ANNUAL REPORT

2024

(BASED ON 2023 DATA)

THE SCHOOL OF TOTAL EDUCATION

IN PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE EXCELLENCE & SERVICE

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL SECTOR:	Independent
YEAR LEVELS OFFERED:	Prep to Year 12
CO-EDUCATIONAL OR SINGLE SEX:	Co-educational
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDENT BODY	In 2023 our student body was made up of equal numbers of girls and boys in both primary and secondary. We had 6 Indigenous students across different year levels and a number of other students with diverse ethnicity or cultural backgrounds.
TOTAL ENROLMENTS:	Our total enrolments in 2023 year were 83

WORKFORCE INFORMATION

WORKFORCE COMPOSITION:
(Including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Staff)

FULL-TIME TEACHERS:	30%
PART-TIME TEACHERS:	30%
FULL-TIME NON-TEACHING:	7%
PART-TIME NON-TEACHING:	33%
INDIGENOUS STAFF:	0%

QUALIFICATIONS OF ALL TEACHERS:

QUALIFICATIONS	NUMBER OF STAFF
DOCTORATE OR HIGHER	0
MASTERS	2
BACHELOR	14
DIPLOMA	0
CERTIFICATE	0

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

Teachers at SOTE all participated in a range of professional development opportunities during 2023 provided both internally and externally. Examples are:

- The impact of stress on students & brain development
- Restorative Practice
- The Power of Co-operation
- Tactical Teaching
- Empowering Students
- Numerous courses offered by QCAA and ISQ

FUNDING INFORMATION

Information about our school funding sources can be found at the My School website http://www.myschool.edu.au/ under this section of the report.

SOCIAL CLIMATE

PARENT SATISFACTION & WELL-BEING

Our parents are supported in their parenting and with community connection in a number of ways:

- Regular social get-togethers including picnics each term
- Parent meetings with educational content and discussion around parenting
- Seminars with noted guest speakers such as Justin Coulson and Dr Arne Rubinstein
- Parent get-togethers for specific year levels with relevant teachers
- Opportunities for involvement with school activities such as meal preparation or fund-raising activities

STUDENT SATISFACTION & WELL-BEING

Student support and development is the main focus of our teachers. Small class sizes ensure teachers develop a deep understanding of each child and they are always available to talk to the students or their parents about any issues or concerns. Similarly, students are encouraged to discover and develop their particular interests.

Past graduates regularly return to SOTE to participate in activities or to share their career stories at sessions with parents and students.

“Big Game” is a regular feature where secondary students organise and participate in a whole school game at morning teatime. This encourages connections between the year levels from Prep to Year 12.

Support for students with particular needs is provided by our Learning Support and Inclusion Coordinator or for emotional issues by referral to counsellors at the Centre for Healthy Living which is adjacent to the school.

TEACHER SATISFACTION & WELL-BEING

Measures are actively taken to support teachers in their well-being:

- Regular social get togethers
- Regular induction and mentoring meetings for new teachers
- Weekly teachers' meetings provide a forum for problems to be aired and for peer support
- Support with stress is available by counselling through the Centre for Healthy Living, adjacent to the school
- Healthy meals are provided 3 days per week

OPEN COMMUNICATION

The weekly teacher meetings, along with the open and honest communication involved, allows opportunities for teachers to share feedback and support each other.

All teachers, along with the School Principal and Deputy always make themselves available for discussion with staff, parents or students.

DISTINCTIVE CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

The School of Total Education offers a broad curriculum with balance across the humanities and sciences including languages and an encouragement of the visual and performing arts. Both general and applied subjects are offered in Senior Secondary as well as Film and New Media.

All year levels participate in regular Outdoor Education activities and from Year 4 there is a graduated camps program. The school's rural property is utilised as well as other camp and excursion destinations. Leadership and challenge days are run each year for secondary students.

From Prep Year onwards all primary students participate in class performances. All students are encouraged to join in the annual whole-school performances or musicals, contributing in whatever way they can. Some take on music or drama as a subject in senior years.

Prep to Year 10 have opportunities to learn languages such as Italian.

We have regular input from local Indigenous residents who offer cultural sessions in art and language as well as exploring the environment and learning about native plants and creatures.

Primary Years have a focus on play-based learning which includes "Discover and Play", "Outdoor Classroom" and Muddy Wednesdays. Upper Primary create interactive scientific displays and other activities for the rest of the school and for parents. Year 6 prepare for secondary school by extensions created for them by the secondary teachers to ensure an easy transition to secondary school.

Middle Years have some special features:

- **Year 7/8 Seeker Program** involves individual and group activities that explore student's own interests, creativity, strengths and challenges. Individual pursuits focus on bringing out the innateness of each child while group endeavours aim to model a co-operative ethos. This program is designed to prepare students with skills and knowledge to explore even more in the Year 9 Discovery Program. Seeker is run as part of the Year 7/8 timetable alongside their regular subjects.

