

Annual Report

2023

This Annual Report meets both State and Australian Government Reporting Requirements



Westside
Christian College
Achievement Belonging Care



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About Westside

Westside Christian College, originally known as Goodna Christian School, is situated in the Brisbane-Western corridor at 65 and 110 Stuart Street, Goodna and is an independent, co-educational school catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. Westside opened its doors to fifty-six children in 1977. Classes were offered from Years 1-7. In 1985 the first class of Year 12 students graduated and in 1995 a second campus was opened just down the street from the original campus. Pre-school and Years 1-3 were moved to this new campus. Today the two campuses accommodate the entire Primary School (Prep - Year 6) and Secondary School (Years 7 - 12) separately.

At the time of the State Census in 2023, Westside's total enrolment was 1211 students with 604 in Primary School and 607 in Secondary School. The student body was made up of 596 (49.2%) girls and 615 (50.8%) boys including 21 (1.7%) indigenous students (11 in Primary and 10 in Secondary) and 22 (1.8%) ESL students (17 in Primary, 5 in Secondary).



Our Vision

Faith and learning together

Westside Christian College is a distinctly Christian school where faith in God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and learning go together.

Our Mission

The Mission of Westside Christian College is, with humble reliance upon the grace of God, to prepare and equip our young people for an abundant life of learning, faith and service, for the common good and the glory of God.

Our Motto

In Thy Light

'For with Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light.' **Psalm 36:9**

As a Christian school, Westside believes that the best way to live all of life is in the light of the love of God expressed through the life and person of Jesus Christ.

Our Core 'CLASS' Values

- Christlikeness
- Learning
- Achievement
- Social Responsibility and
- Service

These values are embedded in everything we do at our school and they form the core of who we are. Our CLASS values provide cohesiveness in our planning and are an easy to understand reference for staff and students in the development of our College's culture. Even our youngest students are able to talk about our CLASS values.

Our Tagline

Achievement Belonging Care

An invitational declaration that Achievement, Belonging and Care are fundamental distinctives of the Westside Christian College experience.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Our curriculum recognises the distinct developmental stages of young people. Having students' progress from Prep to Year 12 in one school allows us to offer a seamless curriculum where each phase builds on what has gone before. All of this occurs in a safe and caring Christian environment where students are encouraged to achieve to the best of their ability in various fields of endeavour.

Prep to Year 3

Students are encouraged to develop as independent learners and to work collaboratively across a range of learning areas. A strong focus is on basic literacy and numeracy but students are also encouraged to pursue their interests in creative arts and physical activities. The teachers foster strong relationships with parents and carers as well as inculcating positive attitudes in the students upon which they should build as they progress through the school. These include always doing one's best, taking pride in oneself and one's school and caring for one another.



Year 4 to Year 6

Years 4 to 6 build on the foundations laid in Junior Primary. Students are introduced to enquiring thought processes by being encouraged to ask why things are so. Leadership abilities are nurtured and some Year 6 students are appointed to leadership positions in the Primary School. Specialist lessons in Art, Music, Technology and Physical Education are provided through the Primary years.

Years 7 to 10

Much attention is paid to ensuring a smooth transition for all Year 6 students into Secondary School. Key Learning Areas are consolidated and students are encouraged to assume greater responsibility for their own learning.

Students are given the opportunity to experience a wide variety of subjects. Besides the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and Biblical Studies, students are exposed to subjects in the Creative Industries (Drama, Dance, Media Studies, Music and Visual Art), Technical Industries (ICT, Food Technology, Textile Technology, Graphics and Construction) as well as Chinese, Physical Education, Business Studies and Technology and Innovation. Critical thinking and problem solving skills are nurtured at this time.



Years 11 and 12

A wide range of Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority subjects are available to senior students. These contribute towards a student's ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank), a score used to determine entry to tertiary study. In addition, numerous alternate pathways are offered including traineeships, apprenticeships and TAFE and university subjects.

Students are encouraged to connect emotionally, socially and spiritually and our graduates should be prepared with skills for tertiary study or the workforce and a mature understanding of the world and their place in it.

SWAN (Students with Additional Needs) and SEE (Special Education Element)

Students with additional needs receive additional help from qualified support personnel. A Special Education Element has been set up on each campus for those students who require a specialised, modified education program.

Extension

A range of pedagogical approaches are employed to personalise extension for highly capable students including in-class differentiation, small group extension, enrichment opportunities, academic competitions, acceleration and Year 12 extension subjects. The College employs an Enrichment Teacher specifically to support academic extension in the Primary School.

Co-curricular & Extra-curricular Activities

The College prides itself on providing opportunities for everyone. Students can represent their House at the annual inter-house Athletics, Cross-country and Swimming Carnivals. Students in the Secondary School can also participate in a range of sporting developmental nights and inter-house competitions such as table tennis, volleyball, basketball, debating, spelling bee, theatre sports and street art competitions.



College teams participate in the Central Ipswich District sports competitions in touch football, futsal, volleyball, basketball, netball and football and our Primary students have regular interschool competition through Premier Sports Ipswich.

