

COMPASS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Children at Compass experience the magic of the learning journey through **our four compass points: inquire, play, create and collaborate**. These elements reflect our desire to harness each child's natural inclinations and innate love of learning.

We prioritise well-being, sense of self and interpersonal relationships through **our values: be fair, caring, open-minded, respectful and be me**. These values help each child to develop socially and emotionally and have positive, healthy relationships.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CONTEXT

Compass Independent School is:

- Independent
- Co-educational
- Non-denominational
- Registered as an Australian Charity
- Accredited by the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board.



STAFF PROFILE

Compass requires teachers to meet the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) Teacher registration eligibility requirements Policy, which outlines requirements regarding qualifications and experience.

In 2023, \$7,560 was utilised for staff professional development.

	Number of staff	FTE	First nations staff	Masters degree	Bachelors degree
Leadership and Teaching staff	2	2 FTE	0	1	2

Staff attendance has not been reported as publication of this data could compromise the individual's right to privacy.



STUDENT PROFILE

	Enrolment numbers	Whole school attendance rate
Prep	6	87.9%
Y1	5	
Y2	2	
Y3	5	
Y4	3	
Y5	1	
Y6	0	

The whole school attendance rate rather than year level attendance rates has been provided to protect the privacy of each individual child's data.

ATTENDANCE

Compass has a comprehensive Attendance procedure that outlines the school's process for managing emergent, planned and ongoing absences.

Attendance is recorded daily in the school's attendance records and families are contacted by 9am if no advice or explanation has been provided for a child's absence.

When a pattern of non-attendance is identified, the Principal contacts the family to organise a return-to-school planning and support meeting.



FINANCES

Compass received recurrent funding from the Commonwealth government, the State government and fees. School income and capital expenditure is broken down by funding source in the following tables:

Net recurrent income	Total (\$)
Commonwealth government funding	\$297,458
State government funding	\$21,336
Fees, charges and parent contributions	\$127,104
Other private sources	\$89,428
Investment income	\$250
All other Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants	\$10,000
Total net recurrent income	\$545,576

NAPLAN

2023 was the first year that Compass participated in NAPLAN.

NAPLAN results are not included in this year's annual report for the following reasons:

- A school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants for a comparison to be available and Compass did not have 11 NAPLAN participants in 2023.
- The privacy of an individual child's data would be compromised due to the small number of children in Years 3 and 5 at Compass in 2023.



“ We love the school! Being part of this community has been an amazing experience.
Compass Family Member

“ Exceptional teachers and a great environment! The nurturing approach of this school has been excellent for our child.
Compass Family Member

“ Compass offers an education setting where children can have a childhood. I am very impressed with the curiosity and imagination my child shows to play and create at home with greater breadth, and the desire to explore his natural surroundings and ask questions. This model also works well for extending children who do not fit into year level categorisation as they learn from others where it is appropriate. The teachers are very caring and know each child particular motivators and interests.
Compass Family Member

“ I love it. It was the best. Amazing!
Compass Children

“ I like doing all the experiments. I like doing the outdoor learning and play.
Compass Children



“ We have joined Compass for its inaugural year - and it has been nothing short of amazing. Our son has truly blossomed in this environment, learning an incredible amount in just a short period of time. We look forward to joining Compass again in 2024 and beyond.
Compass Family Member

“ I love being a part of the team at Compass. Seeing the children engage in the rich program of inquiry, play, creativity and collaboration is truly remarkable. This is a place where teachers can be creative and where we work in a team to build this unique school.
Compass Staff Member

School Aims

As outlined in our constitution, Compass Independent School is a charity whose purpose is to advance education and achieve the goals of the Mparntwe Education Declaration (2019) by operating a P-6 school that -

- is small, independent and multi-age
- promotes inquiry, play, creativity and collaboration
- values each person's identity and uniqueness
- negotiates learning with each young person
- utilises integrated and transdisciplinary curriculum
- focuses on growth
- embraces progressive educational approaches
- values being caring, fair, open-minded and respectful.

School Focus - 2023

Focus areas for Compass in 2023 included:

- establishing a positive, supportive and collaborative learning environment and culture for our foundational group of children
- communication strategies focused on attracting children to Compass
- developing and implementing engaging units of inquiry learning aligned with the Australian Curriculum (v8)
- induction of foundational teaching staff
- establishing policies and procedures to support the safe, efficient and effective operation of the school on a day-to-day basis.

Multi-Age Setting

A multi-age setting was specifically chosen for Compass as a way of encouraging children to learn with and from each other and our experiences in 2023 reinforced our dedication to this approach. In a multi-age classroom, children's developmental diversity is celebrated, valued as part of a natural community of learners and harnessed in subtle ways to support learning. In our multi-age setting, children at Compass have the opportunity to spend more than one year with their teachers and peers. This transforms the young person's journey from a year-on-year shift, to a community of learners who enjoy sustained periods of time together. Through our model, children experience greater continuity and ongoing support which enhances their learning journey at Compass and beyond.



Outdoor Learning and play

The 'outdoor classroom' offers a dynamic environment, qualitatively different from indoors and this ever-changing environment invites exploration, curiosity and wonder. In 2023, Compass facilitated 90-minute daily blocks of outdoor learning in a variety of local parks, facilities and spaces. This provided a wide range of movement opportunities, experiences in nature and the built environment and learning across the curriculum. Children were encouraged to be adventurous and to learn through active, hands-on play, experimentation and discovery. 2023's experiences have affirmed outdoor learning as a balance to indoor learning with interactions and connections between these two different, yet complementary contexts as key to inquiry learning.

Inquiry learning

Inquiry learning is our primary pedagogy as it makes the most of a child's sense of curiosity and wonder. The process of inquiry invites children to explore and discover and follows their questions and interests. It offers an active learning process whereby children may observe, hypothesise, research, investigate, experiment, interact and reflect. In 2023, our inquiry units were: Welcome to Compass; Our Natural World; Make, Bake & Experiment; Special Places; and Memories.

