

Ferny Grove State High School



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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Ferny Grove State High School is located in the Brisbane suburb of Ferny Grove and services, predominantly, the suburbs of Ferny Grove, Upper Kedron, Ferny Hills, Arana Hills, Keperra and Samford. The school is co-education catering for students from Years 8 – 12.

The school enjoys an excellent reputation for academic, cultural, citizenship and sporting success and has a high public profile. This is due, in part, to its distinctive programs of Instrumental and vocal music, Languages, Agriculture, Greater Brisbane Schools Sport as well as its commitment to the incorporation of information communication technologies throughout the curriculum.

All our actions are directed towards our students graduating from our school as young people able to: face the challenges of a rapidly changing society; work collaboratively with others; have an appreciation of "The Arts"; be committed to an active and healthy lifestyle; be well skilled, knowledgeable and prepared for further learning, and contribute to the social, environmental well-being of the global community.

This report is a summary of achievements of this school against set requirements of both the Queensland and Australian Governments. More comprehensive reporting to the school community is provided through the school annual review process which involves a parent representative, reports to the School Council, at monthly Parents and Citizens Association meetings and through regular school newsletters.

Future outlook

A focus for the school into 2009 will be on improving the knowledge and skills of teachers in the areas of literacy, numeracy and information communication technologies to enhance student learning.

We will continue to focus on developing multiple pathways through the five years of secondary schooling so that we increase young people's participation in valued learning opportunities.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school: 1627

Year levels offered: Years 8 - 12

Coeducational or single sex: Co-educational

Curriculum offerings

The school offers a curriculum which recognises and caters for the diversity of student abilities, interests and needs, with an emphasis on students striving to achieve their goals. In the junior school the curriculum includes a variety of subjects from the across the eight key learning area.

Our senior school offers a broad array of subjects to cater for the diverse pathways chosen by our students to enable them to meet the goals established through their Senior Education and Training Plan.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings are in the areas of:

Music Extension in Year 12

Languages:

German Immersion Program (including opportunity to engage in an overseas trip with our sister-school in Germany)

Indonesian and Indonesian Extension

Agricultural Sciences

Co-curricula activities

Instrumental and vocal music. Involving 19 Music Ensembles and more than 400 students in the overall program.

The Greater Brisbane Schools (GBS) provided an opportunity for students across all year levels to participate in interschool sport at a quality level on Saturday morning.

Debating – Queensland Debating Union

The school participates in a wide ranging of sports with students being selected to represent their school at Regional, Metropolitan and State levels.

A genuine care for others is evident through student participation in Forty Hour Famine, World Vision, Shave for a Cure, Christmas in a ShoeBox

School dances and special social events at all year levels.

Camps for year 8 students and year 11 students aiming for leadership positions.

Student Representative Council.

Ski Trip

How computers are used to assist learning

Computers for student use are replaced every three years. All subject areas provide learning experiences that have been designed with Information Communication Technologies integral to the learning process. Computer facilities range across whole classroom set up, 2020 arrangements, and wireless laptop rooms. Teachers all embrace technology as a vital tool to support learning of young people at Ferny Grove State High School.

Our school at a glance

Social climate

Although the school is large, we pride ourselves on establishing a caring, supportive and disciplined environment where students feel valued, safe and are encouraged to pursue their learning to the best of their ability.

Five sub-schools operate based on student year levels. Each year level has the support of a number of Form Teachers, a Year Level Co-ordinator and a Deputy Principal. These people have all accepted responsibility for the welfare and development of their students who they continue to support through their five years of secondary education.

As support team of Guidance Officers, School Chaplains, a school based Youth Health Nurse, Defence Force Transition Mentor and Youth Support Coordinator also assist with student personal development and career guidance.

There are very close links with our local primary schools with an emphasis on providing a seamless transition from primary to secondary education.

Involving parents in their child's education

Students' academic progress is reported to parents each term.