Our teams compete in the Christian Schools Sports Association of Queensland's Athletics, Cross-country and Swimming carnivals while individual teams also compete in the CSSAQ or Brisbane Christian Schools one-day Carnivals in volleyball, touch football, netball, basketball and football.



Drama production, music soiree and musical revue/dance showcase are regular highlights in Secondary School and the Senior Primary School has a significant bespoke musical production every two years.

Our Junior Primary perform each year at our Celebration Evening and regularly at eisteddfods.



Opportunities also exist for students to join various musical groups such as the Funk Jazz Rock Bands, Symphonic Band, String, Flute, Brass and Vocal Ensembles and to participate in the Secondary Battle of the Bands.



Social Climate



There is a special spirit awaiting students at Westside. It is a spirit of belonging, of security, of humility, of love and of happiness. spirit of rising in the morning and wanting to go to school. It is a spirit of striving for personal enrichment and achievement but also of reaching out in assistance to others. This is because Westside has always been, first and foremost, about relationships - strong, respectful relationships between staff and students, between senior students and junior students and between students in the same year levels.

Special occasions such as ANZAC Day ceremonies and Grandparents' Day provide students with the opportunity to show their respect and gratitude to those in our community who have given above and beyond. This caring spirit extends into our Pastoral Care Program. Chaplains on each campus work with Year Level Co-ordinators, classroom teachers and TAG teachers to ensure that each student feels cared for and loved.

In turn, students are encouraged to care for others through community work such as the Helping Hands Program and various fundraising opportunities such as participation in the Queensland Cancer Council's Relay for Life and many others. Generation Justice is a group of Senior Secondary students who organise and run the calendar of social justice activities within the College each year.

Cultural diversity is celebrated through events such as Multi-fest, Multicultural Day and Harmony Day.

In Junior Primary the UR Strong program is an integral part of personal development that focusses on increasing agency, resilience and interpersonal skills in for healthy relationships and friendships and well-being.

In the Secondary School FIT (Fitness-Integrity-Tenacity) Chicks, endeavours to equip girls with the skills, abilities and determination to overcome the obstacles that life may present and presents a model of Christian living for young women today. BOBs (Building Outstanding Blokes) is a mentoring program for boys aimed at restoring enjoyment and confidence in learning. FIT Chicks and BOBs are voluntary and happen outside of normal school hours. Both have camps integrated into their programs.

The College's Outdoor Education Program commences in Year 4 and is aimed at building confidence by exposing students to new experiences and challenges. Camps are subsequently held in Years 5, 7,8, 9 and 11. Year 6 students have an annual one-week trip to Canberra.

Leaders are appointed for the first time in Year 6. In Secondary School a Student Council serves as a vehicle for student voice and leadership. Year 11 students undergo an intensive leadership course and attend Year 11 Leadership Camp. In January, Student Executive Camp is held for appointed Year 12 leaders.

As part of its commitment to providing a safe environment, all staff undertake relevant training in the implementation of the College's Student Protection Policy and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Parental Involvement

At Westside, we believe that education works best when the school and the home work together. This relationship is of paramount importance and the College actively promotes open communication with families. This includes regular targeted information delivered to parents through *Schoolbox* (the College's Learning Management System), email updates, *Reflections* (the College newsletter), the College website and social media. All families receive a copy of the annual College magazine, *Koinonia*.

The College provides regular parent education evenings with high profile guest speakers presenting forums on topical parenting or educational subjects.

Formal parent-teacher interviews are held twice annually.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the College's Parents and Friends Association (PFA).



The PFA is a voluntary group of Parents and Friends, led by an elected Executive, who serve and support the College by:

1. working closely with the College to achieve common goals aligned with the College's Vision, Mission and Values,
2. maintaining open, two-way communication between the parent body and the College,
3. fostering a positive community spirit amongst parents, staff and friends of the College,
4. raising funds to support mutually agreed projects and resource acquisitions, and
5. encouraging and supporting the involvement of parents in their children's education.

Parent volunteers are welcome and invited to support the College through service in such areas as the library, Primary and Secondary canteens, reading groups and special interest groups.

Parent, Teacher & Student Satisfaction

Parents

Overall satisfaction of parents was very high at **87%**, defining the College as a 'school of first choice'. Parent satisfaction was 'very high' in 11 of the 12 benchmark areas and above the MMG average in all 12 areas.

"It really is a wonderful school. The staff do an incredible job. Beyond blessed to have my children enrolled."

"At Westside students are not just a number. Teachers take an interest in the students and build trusting relationships. I'm very proud to say that I am a Westside parent."

"Great educational experience for my family!"

Staff

In the year's Staff Climate survey, **93%** said they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their job. The mean result from the past three years is 93.3%. When asked – *I look forward to continuing my work at the College into the future* – **90%** of staff indicated that they either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. The mean response from the past three years is 93.3%.

"I love being able to work in an environment where my Christian faith is supported and valued. I feel free to bring my whole self to work."

