

Coowonga State School (0032)

Queensland State School Reporting

2012 School Annual Report



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Webpages	Additional reporting information pertaining to Queensland state schools is located on the My School website and the Queensland Government data website.
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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Coowonga State School is a small community oriented school, with a family like atmosphere. High expectations are set at Coowonga State School which include:

- A clear teacher and student commitment to high academic performance
- High standards of student behaviour
- Emphasis on student values and a high level of respect
- High attendance >95% and punctuality expectations
- High student engagement
- Feedback for learning is valued and practiced at all levels
- Teachers constantly employ 'Check For Understanding' strategies
- Emphasis on uniform code
- School leaders actively coach and support teachers in their skill development

This report provides detailed academic, student and staff data for Coowonga State School for the 2012 year. A copy of this report has been made available through our school website, and a hard copy can be obtained from our office.

School progress towards its goals in 2012

2012 has been the first year of our 4 year development cycle. Quality curriculum documents that provide teachers with clear direction in their teaching have been created and embedded across the school. Coowonga State School has taken on Explicit Instruction as its signature pedagogy with the staff leading the way through modelled lessons and sharing across the Capricorn Coast. Student improvement has continued as a result of the high expectations and rigorous instruction taken place. Our Explicit Improvement Agenda was focussed on reading with explicit strategies put in place to improve the reading level of all students. Although our cohort numbers are small, we have been pleased with our data which has continued to be tracked through our student profiles.

In 2012, our Responsible Behaviour Plan was revised to our Responsible Choices Plan. We have been proud to say that the students of Coowonga State School have demonstrated exemplary behaviour and with our expert classroom delivery, we have ensured the engagement of students.

In our endeavour to maintain inclusive practices adhering to Education Queensland policies of inclusiveness, Closing the Gap Framework, Embedding ATSIC perspectives and framework for gifted and talented, our EATSIPs plan was updated. Throughout the year, significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders events were recognised and attended by our adopted elder Aunty Joyce. Our local networks were further strengthened with the addition of a new local elder, Dr Pamela Croft-Warcon who has joined our EATSIPs group. We continued to work closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dancers from Rockhampton State High School who attended our NAIDOC ceremony and performed and taught traditional dances.

Our school grounds continue to be enhanced with the dedication of staff and P&C members. 2012 saw the construction of a shade structure for our playground.



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Future outlook

Coowonga State School will explicitly focus on improving writing while continuing its improvement agenda in reading. Coowonga State School will also focus on Explicit Instruction as a signature pedagogy. This will be achieved and measured through:

- 5 week cycles of performance measure in reading and writing
- Improved public confidence
- Improved School Wide Pedagogical Framework
- Internal monitoring for all students
- Formalised Performance Framework for staff
- Strengthened processes in Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives
- Strengthened processes in Embedding Sustainable practices as a Reef Guardian School

In 2013 the improvement agenda will focus explicitly on lifting students' writing levels to the upper two bands in NAPLAN. This will be done through addressing the school priorities which will then reflect the actions taken.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

At Coowonga State School we believe that every child matters every day and that all students can achieve high academic results.

We value high standards of effort in work and behaviour, and are proud that all students achieve high levels of respect and responsibility at Coowonga State School.

It is our vision that every child leave our school at the end of Year 7 with the skills above and beyond what is required to succeed in future. High expectations and Explicit Instruction are the keys to student success at Coowonga State School.

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Year levels offered in 2012: Prep - Year 7

Total student enrolments for this school:

	Total	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity
				(Feb – Nov)
2010	29	11	18	92%
2011	29	10	19	85%
2012	26	8	18	100%

Student counts are based on the Census (August) enrolment collection.

Characteristics of the student body:

Our student population comes from long-term residents in our rural community. We have a consistent enrolment with most students completing their primary education at the school.

