



Arethusa College Annual Report

2022

Doing School
Differently

Contents

Introduction	3
Students	5
Staff	7
School Income.....	8
Contact Us.....	8

Introduction

Arethusa College

Arethusa College is an independent, co-educational school catering for students from Year 7 to Year 12. Arethusa College is accredited as a Special Assistance School with seven campuses located at Springwood, Forest Lake, Maroochydore, Spring Hill, Windsor, West End and Deception Bay. Total enrolments in 2022 was 1059 students with 13% identifying as having Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage.

Arethusa College provides a secure and nurturing setting where students can achieve favourable educational results. Our approach is adaptable and innovative, aiming to cater to each student's unique learning requirements with an individualised program.

We embrace and foster diversity, acknowledging that every student in our care is unique. With varied backgrounds, learning styles, future aspirations, skills, and talents, we are dedicated to assisting students in discovering their strengths, accomplishing their objectives, and appreciating their individuality.

Arethusa's Values

Arethusa College is an inclusive school with Christian values, which respects diversity and welcomes people of all faiths and none. We uphold the principles of respect, good morals and worthwhile values and serve our students to ensure they unlock their strengths and reach their potential. We value the unique worth of all individuals and believe these principles are fundamental to a young person's social and emotional wellbeing, growth and development.

We work closely with a range of regulatory and advisory bodies to ensure that we promote and retain this excellent service. Arethusa College is committed to a high level of professionalism and our employees are dedicated to those who use our services, ensuring that we maximise our impact as a school.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Arethusa College prides itself on being innovative, flexible and agile in its approach to teaching and learning. Our objective is to diligently prioritise the needs of our students, valuing their worth and recognising the limitless potential they possess. In doing so, we strive to go beyond the convenience of conformity, tradition, or expectations, ensuring that our responses are solely in service of their growth and development.

By placing students firmly at the centre of everything we do, we ask new questions around curriculum, pedagogy, staffing, and resourcing. We draw upon research and the expertise of others while also investing into developing new paths that hold to our mission and values. Arethusa offers students from Years 7-12 individualised and personalised educational and vocational pathways. Students are included in the development of their own educational journeys where staff seek to empower them to achieve their goals and fulfil their potential.

By providing flexible learning environments, with targeted and diverse curriculum programs, Arethusa College strives to support and develop its students physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually and academically. All programs are underpinned by elements of quality pedagogy, targeted literacy and numeracy development, real-world skills and problem-based learning.

In Junior (Years 7-8) and Middle (Years 9-10) School, students engage in the Australian Curriculum, designed for students to work at their own level and pace to address any gaps in their learning. They study English, Mathematics, HPE and an Integrated Subject which includes a rotation of Science, Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), The Arts and Technologies, spaced over a two-year period. Students can also pursue Personal Projects that allow for numerous elective choices and flexibility to accommodate students' learning, interests, passions, and needs.

In the Senior (Years 11-12) School, students can work towards completing their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) whilst still at school, as well as a Senior Statement, or Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA). Subjects offered differ at each campus but include Essential English and Essential Mathematics, plus a variety of other offerings. Students are also able to work and learn in our state-of-the-art workshops to complete different levels of Certificate courses. Students have access to a range of VET, TAFE, Certificate Courses and School Based Traineeship opportunities. Campus staff work closely with students to support the successful completion of their senior schooling and have positive options available to them for life beyond school.

In addition to seven campuses, Arethusa College has the Anywhere Learning Team (ALT), Arethusa Adventure Academy (AAA), and Arethusa Sports Academy (ASA). These are unique and highly individualised programs which give students the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom.

Social Climate of the School

At the core of everything we do is a genuine sense of compassion and interest in our students as well as a determined commitment to set them up for success.

Our philosophy is summed up in our motto of Believe, Expect, Celebrate. We Believe in our students; until they believe in themselves and believe in others. We raise the bar and Expect of our students, until they can expect of themselves and step towards the exciting possibilities that surround them. We will Celebrate our students as they grow, until they can celebrate their lives and their journey and be part of celebrating those around them.

Students

Characteristics of the Student Body

Arethusa College offers students an alternative education solution for those who do not fit into the mainstream education system. This could be due to social, emotional or behavioural factors. The College prides itself on providing education which is innovative, and which meets the needs of students with a wide range of learning difficulties and disabilities. Students must show a desire to attend Arethusa College at their interview to be granted enrolment. The desire to overcome obstacles to gaining an education is a common characteristic of the student body at Arethusa.

Student Outcomes

Attendance

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2022 was 60.08%. Students who attend Arethusa College have various contributing factors which influence attendance. In 2022 the primary reason for non-attendance was mental health factors impacting on students.

Average attendance rates for particular year levels					
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
68%	65%	63%	61%	53%	52%

Non-attendance management

Student attendance at Arethusa is monitored through the use of attendance software. Parents and carers are required to report non-attendance on the morning of the student's absence. A staff member contacts parents and carers of students who have been unaccounted for through the delivery of an SMS alert. The Principal monitors students who have been away for a number of consecutive days, or where a pattern of absenteeism is emerging. The Principal works with teachers to ensure that students are followed up, and that the College provides support to students as required. The College has clear processes for recording the reasons for absences, and follow-up to report student attendance to government agencies as required (e.g. Centrelink).