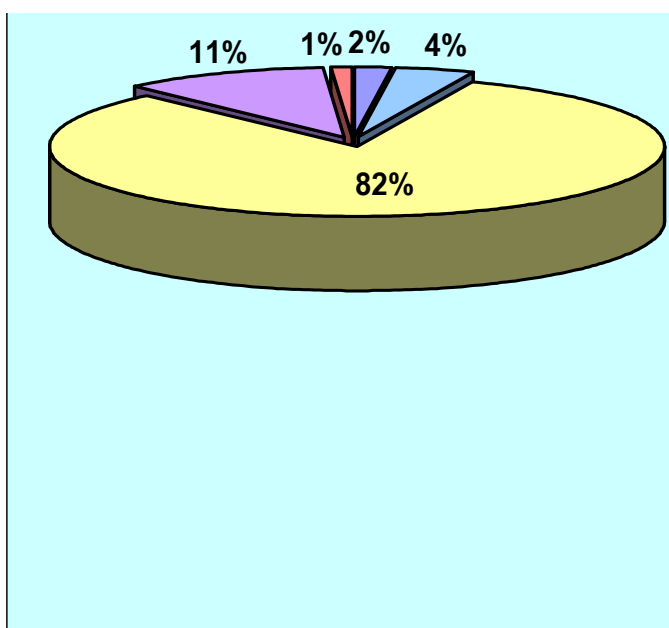
The School Council meets four times each year, and the Parents and Citizens Association meets on the last Monday of each month of the school year. The Parents and Citizens Association has numerous sub-committees which provide parents with opportunities to involve themselves closely in their child's education. These groups include: Instrumental Music, Languages, and Greater Brisbane Schools Sports.

Parent afternoons are also held early in the school year and these are followed up by Parent-Teacher Interview opportunities. Parents are also welcome to make contact with teachers or to seek interviews throughout the year.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Doctorate	2
Masters	4
Bachelor degree	82
Diploma	11
Certificate	1



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$31 857 .

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

Information Communication Technologies – enhancing pedagogy

Participation in conferences relating to specific learning areas and leadership

Literacy and Numeracy

Queensland Studies Authority – syllabus development and moderation

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 85%.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2007 school year, 98% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 94%.

Key outcomes

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results - our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Domain	Measures	Yr 9
Reading	Average score for the school	587
	Average score for Queensland	568.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 95%
Writing	Average score for the school	580
	Average score for Queensland	555.3
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 94%
Spelling	Average score for the school	578
	Average score for Queensland	567.8
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 93%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	588
	Average score for Queensland	563.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 92%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	593
	Average score for Queensland	570.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 97%

Performance of our students

Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.	78%
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Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2008

Number of students awarded a Senior Statement.	274
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement (QCIA).	0
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	229
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	0
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications.	75
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	29
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	204
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	76%
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.	90%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer.	93%

Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2008 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be incorporated into this Report in September.

Value added

Enrichment programs occur across most faculty areas. Class work is supported by regular tutorials and positive relationships with highly committed staff. Debating, the “Green Team” which supports students’ understanding and commitment to a sustainable environment, student representative council and community participation are key programs which support the development of the whole person.

The school choir is open to all (currently numbering 300 students, past students, parents and staff) and enhances community engagement.

Community language programs are also available to students, staff and parents in a wide variety of languages other than English.

Performance of our students

In 2008 the school entered the International Student Program through Education Queensland International. This program enables our students to welcome students from abroad into our community and to enhance our understanding of cultures other than our own.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Through Education Queensland's annual survey, 90% of parents confirmed their belief that Ferny Grove State High School is a good school. They also stated that their children were happy to go to Ferny Grove State High School. 87% of parents confirmed that their children were treated fairly at school. 84% of parents reported that they found school staff approachable.

Overwhelmingly students rated their school as a good school and indicated that they felt safe at school and were happy to attend school. Students reported that they were treated fairly and were happy with opportunities to participate in decisions about the school.

80% of staff indicated that they believe that Ferny Grove State High School is a safe place in which to work. This is strongly reflected in their commitment with very low numbers of teachers applying for transfer to other locations. 85% of teachers indicated that they put a lot of energy into their work and this is reflected in student results.