



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Doing School
Differently

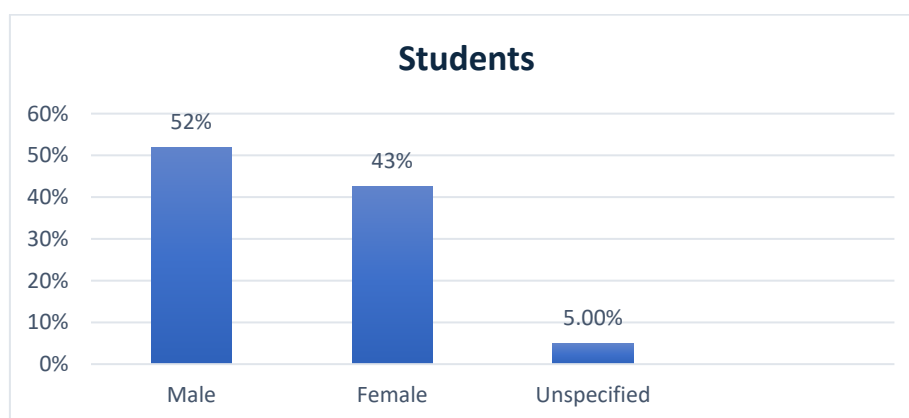
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Introduction

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 eight campuses located at Berrinba, Springwood, Forest Lake, Maroochydore, Spring Hill, Windsor, West End and Deception Bay. Total enrolments in 2023 was 1273 students with 14% identifying as having Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander heritage or other cultural backgrounds.



Arethusa College offers a safe and supportive environment where students can achieve positive educational outcomes. Our approach is flexible and creative, striving to accommodate each student's specific learning needs with an individualised program.

We value and promote diversity, recognising that every student we serve is different. They come from diverse backgrounds, have different ways of learning, and different goals, abilities, and gifts. We are committed to helping students find their strengths, achieve their aims, and celebrate their uniqueness.

Arethusa's Values

Arethusa College is a school that embraces Christian values and fosters inclusion. We respect diversity and accept people from any or no faith background. We promote good morals, respect and positive values and support our students to discover their strengths and achieve their goals. We recognise the unique values of all individuals and believe these principles are essential for a young person's social and emotional wellbeing, growth and development.

We collaborate with various regulatory and advisory bodies to ensure that we maintain and promote a high level of service. Arethusa College values professionalism and our staff are devoted to serving our people, making sure that we optimise our influence as a school.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

At Arethusa College, we are committed to being creative, adaptable and responsive in our methods of teaching and learning. Our goal is to put our students' needs first, respecting their value and acknowledging the infinite possibilities and potential. In doing so, we strive to go beyond the convenience of conformity, tradition, or expectations, ensuring that our responses are purely in service of their growth and development.

We put students at the heart of our work, and we challenge ourselves to explore new ways of thinking around curriculum, teaching methods, staff, and resources. We learn from research and the experience of others, and we also create new ways that align with 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 to address and close any gaps in their learning. They study English, Mathematics, Science, HPE and an Integrated Subject which includes a rotation of 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 eight 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 setting. These programs enable students to engage in the Australian Curriculum through Outdoor Education and Sporting lenses.

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 need to demonstrate a willingness 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 2023 was 69.43%. Students who attend Arethusa College have various contributing factors which influence attendance. In 2023 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
50.02%	73.59%	71.11%	68%	72.50%	66.49%

Non-attendance management

Student attendance at Arethusa is monitored using 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 extended absence 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 2023 benchmark data

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

Year 12 outcomes

Outcomes for the 2023 Year 12 Cohort

Number of students awarded a Senior Education Profile	116
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement	3
Number of students who received an ATAR	0
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)	12
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications	39
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12	9
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	41%
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 2023 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 2023 Year 12 completers survey

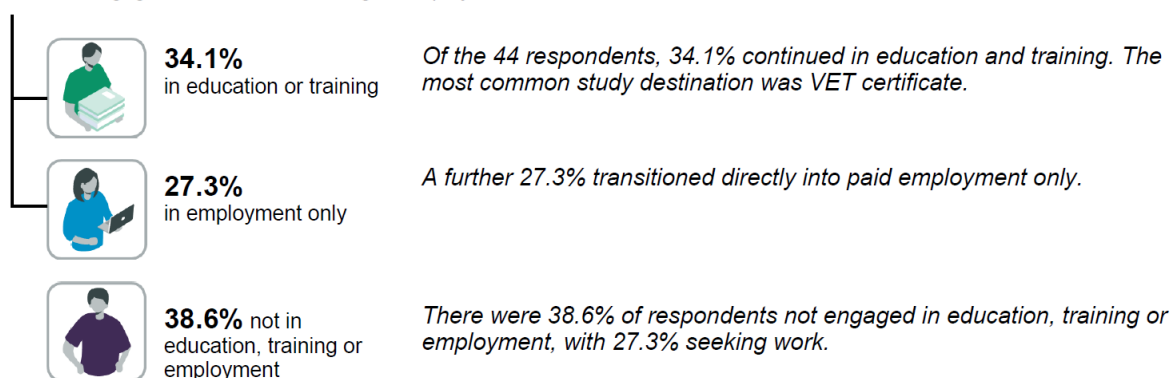
Number of Year 12 students in 2022	Number of responses received from students	Percentage response rate
82	44	53.7%

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

61.4% engaged in education, training or employment



Parent and Student Involvement and Satisfaction

At Arethusa College, we value the importance of building cooperative partnerships between the College and families, allowing us to gain a thorough understanding of students' individual needs and providing appropriate support to ensure the best educational outcomes for all. We welcome open communication between parents, teachers, and the Principal, and we encourage parents to come to the school for conversations about their child's needs whenever needed.

We communicate with parents through letters, emails and campus newsletters, which share specific information about each campus. Each campus holds Parent Information Sessions in a way that fits each community, such as morning teas or information nights.

Parents and carers gave very positive feedback in the College's Satisfaction Survey. This was shown by their answers of "agree" or "strongly agree" on different areas of the Survey. The feedback shows that they acknowledge and value the positive influence that the College and its staff have on the students. That students receive personalised support, feel secure, are given opportunities to develop their strengths and are engaged in learning.

Staff

About our Staff

Arethusa's employees are selected for their expertise in their teaching area. Many of the teachers have experience with young people who may struggle in a conventional classroom setting. Arethusa values that our staff encourage self-discipline, thinking that the power to change the future is within the individual and not just in educational policy or by using unjust discipline.

Arethusa employs 126 registered teachers and 211 support staff, comprising of full-time, part-time and Casual employees. Arethusa support staff have 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%	33%	84%	46%	25%

Staff Professional Development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2023 was \$231,200. The focus on Professional Development during the year included integrated units from the Australian Curriculum, Curriculum Planning and 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 126 teachers was \$2,181 in 2023.

Average staff attendance

Average staff attendance based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave periods of up to 5 days during 2023:

Number of teachers	Attendance rate
126	96%

The College prides itself on promoting staff wellbeing and support for all staff. The College recognises that quality education only exists where there are quality educators, and therefore values the contributions made by its staff. Staff stability is 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.