- **Year 9 Discovery Program** has a core theme of “Discovery through Challenge” which includes the challenges of Discovering Myself, Discovering My Community and Discovering the Real World. Following these challenges students are supported and guided through the transition into senior schooling. The Year 9 program is based at a dedicated building in the school grounds and includes a mix of academic learning, projects, and excursions.

  Year 9 students “Run the School” for a day in this annual event where they take on various roles around the school.

- **Year 9 Rites of Passage** A Rites of Passage Ceremony facilitated by Dr Arne Rubinstein from the Rites of Passage Institute is part of the transformational program for Year 9. It facilitates the engagement of the parents and the teachers with the progression of the students in Year 9 Discovery to adulthood.

Each of these programs provides the time, space and resources for meaningful experiences and rites of passage for our Junior Secondary students, with the aim of allowing our students to grow into responsible young adults ready to face the challenges of the 21st Century.

Senior Years

- **Year Ten Stepping Up Program** runs in parallel with the QCAA Short Course - Career Education - and aims to reflect on their journey through Year 9 Discovery while holding firm to the central theme of “Stepping Up” into senior schooling. This program aims to refine what students learned about themselves in Year 9 Discovery, while widening their skill base in preparation for Year 11 and Year 12.

- **Year 10 Work Experience** is organised for a week each year where students get a taste of work life in an area of their interest. In 2023 students worked in a diverse range of jobs; mechanics, florist, Hermitage research station, dog grooming, childcare, radiography, vet clinic and building.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The 2023 school musical “This Is Me” provided opportunities for students to gain confidence and extend themselves while also bringing the whole school community together supporting the production, rehearsals and enthusiastically attending. The performances were open to the public.

Students participated in community activities such marching in the local ANZAC parade, as speakers at the ANZAC ceremony, in Warwick Rodeo’s float parade and market stall. Senior students participated in the Southern Downs Regional Council’s Youth Council.

Instrumental and singing instruction is made available with specialist teachers for those students interested in taking their learning beyond the classroom music lessons.

All students participated in our Sports Days. These fun days allow opportunities for students to extend themselves and often be surprised by discovering a new capacity. With a focus on participation rather than winning, there is broad participation. Several of the students participated in regional secondary school Athletics representation with some making it to the state finals. Their development through school in a non-competitive environment prepared them well to really focus on participation in these high-pressure events without feeling the intense pressure of "having to win".

AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE (%) FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL

The average student attendance rate for the whole school in 2023 was 85.6%

AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE FOR EACH YEAR LEVEL

YEAR LEVELS	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE RATE FOR EACH YEAR LEVEL AS A PERCENTAGE IN 2023
PREP	90.4%
YEAR 1	87.3%
YEAR 2	84.3%
YEAR 3	89.5%
YEAR 4	82.6%
YEAR 5	78.2%
YEAR 6	88.1%
YEAR 7	87.9%
YEAR 8	82.4%
YEAR 9	88.2%
YEAR 10	87.0%
YEAR 11	82.5%
YEAR 12	82.1%

HOW NON-ATTENDANCE IS MANAGED BY THE SCHOOL

Student attendance is monitored by electronic roll marking each day and extended absences are followed up by teachers and then, if necessary, by the principal. The close relationship between parents and the school ensures that extended non-attendance is rare.

NAPLAN RESULTS FOR YEARS 3, 5 & 9 IN 2023

NAPLAN outcomes can be found on the My School website http://www.myschool.edu.au/ under this section of the report. Our NAPLAN data on MySchool website is very limited due to the small class sizes at SOTE, meaning comparisons to give meaningful data is not available. ***Please note in 2023 NAPLAN testing moved from May to March and the NAPLAN scale was reset. This means you can't compare NAPLAN achievement prior to 2023 to that from 2023 onwards.***

At SOTE we do not conduct any special preparation for NAPLAN tests, preferring the children treat the tests as a normal part of school, without any stress or pressure.

The Total Education philosophy allows for each student to develop at their own rate, focusing on their interests, thus making education an enjoyable experience. This means that the arbitrary benchmarks set by NAPLAN are not always met by our students. However, by the end of their education, our consistent experience is that they have a thorough academic grounding at a high standard and are well equipped to progress onto university study, vocational education, or the workforce, whatever their choice may be. Many of our students have gone onto such academically challenging courses as medicine, law, and engineering with great success. Further, our small classes and lower parental take-up of NAPLAN means that the results do not give a fair reflection of student capacity.

YEAR 12 OUTCOMES

OUTCOMES FOR OUR YEAR 12 COHORT 2023	
Number of students awarded a Senior Education Profile	6
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement	1
Number of students who received an ATAR	3
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)	0
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications	1
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12	5
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	83%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer	100%

POST-SCHOOL DESTINATION INFORMATION

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.