Average Class sizes

Phase	Average Class Size		
	2010	2011	2012
Prep – Year 3	13	17	13
Year 4 – Year 10			12
Year 11 – Year 12			

School Disciplinary Absences

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents		
	2010	2011	2012
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	0	0	0
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	0	0	0
Exclusions	0	0	0
Cancellations of Enrolment	0	0	0

Our school at a glance

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

LOTE – Japanese (Face-to-face lessons)

Extra curricula activities

Anzac Day – we have adopted the Rats of Tobruk and participate in their service, and march with them on ANZAC Day each year.

NAIDOC day – Each year NAIDOC day is celebrated at Coowonga State School with a variety of traditional activities and guests including our adopted elder Aunty Joyce, our Artist in Residence Aunty Pam (Dr Pamela Croft-Warcon) and dancers from Rockhampton State High School.

Under 8's Day – All Under 8 children in the community are invited for a session of activities to celebrate Under 8's day during education week.

School Leadership Program – Combined with the other Capricorn Coast Leaders, students meet once a term to engage in community work and activities. They also partake in a leadership trip to Brisbane in Term 1.

Small School Curriculum (Gala) Days – All students from the Capricorn Coast Small Schools combine once a term for curriculum events including Science, HPE, Indigenous Culture, Dancing and Art days. Specialist visitors are brought in for these days.

Golf Lessons – Each year students participate in a four week golf program.

End of Year Performance – At the culmination of the year, students perform in a class play which is presented to parents at our annual awards ceremony.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

With a ratio of more than one computer for every two students, we are able to provide seamless integration of computer technologies across all Key Learning Areas. A set of 16 ActivExpressions to be used with the interactive whiteboards, a set of six Easy Speak microphones and 4 digital cameras are used to enhance learning experiences.. Access to interactive whiteboards in all learning areas provides for greater access to digital technologies. All staff have been trained in their use and they have become an integral part of our daily teaching.

Students have been provided with enhanced online learning experiences through the use of EdStudios and online programs such as Study Ladder. Our iPod touches and iPads are utilised in the classroom almost on a daily basis with apps bought to support and enhance lessons. Our iPad collection will grow to 12 in 2013 providing a higher ration than 1:2 students.

Social climate

Coowonga State School is the hub of this small rural community. It provides a social meeting place for parents who are fully committed to the ongoing learning and general life at the school. They demonstrate their commitment through their participation in school fund-raising and community activities and their willingness to support school initiatives with transportation or supervision of students.

The Coowonga School's Responsible Choices Plan promotes high standards of positive, safe, responsible and respectful behaviours in both the classroom and social learning environment. Our restorative justice approach to solve minor disputes and consistency with the behaviour plan resulted in no behaviour or disciplinary problems in the last year. Bullying is not tolerated at Coowonga State School and any incidences are dealt with swiftly in line with the schools Responsible Choices Plan.

In 2012 we welcomed our school chaplain, Chappy Alan, who works at our school for a day a week.

Parent, student and staff satisfaction with the school

We are encouraged by the fact that the school opinion survey indicates that parents are 100% satisfied that their children are getting a good education at this school and that Coowonga State School is a good school. Results from our survey show that 100% of parents are satisfied that their children are progressing and that they are expected to do their best.

Our student data overwhelming indicates that the students feel motivated and are getting a good education at our school.

Our Staff Survey indicates that staff are 100% satisfied with the morale in the school and that they have access to quality professional development.

Our school at a glance

Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown*)	
Percentage of parents/caregivers who agree that:	2012 [#]
their child is getting a good education at school	100.0%
this is a good school	100.0%
their child likes being at this school*	83.3%
their child feels safe at this school*	100.0%
their child's learning needs are being met at this school*	91.7%
their child is making good progress at this school*	100.0%
teachers at this school expect their child to do his or her best*	100.0%
teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work*	100.0%
teachers at this school motivate their child to learn*	100.0%
teachers at this school treat students fairly*	100.0%
they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns*	100.0%
this school works with them to support their child's learning*	100.0%
this school takes parents' opinions seriously*	100.0%
student behaviour is well managed at this school*	100.0%
this school looks for ways to improve*	100.0%
this school is well maintained*	100.0%

Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown*)	
Percentage of students who agree that:	2012 [#]
they are getting a good education at school	100.0%
they like being at their school*	90.9%
they feel safe at their school*	100.0%
their teachers motivate them to learn*	100.0%
their teachers expect them to do their best*	100.0%
their teachers provide them with useful feedback about their school work*	100.0%
teachers treat students fairly at their school*	90.9%
they can talk to their teachers about their concerns*	90.9%
their school takes students' opinions seriously*	100.0%

Our school at a glance

student behaviour is well managed at their school*	100.0%
their school looks for ways to improve*	90.9%
their school is well maintained*	100.0%
their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things*	100.0%

Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown*)

Percentage of school staff who agree:	2012 [#]
that they have good access to quality professional development	100.0%
with the individual staff morale items	100.0%

* Nationally agreed student and parent/caregiver items were incorporated in the School Opinion Survey in 2012.

[#] Percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement. Due to changes to the School Opinion Surveys in 2012, comparisons with results for previous years are not recommended.

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Our school at a glance

Involving parents in their child's education

Coowonga State School actively encourages parents and the school community to be involved in all aspects of school life through the P&C, school functions, parent help groups, direct classroom visitation and direct involvement in students learning activities including school camp. Together we share the successes of every child. We employ a collaborative approach to decision making and keep our parents informed of both local and departmental issues through our fortnightly newsletter and website.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

Data is sourced from school's annual utilities return and is reliant on the accuracy of these returns.

In 2012 we continued to be a part of the Earth Smart Program focusing on reducing our school's environmental footprint. Each year we have created a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) in which we set targets to reduce our environmental footprints. We have also been a part of the National Solar School initiative which has provided us with solar panels and water tanks for both energy reduction and water conservation.

	Environmental footprint indicators	
	Electricity kWh	Water kL
2009-2010	17,899	0
2010-2011	11,875	0
2011-2012	11,529	0

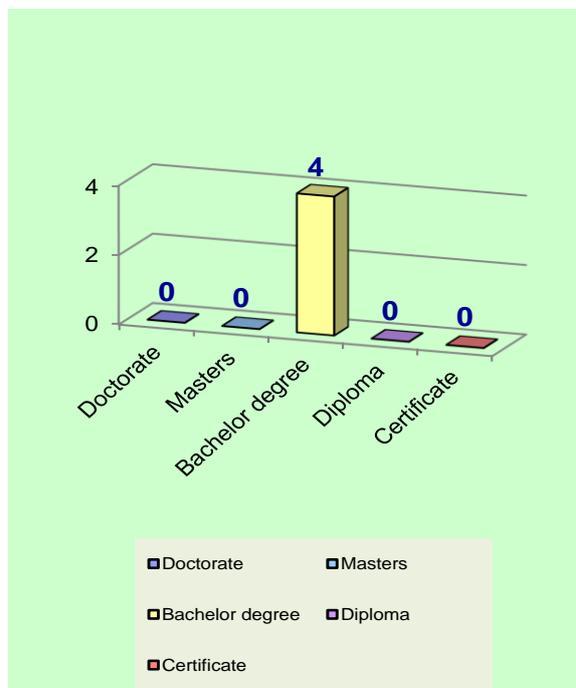
Our staff profile

Staff composition, including Indigenous staff

2012 Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	4	5	0
Full-time equivalents	2.1	2.2	0

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	4
Diploma	0
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2012 were \$5843.89.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Explicit Instruction
- Oral language in Classrooms
- Australian Curriculum History PD
- Australian Curriculum Science Sparks
- C2C Differentiation

Our staff profile

- Autism (Reading)
- Aus Swim Course
- Energy/Sustainability

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2012 was 100%.

Average staff attendance	2010	2011	2012
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders.	97.3%	97.6%	96.3%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 52.4% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2012 school year.

