The ESL teacher works with the classroom teacher to provide support and the best outcomes for these children in literacy and numeracy. The staff of Mary Immaculate is involved in ongoing professional development to ensure that we can offer the latest in teaching and learning practices to suit the varied needs of our students.

The bi-lingual aide assists recently-arrived families with school and social/community related issues.

Learning Support
The school has the benefit of a Learning Support Inclusive Education (STIE) teacher for 3 days per week. The work of the Learning Support Teacher is to act in an advisory capacity within the school and as a support person for the classroom teacher, students and parents. The Learning Support Teacher can obtain access to a variety of outside services to assist children who have special needs.

The Mary Immaculate Student Support Team (MISST) is a professional support team, made up of the class teacher, principal, Learning Support Inclusive Education teacher, guidance counselor and any other person involved in supporting a particular child’s learning, eg. parent, school officer, specialist from outside agencies. It is designed to support children who may be at risk for whatever reason - academically, socially, emotionally or physically. The goal is to bring together all those who are supporting the child and to determine appropriate scaffolding and support strategies.

Student Protection
Schools play a significant role in providing a caring and supportive environment for students. The protection of students from harm or risk of harm is of paramount importance and is the responsibility of all community members. Teaching staff and non-teaching staff owe students a duty of care to protect them from harm.

It is acknowledged that schools may be places for early identification of student protection issues and it is very important that schools have effective student protection processes in place and that employees are in-serviced in this important area. All staff attend a mandatory in-service meeting each year on Student Protection documents and resources that have been produced to comply with legislation and include mandatory reporting requirements. These processes provide a framework for the identification and notification of harm and suspected harm to students from both within and outside those schools conducted by the Archdiocese of Brisbane.
Guidance Counsellor
The Guidance Counsellor is available one day a week to support individuals, families or groups. If parents have a concern of a social, emotional or behavioural nature, or they require family support due to illness and/or bereavement, please contact the Principal so that a meeting can be arranged.

The Guidance Counsellor also works in a proactive role with classroom teachers on social emotional skills programs that address peaceful and positive relationships between all members of the school community. These may include:

- Friends
- Building Resilience in Transcultural Australians (BRiTA)
- Empathy programs – various age levels
- Watson Road Behaviour Management program