



Sinai College

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

Queensland State School Reporting

Every student succeeding

State Schools Strategy

Department of Education



Queensland
Government

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School overview

Sinai College is proud of its size. In 2018 our enrolment numbers were 30. The small school focus enables students to enjoy close personal contact with the teachers and fellow students. We have the advantage of a family atmosphere with small class sizes in all classes. This enables staff to give to each child the attention required in the implementation of our curriculum.

- Small Class Sizes: Personalised, tailored and cosy.
- Inquiry Based Curriculum: We use the IPC as a basis to teach the Australian curriculum
- A Jewish Education: Grounding in Jewish cultural history and traditions and the Hebrew Language
- Individualised learning: A tailored program from Prep through to Year 6
- Tolerance: A zero-bullying and zero-prejudice campus
- Languages: Hebrew language is taught as a language other than English from Year 1
- Community: Our students become contributing members of our Jewish and local communities
- Care: After-school care and long day care is available at Greenheart Montessori
- Location: Just 15 km from Brisbane's GPO

Sinai College provides Prep to Year 6 students with a superior education that is broad, individualised, and accepting within a nurturing co-educational environment following a Jewish ethos.

History:

Sinai College commenced tuition as a Jewish Day School at the beginning of the 1990 school year, opening with 14 children. First year enrolments grew to 20 within seven months. With the opening of the preschool and the extension of the primary school to year 6, enrolments increased to 53 during 1991. In 1992, the final primary year of grade 7 was added. The second building, incorporating Preschool, was opened in 1995. Sinai College is housed in modern, purpose built buildings situated in a bushland setting alongside the Jewish communal centre in the Southern Brisbane suburb of Burbank. The facilities include a number of classroom blocks, a newly restored swimming pool, tennis courts, playground, sports oval and the facilities of the community centre.

Vision:

Sinai College is a Jewish school, where we teach and grow our students to become active community members and lifelong learners inspired by a love of learning based on Jewish tradition, values and ethics.

Mission Statement:

In alignment with our Strategic Plan and School Vision, we seek a dynamic school environment where strong leadership and quality teaching helps each individual, students and teachers to achieve success.

Our intention is to deliver the International Primary Inquiry based Curriculum aligned with National Curriculum, with all staff working together to deliver programs consistently and engagingly to improve student learning outcomes according to the International Primary Curriculum and Australian Curriculum standards.

Delivering high quality teaching, focused upon the achievement of every student together with the engagement of the school community and the Jewish community is central to our vision as a Jewish school.

Our intention is to develop a learning community which embraces an evidence-based improvement agenda within a trusting, caring and supportive environment in which mentoring, coaching and constructive feedback is used to understand learning and effective teaching practice, to guarantee a quality educational experience for every student in our school.

At our school we will help and support all students to take their own personal learning journey to achieve success taking with them into their adult life the values embedded in the Jewish culture and religion.

We want every child to leave our school knowing who they are, and with the academic and social skills needed to continue their own personal learning journey during their secondary years toward a productive adult life.

Curriculum:

Sinai College offers a rigorous, inquiry-based curriculum to engage learners of all abilities through authentic and stimulating educational experiences. Problem solving and critical thinking skills are embedded through our differentiated curriculum to engage and empower learners. Literacy and numeracy skills are also explicitly taught.

Students are encouraged to embrace challenges and expand their knowledge of the key curriculum areas. As 21st century learners all students are able to support their learning through access to different technological options. Our Early Years Program students experience a play based pedagogy which encourages creativity and social emotional resilience. For the older years students learning experiences are focused on development of deep knowledge and intellectual engagement.

At Sinai every student has a personalised learning plan to provide individualised curriculum opportunities and guide pedagogical practices of our teachers. Our outstanding teacher/student ratios allow our educators to provide programs tailor made to assist our students reach their full potential. Summative and formative assessment is provided to guide instruction and planning for each student in alignment with the Australian Curriculum.

School progress towards its goals in 2018

In 2018 the college has focused on the goals in our 2016-2018 Strategic Plan, which include:

Build positive presence and trust in the Jewish community.

Sinai College has been involved in various community events throughout 2018. Continuing to build on this presence remains a focus for 2019.

Build excellence in teaching.

Our teaching and learning program has now solidified with common resources and programs running through from Prep to Year 6. We have built a consistent teaching base of excellent teachers.

Target student academic improvement through personalised student development programs using individual student data.

All students are provided with an Individual Learning Plan that details their strengths and areas to develop for the school year. These plans are constructed using feedback from student, parents and from data collected by the teacher. All Sinai College students also complete diagnostic and summative assessment where 'Distance Travelled' is measured for each student and year level. This data is used to improve our teaching and learning program.

