



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Doing School  
*Differently*

# Contents

---

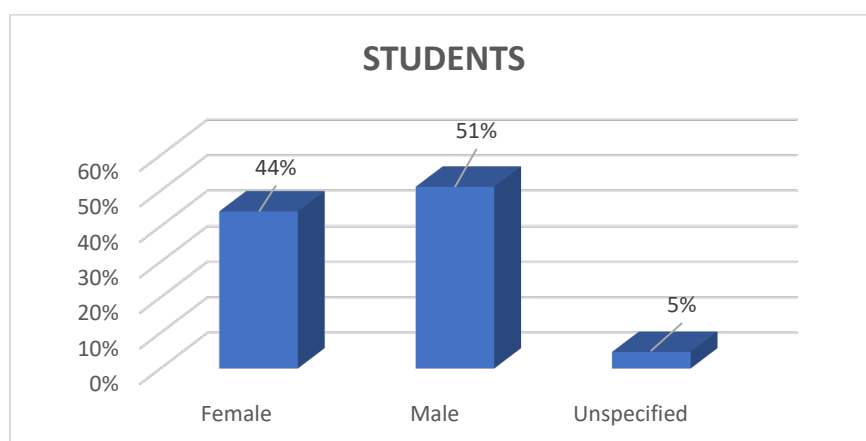
Contents.....	2
Introduction .....	3
Students .....	5
Staff.....	8
School Income.....	9
Contact Us.....	9

# 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 ten campuses located at Berrinba, Springwood, Forest Lake, Maroochydore, Spring Hill, Windsor, West End, Ipswich, Caboolture and Deception Bay. Total enrolments in 2024 was 1504 students with 17% identifying as having Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander heritage or other cultural backgrounds.



Arethusa College is dedicated to creating an environment where students feel supported and inspired to learn. Through innovative approaches and individualised attention, the College strives to meet the diverse needs of students, empowering them to discover their unique potential and achieve their personal goals.

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 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 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. As a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) the College offers nationally accredited vocational qualifications in various fields such as hospitality, new business, construction, volunteering, sports coaching, and employment pathways. Additionally, students have access to various other 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 ten 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 encapsulated 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

In 2024, the average attendance rate for the entire school was 84.50%. Students who attend Arethusa College have various contributing factors which influence attendance. The primary reason for non-attendance was personal wellbeing factors impacting students.

Average attendance rates for particular year levels					
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
82.70%	83.44%	83.77%	84.78%	86.14%	85.65%

#### 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 2024 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 2024 Year 12 Cohort

Number of students awarded a Senior Education Profile	136
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement	6
Number of students who received an ATAR	-
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)	4
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications	60
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12	27
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD)	0
Percentage of Year 12 students who received an ATAR above 90	-%
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	67%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer	27%

### Post-school destination information from the current Next Step Survey

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2024 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 2024 Year 12 completers survey

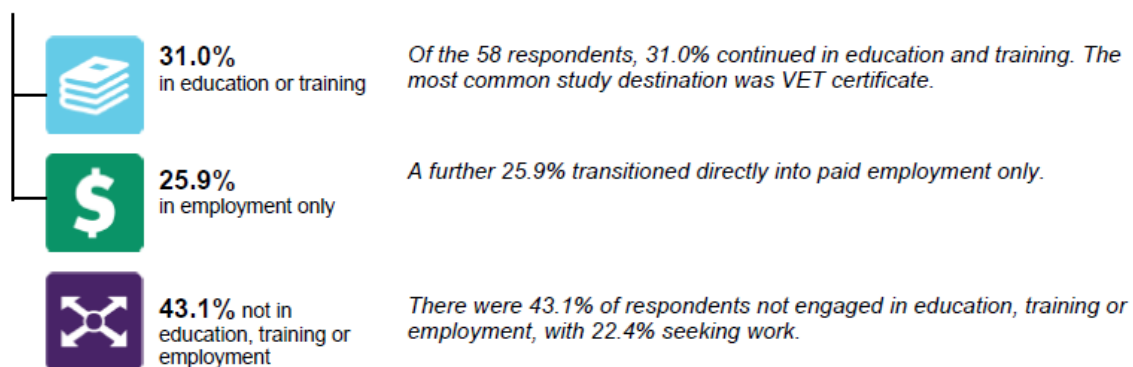
Number of Year 12 students in 2023	Number of responses received from students	Percentage response rate
116	58	50%

## Engagement in education, training or employment

Year 12 graduates from Arethusa College have been classified based on their engagement in education, training, or employment. Survey respondents who are both working and studying are categorised under education and training. Apprentices and trainees must complete a study component for their qualification, so they are also considered to be in education and training.

### Engagement in education, training or employment

**56.9%** 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, social media 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.

The College is dedicated to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment. The College Survey results indicate parents and carers appreciate the personalised support their student receives and the focus on students' emotional and physical well-being. The feedback reflects the College's ability to create a secure space where students feel valued and are encouraged to pursue their strengths and interests.

# Staff

## About our Staff

Arethusa's employees are selected for their demonstrated excellence in their specialty area of teaching. 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 their community.

Arethusa employed 181 registered teachers and school leaders and 345 non-teaching staff, comprising 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 3.99% identify as having Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage.

Qualifications of teachers and school leaders				
Doctorate	Masters degree	Bachelor degree	Diploma	Certificate
2.76%	31.49%	86.18%	43.09%	34.80%

## Staff Professional Development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2024 was \$344,232. The focus on Professional Development during the year included integrated units from the Australian Curriculum, Curriculum Planning and Development, Child Protection, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Leadership, Professional Boundaries for Teachers, and Pastoral Care for Students. All staff participated in professional development during the year. The average expenditure per staff member was \$1,033. The College's continual investment in staff development ensures the personal and professional advancement of each employee within the College community.

## Average staff attendance

Average staff attendance based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave periods of up to 5 days during 2024:

Number of teachers	Attendance rate
167	80%

The College is committed to fostering staff wellbeing and providing comprehensive support for all employees. 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](http://www.myschool.edu.au).

## Contact Us

---

This Annual Report is available on our College website: [www.arethusa.qld.edu.au](http://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](mailto:executiveprincipal@arethusa.qld.edu.au).