School income broken down 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 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.

Find a school

Search by school name

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector Government
 Non-government

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. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of income by funding source.

Performance of our students

Key student outcomes

Student attendance	2010	2011	2012
The overall attendance rate for the students at this school (shown as a percentage).	95%	93%	93%
The overall attendance rate in 2012 for all Queensland state Primary schools was 93%.			

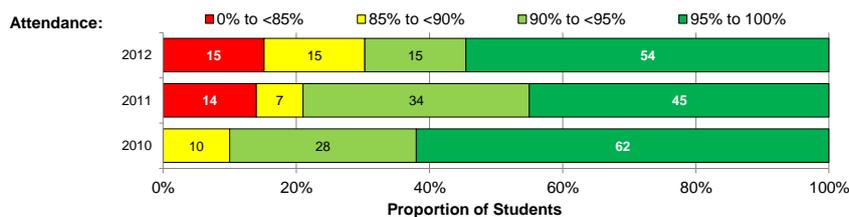
Student attendance rate for each year level (shown as a percentage)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
2012	DW											

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Student Attendance Distribution

The proportions of students by attendance range.



Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Non-attendance is managed in state schools in line with the DET policies, SMS-PR-029: Managing Student Absences and SMS-PR-036: Roll Marking in State Schools, which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

Rolls are marked every morning and afternoon. If a child's absence is unexplained a phone call is made to the parents.

At Coowonga State School, we encourage full attendance and recognise those students with high levels of attendance. At the end of the school year, students with attendance higher than 98% are awarded with a prize (ipod in 2011, movie voucher 2012) donated by the P&C.

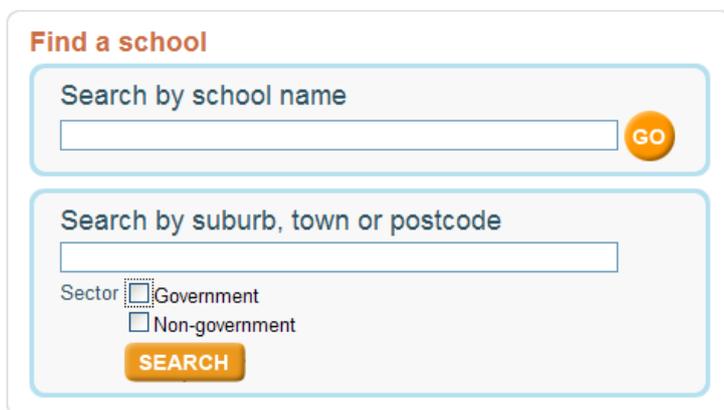
Performance of our students

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Due to the size of our cohort of students, we are unable to publish information about our grade level results for 2012. Collectively from 2009 to 2012 all our Yr 7 students have been at or above the National Minimum Standards in Reading, Writing, Spelling and Numeracy. We have been able to identify Grammar and Punctuation as a school strength in 2012 and Writing as an area for further improvement during 2013. We use the NAPLAN data alongside the internal monitoring data to track student progress and further improve students' rate of growth.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our NAPLAN results, 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.



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Find a school". It contains two main search sections. The first section is "Search by school name", which includes a text input field and an orange "GO" button. The second section is "Search by suburb, town or postcode", which includes a text input field, a "Sector" dropdown menu with "Government" and "Non-government" options, and an orange "SEARCH" button.

Where it says 'Search by school name', type in the name of the school whose NAPLAN results 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 able to access NAPLAN data.

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of our school's NAPLAN results.

Achievement – Closing the Gap

Coowonga State School is committed to meeting the Queensland Government's challenge to close the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous student outcomes. The 2012 Closing the Gap report for Coowonga State School demonstrated that the attendance rates of indigenous students were above 95% which is above the attendance rate for all students in Queensland State Schools. This rate has been consistent for the past five years with a high retention rate of students completing their schooling at Coowonga State School.

Due to the size of our cohort we are unable to publish the year 3 Closing the Gap results.