"I love the community and the culture here at Westside. There is a real sense of belonging here and a good sense of respect amongst staff, parents, students and the wider community. Everyone is willing to help out one another when needed."

Students

Overall student satisfaction was at a high level of **78%** according to an independent survey of Years 5-12 students.

"I like the people and the community of Westside. I came in Year 7 and I have found it easy to make new friends. I am friends with people in older grades and younger grades. The teachers are also really great. Overall Westside is a great school full of great people."

"What I value is the care the teachers have for you as a student. The education here is great, I love it."

Staffing Information

Westside Christian College has 60 full time and 38 part time teachers and 27 full time and 61 part time non-teaching staff. Westside has been blessed by its diversity of staff and cultural backgrounds and there are currently 5 Indigenous staff.

Qualifications of all Teachers

Qualification	Number of teachers and school leaders
Doctorate or higher	0
Masters	15
Bachelor Degree	113
Diploma	24
Certificate	9

Non- Attendance Management

Student attendance is managed through the software program in TASS. Parents can either email, phone the College’s Absentee Line or message the College’s EduApp early on the morning of the student’s absence. Any unexplained or unexpected absences are investigated by a member of the administration staff on a daily basis. Extended student absence is followed-up by the Class Teacher or Year Level Co-ordinator.

Key Student Outcomes

In 2023, the average attendance rate for the whole school, Prep to Year 12, as a percentage was 92.85%.

Year Level	Percentage %
Prep	91.54%
Year 1	92.79%
Year 2	93.01%
Year 3	92.59%
Year 4	94.08%
Year 5	92.98%
Year 6	93.94%
Year 7	94.6%
Year 8	91.58%
Year 9	92.41%
Year 10	91.61%
Year 11	91.92%
Year 12	93.89%



NAPLAN 2023 Benchmark Data

The results below are from the 2023 NAPLAN testing.

Reading		
Year Level	Average Score (Westside)	Average Score (National)
Year 3	435	405
Year 5	518	496
Year 7	567	536
Year 9	606	564
Writing		
Year Level	Average Score (Westside)	Average Score (National)
Year 3	439	416
Year 5	487	483
Year 7	542	534
Year 9	592	567
Spelling		
Year Level	Average Score (Westside)	Average Score (National)
Year 3	436	404
Year 5	516	489
Year 7	559	539
Year 9	593	568
Grammar and Punctuation		
Year Level	Average Score (Westside)	Average Score (National)
Year 3	437	411
Year 5	520	497
Year 7	567	539
Year 9	605	557
Numeracy		
Year Level	Average Score (Westside)	Average Score (National)
Year 3	409	407
Year 5	512	488
Year 7	568	538
Year 9	599	568

Year 12 Outcomes

2023 Cohort Summary (Data provided by QCAA – Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority)

Number of students awarded a Senior Education Profile (SEP)	82
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)	76
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)	0
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD)	0
Number of students receiving a Senior Statement only	6
Number of students awarded one or more VET Qualifications	41
Number of students who are completing/completed a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship (SAT)	19
Number of students awarded a VET Qualification	
Certificate I	1
Certificate II	12
Certificate III	31
Certificate IV	2
Diploma	0
Advanced Diploma	0



Post – School Destination

Collection Procedure

The Next Step survey, undertaken by the Queensland Government, targeted all students who completed Year 12 and gained a Senior Statement in 2023, whether they attended a state, Catholic or independent school, or a TAFE secondary college.

The QLD Government Statistician’s Office conducted the survey between March and June 2024, approximately six months after the young people left school. Responses were collected online and via computer-assisted telephone interviewing.

The following analysis generated by the QLD Government Statistician’s Office captures the destination of the 2023 Westside Christian College leavers.

School Response Rate to the 2023 Year 12 Completers Survey

Number of Year 12 Students in 2023	Number of responses received from students	% Response Rate
81	65	80.2%

Summary of findings in relation to main Destinations of students in 2023

School Year 2023	Number of Students in each category	% of students in category
University (degree)	30	46.2%
VET Total (Cert IV+ III, I-II, apprenticeship, traineeship)	14	21.5%
Working full-time	7	10.8%
Working part-time, casual	9	13.8%
Seeking work	4	6.2%
Not studying or in the labour force	1	1.5%
Total Year 12 students	65	100%



Faith

Westside Christian College takes its commitment to lifelong learning and growing in faith seriously. The Pastoral Care and Christian Studies programs are significant pillars in a Westside education and growing in faith and developing Christlike qualities are valued.

A Dedicated Staff

The College has many long-term staff members and this has resulted in the development of a very distinct caring, Christian ethos.

Proven Track Record

After more than 45 years, the College has established itself as a respected institution in the Ipswich area that punches well above its weight. Students do not just have the opportunity to achieve well academically or in the cultural or sporting areas, they also learn the importance of always doing one’s best, taking pride in oneself and one’s school and the importance of displaying sound moral fibre and values.





Funding

A breakdown of school income by funding source is available from the 'My School' website at myschool.edu.au/school/48053/finances

Contact Us

For more information, please contact
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