Embedded social, emotional behavioural and kindness programs.

Social and emotional programs are embedded during our 'Buddy Time' sessions where the whole school comes together to look at a particular value and what it means. These values are celebrated weekly with recognition of students who have shown these values inside or outside the classroom.

Future outlook

Sinai College looks to continue to grow its student numbers and to continue to improve our teaching and learning program. In 2019, Sinai College will complete a new strategic plan which will evaluate the past goals and set new goals for the school moving forward.

Our school at a glance

School profile

Co-Educational or single sex	Co-Educational
Independent public school	YES
Year levels offered in 2018	Prep to Year 6
Student enrolments	30

Table 1: Student enrolments at this school

Enrolment category	2016	2017	2018
Total			30
Girls		17	22
Boys		8	8
Indigenous			1

Notes:

1. Student counts are based on the Census (August) enrolment collection.
2. Indigenous refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia.
3. [pre-Prep](#) is a kindergarten program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, living in 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, in the year before school.

In 2018, there were no students enrolled in a **pre-Prep** program.

Characteristics of the student body

Overview

Our college is situated 15 km from Brisbane's CBD, our student body is drawn from a diverse range of surrounding suburbs. In 2018 our enrolment numbers were 30 students, made up of 22 girls and 8 boys. Sinai College provides Prep to Year 6 students with a superior education that is broad, individualised, and accepting within a nurturing environment following a Jewish ethos. The Prep/ Year One class consists of 15 students, the Year Two and Three composite class numbers are 10 and the Year Four, Five and Six composite class is made up of 5 students.

Average class sizes

Table 2: Average class size information for each phase of schooling

Phase of schooling	2016	2017	2018
Prep – Year 3		21	25
Year 4 – Year 6		4	5
Year 7 – Year 10		0	0
Year 11 – Year 12		0	0

Note:

The [class size](#) targets for composite classes are informed by the relevant year level target. Where composite classes exist across cohorts (e.g. year 3/4) the class size targets would be the lower cohort target.

Curriculum delivery

Our approach to curriculum delivery

21st Century learners are required to be technologically literate, communicators, critical thinkers and responsive to multi-modal forms. At Sinai College our educators understand these needs and design pedagogical opportunities to foster new practices in learning.

Classroom spaces are organised to allow individual and group learning experiences so students may switch between collaboration and independent learning modes. Access to technology, including Google Chromebooks, computers and smart books are available to all students attending the College.

Understanding that today's classroom can go beyond the four walls we provide students safe and supported opportunities to reach out to the world and become part of a global community. Flipped classrooms and online learning are just a few ways we optimise learning and support creativity and innovation within the curriculum.

Music is an integral part of the Sinai experience. As well as the cultural importance of musical experiences for our students, recent neuroscience research suggests music stimulates different areas of the brain including activating areas associated with emotions, movement and memory. Students at Sinai participate in the choir on a weekly basis. Individual students are also able to learn a plethora of musical instruments provided by the school at an extra cost.

Tennis lessons are available for a small charge with a specialist coach at the College. Lessons occur during lunch times and all students are welcome to become involved. The school has two tennis courts which are available for all students to play on.

Sinai College by its very nature is an ideal placement for those students who love to engage with the natural environment. The school is a haven for wallabies, possums, and koalas. The multitude of bird life uses the school grounds as a corridor to access the east coast wetlands. Students are encouraged through creative and flexible teaching approaches to foster the close relationship with the natural environment. This is education of the environment, for the environment, in the environment.

Our health and physical education program is embedded in our daily practice. We participate in inter-school Athletics Carnivals and Swimming Carnivals on an annual basis.

All Sinai College students participate in swimming lessons in Term 1 and 4. We are lucky to have an on-site pool where students enjoy lessons delivered by a qualified swim instructor.

Excursions provide a valuable educational experience for pupils in that they broaden children's outlook and also enhance their life skills. Through excursions, we aim to:

- enhance children's learning through the provision of real or first-hand experiences.
- increase knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the local area and other areas that are different in nature and environment to our own.
- further develop skills in observation, recording and reporting; and assist in the development of confidence, independence, sense of adventure, sense of responsibility particularly toward their own safety and the safety of others.

Jewish Studies:

Our Jewish Studies program embraces our Jewish heritage through formal teaching sessions and celebration of special days within the Jewish calendar. The curriculum includes the teaching of the Torah, Chagim, Halacha and Ethics. These subjects cover the history of the Jewish people, the Jewish way of life and the meaning behind the practices of Judaism and prayer. The richness and diversity of Judaism is celebrated with further studies of Israel and the contemporary role of the country, as well as its close links with Australia.