NAPLAN 2022 benchmark data

The NAPLAN results for Years 7 and 9, and information can be found by visiting the My School website at <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

Year 12 outcomes

Outcomes for the 2022 Year 12 Cohort

Number of students awarded a Senior Education Profile	83
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement	1
Number of students who received an ATAR	0
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)	6
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications	36
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12	6
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD)	0
Percentage of Year 12 students who received an ATAR above 90	0%
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification	58%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer	0%

Post-school destination information from the current Next Step Survey

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2022 post-school destinations survey, *Next Steps – Student Destination* report for the school was not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be uploaded to the school's website in September after release of the information.

School Response Rate to the 2022 Year 12 completers survey

Number of Year 12 students in 2021	Number of responses received from students	Percentage response rate
79	35	44.3%

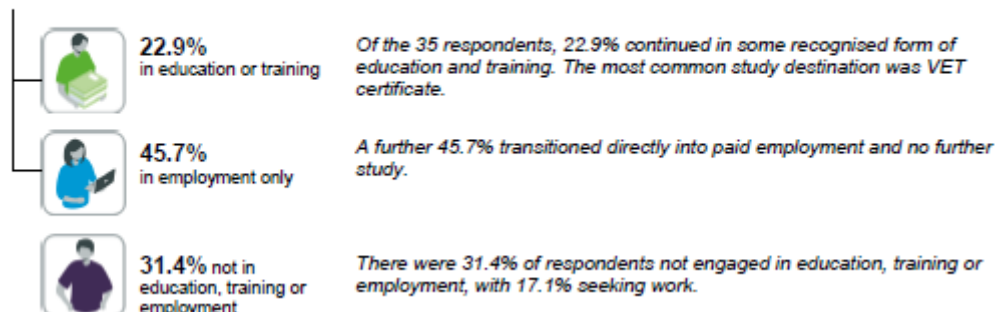
Engagement in education, training or employment.

Year 12 completers from Arethusa College have been categorised by their engagement in education and training, or employment. Survey respondents who are both working and studying are included in education and training. Apprentices and trainees are required to

undertake a study component to their qualification so are also considered to be in education and training.

Engagement in education, training or employment

68.6% engaged in education, training or employment



Parent and Student Involvement and Satisfaction

Arethusa College recognises the significance of fostering collaborative relationships between the College and families, enabling a comprehensive understanding of students' unique requirements and offering suitable assistance to ensure optimal educational achievements for all. We actively encourage open communication between parents, teachers, and the Principal, inviting parents to visit the school for discussions regarding their child's needs whenever necessary.

Parent information is communicated through letters home and the regular campus newsletters which provide specific campus-based information. Parent Information Sessions are held at each campus in a forum that best suits each individual campus' community, for example morning teas or information nights.

Parents and caregivers expressed overwhelmingly positive feedback, responding with either an 'agree' or 'strongly agree' in various aspects of the Satisfaction Survey. These responses indicated their recognition and appreciation of the College's sincere concern for students' well-being, the individualised support offered, and the welcoming atmosphere of the school. According to parents and caregivers, students feel safe, supported, and motivated to engage in all aspects of College life, while also being given opportunities to nurture their strengths.

Staff

About our Staff

The staff at Arethusa are hand chosen and have demonstrated excellence in their specialty area of teaching. Many of the teachers are experienced in working with young people who may not fit into a traditional classroom setting. Arethusa prides itself on the fact that our staff promote self-discipline, believing that the responsibility to change the future lies within the individual and is not found merely inside educational policy or by applying unfair discipline.

Arethusa employs the fulltime equivalent of 53 registered teachers and 105 support staff with backgrounds in various trades, youth support, and special education. All staff work collaboratively to promote a learning community which is based on Respect, Safety, Value, and Participation. Arethusa College values the diverse cultural backgrounds of its staff. Currently 4% identify as having Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage.

Qualifications of teachers and school leaders				
Doctorate	Masters degree	Bachelor degree	Diploma	Certificate
2%	32%	87%	51%	43%

Staff Professional Development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2022 was \$161,510. The focus on Professional Development during the year included integrated units from the Australian Curriculum, Curriculum Planning & Development, Child Protection, and Professional Boundaries for Teachers, and Pastoral Care for Students. All staff participated in professional development during the year. The average expenditure on teacher PD per year based on 74 teachers was \$2,153 in 2022.

Average staff attendance

Average staff attendance based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave periods of up to 5 days during 2022:

Number of teachers	Attendance rate
75	98%

The College prides itself on promoting staff wellbeing and support for all staff. The College acknowledges that quality education only exists where there are quality educators, and therefore values the contributions made by its staff. Staff stability is also an important factor for providing students with a safe, supportive and consistent learning environment.

School Income

School income broken down by funding source can be found on the My School website at www.myschool.edu.au.

Contact Us

This Annual Report is available on our College website: www.arethusa.qld.edu.au. For further information about Arethusa College, please contact Lisa Coles on 1300 720 371 or via email - executiveprincipal@arethusa.qld.edu.au.