Throughout the year the school follows the Jewish calendar through special celebrations and events, bringing the whole school alive. These events include Purim celebrations, Model Seder for Pesach (Passover), Holocaust Memorial Day, building a Succah for the festival of Succoth, Lag B'Omer and Chanukah.

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- Purim
- Chanukah
- Rosh Hannah
- Yom Kippur
- Sukkot
- Pesach
- Shavuot
- Model Seder for Pesach (Passover)
- Holocaust Memorial Day
- Lag B'Omer
- Chanukah.

Co-curricular activities

The students participate in many co-curricular activities involving sport, visitors and excursions.

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How information and communication technologies are used to assist learning

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Understanding that today's classroom can go beyond the four walls we provide students safe and supported opportunities to reach out to the world and become part of a global community. Flipped classrooms and online learning are just a few ways we optimise learning and support creativity and innovation within the curriculum.

Social climate

Overview

At Sinai College our small team of teachers and administration staff provide a calm, welcoming and supportive environment whose multicultural diversity encourages tolerance, acceptance and celebration of diversity. The small school focus enables students to enjoy close personal contact with the teachers and fellow students. We have the advantage of a family atmosphere with small class sizes in all classes. This enables staff to give to each child the attention required in the implementation of our curriculum.

Chaplaincy & Welfare:

The staff work collaboratively with families to create a safe and secure environment and support each child's social, emotional and spiritual growth. We believe that happy children learn. Teachers implement a consistent approach to discipline and communicate regularly with parents and carers. Children are recognised with weekly class awards presented at the Friday Assembly. The College Chaplain provides pastoral care and general spiritual, social and emotional comfort to all students, staff and families, regardless of religious affiliation, who wish to access this service. The Chaplain attends the school each day and participates in the Morning Assemblies and Davening, special school celebrations and excursions to the wider community. He delivers a values program through stories and "object lessons" on topics such as Kindness, Compassion and Consideration for Others. The Chaplaincy Program supports children as they develop a sense of identity and their place in the school and wider community.

Parent satisfaction

Tables 3– show selected items from the Parent/Caregiver Opinion Surveys.

Table 3: Parent opinion survey

Percentage of parents/caregivers who agree# that:	2018		
• their child is getting a good education at school (S2016)	87.5%		
• their child feels safe at this school* (S2002)	100%		
• their child's learning needs are being met at this school* (S2003)	87.5%		
• their child is making good progress at this school* (S2004)	75%		
• teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work* (S2006)	62.5%		
• teachers at this school motivate their child to learn* (S2007)	87.5%		
• they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns* (S2009)	100%		
• this school works with them to support their child's learning* (S2010)	100%		
• this school takes parents' opinions seriously* (S2011)	83.3%		
• student behaviour is well managed at this school* (S2012)	87.5%		

* Nationally agreed student and parent/caregiver items.

'Agree' represents the percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement.

Parent and community engagement

The school encourages the participation of parents in its education program. Parent volunteers help with reading, individual support and library. A weekly newsletter is sent home detailing important events and upcoming dates. The Parents' Association provides parents with the opportunity to involve themselves in a more structured way in supporting the school. The Parents' Association actively helps to support and develop the school by fundraising activities that provide educational equipment and aids. The Parents' Association fosters social interaction between parents, staff and members of the Jewish community. Parents are requested to become actively involved in the education environment provided by Sinai College.

Respectful relationships education programs

Sinai College has developed and implemented the following policies and procedures to assist staff and students in relation to personal safety, domestic and family violence, gender equity and conflict resolution. There is a strong focus on appropriate, respectful and healthy relationships both at school and in the home.

Sinai College will implement policies and procedures via the following methods:

- School website will provide access to the most current versions, where applicable
- Relevant Policies / Procedures will be referenced in the Staff Handbook
- Relevant Policies / Procedures will be referenced in the Parent Handbook
- New Employees will be provided with information during their Induction (IF.018)
- Updates on Policies / Procedures will be provided during staff meetings
- Student related procedures will be discussed with students during class time

School Procedures:

- Complaints Handling Procedure QP.003
- Incident Reporting Procedure QP.004
- Behaviour Management Procedure QP.006
- Evacuation Procedure QP.009
- Lockdown Procedure QP.010
- Critical Incident Procedure QP.011
- Student Bullying Procedure QP.012
- Work Health and Safety QP.013

School Policies:

- Child Protection and Child Risk Management Policy P.03
- Complaint's Handling Policy P.05
- Family Law Policy P.06
- Work Health and Safety Policy P.09
- Anti-discrimination Policy P.13
- Student Code of Conduct and Positive Behaviour Policy P.16
- Student Bullying Policy P.19

Sinai College runs a Values Program introduced at the beginning of each Hebrew month and celebrated at the end of each month. Our Positive Behaviour Approach celebrates children demonstrating these values in their day to day life.

School disciplinary absences

Table 6: Count of incidents for students recommended for school disciplinary absences at this school

Type of school disciplinary absence	2016	2017	2018
Short suspensions – 1 to 10 days			0
Long suspensions – 11 to 20 days			0
Exclusions			0
Cancellations of enrolment			0

Note:

School disciplinary absences (SDAs) are absences enforced by a school for student conduct that is prejudicial to the good order and management of the school.

Environmental footprint

Reducing this school's environmental footprint

Sinai College is committed to educating children with a strong focus on the environment. Our units of work often involve aspects of environmental awareness with the end goal being our students taking action in the real world. We have provided a framework for improved student and teacher use of electricity and water. Our students actively participate in initiatives such as Electricity Week, Tree Day and other environment focussed projects.

School funding

School income broken down by funding source

School income, reported by financial year accounting cycle using standardized national methodologies and broken down by funding source is available via the [My School](#) website at.

How to access our income details

1. Click on the *My School* link <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.
2. Enter the school name or suburb of the school you wish to search.

Find a school Search website

Search by school name or suburb Go

School sector School type State

3. Click on 'View School Profile' of the appropriate school to access the school's profile.

View School Profile

4. Click on 'Finances' and select the appropriate year to view the school financial information.

School profile NAPLAN Attendance Finances VET in schools Senior secondary Schools map

Note:

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a hard copy of the school's financial information.

Our staff profile

Workforce composition

Staff composition, including Indigenous staff

Table 8: Workforce composition for this school

Description	Teaching staff*	Non-teaching staff	Indigenous** staff
Headcounts	6	5	0
Full-time equivalents	3	2	0

*Teaching staff includes School Leaders.

** *Indigenous* refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia.

Qualification of all teachers

Table 9: Teacher qualifications for classroom teachers and school leaders at this school

Highest level of qualification	Number of qualifications
Doctorate	
Masters	1
Graduate Diploma etc.*	
Bachelor degree	3
Diploma	2
Certificate	

*Graduate Diploma etc. includes Graduate Diploma, Bachelor Honours Degree, and Graduate Certificate.

Professional development

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- First Aid and CPR training
- Asthma Management training
- ISQ Child Protection training
- ISQ Action Research Project
- STEM
- Principal Mentoring Program

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2018 was 100%.

Staff attendance and retention

Staff attendance

Table 10: Average staff attendance for this school as percentages

Description	2016	2017	2018
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders.			98.4%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, **83.3% (12 staff, 2 left, 10 retained)** of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2018.

Performance of our students

Sinai College students participate in assessments throughout the year. We also run assessments at the beginning of the year and at the end of the year to measure 'Distance Travelled'.

Sinai College participate in NAPLAN assessments. The school, as a whole, achieves excellent results. To assure the privacy of individual students we do not report on NAPLAN results as our school has small enrolment numbers.

Please refer to the My School website <http://www.myschool.edu.au/> for NAPLAN information.

Key student outcomes

Student attendance

Tables 11–12 show attendance rates at this school as percentages.

Table 11: Overall student attendance at this school

Description	2016	2017	2018
Overall attendance rate* for students at this school			94.25%
Attendance rate for Indigenous** students at this school			100%

* Student attendance rate = the total of full-days and part-days that students attended divided by the total of all possible days for students to attend (expressed as a percentage).

** *Indigenous* refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia.

Table 12: Average student attendance rates for each year level at this school

Year level	2016	2017	2018
Prep			92%
Year 1			94%
Year 2			97%
Year 3			91%
Year 4			96%
Year 5			95.5%
Year 6			N/A

Year level	2016	2017	2018
Year 7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Year 8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Year 9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Year 10	N/A	N/A	N/A
Year 11	N/A	N/A	N/A
Year 12	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes:

- Attendance rates effectively count attendance for every student for every day of attendance in Semester 1.
- Student attendance rate = the total of full-days and part-days that students attended divided by the total of all possible days for students to attend (expressed as a percentage).
- DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Description of how this school manages non-attendance

Queensland state schools manage non-attendance in line with the Queensland Department of Education procedures: [Managing Student Absences and Enforcing Enrolment and Attendance at State Schools](#); and [Roll Marking in State Schools](#), which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

Sinai College *Absence Management Policy* outlines how the college manages, registers and reports on the absences of students. Sinai College is committed to ensuring all enrolled students attend school unless reasonable and valid grounds exist for them to be absent.

Sinai College *Student Absence Procedure* provides detailed instructions in respect to student absence and applies to all staff and parents of enrolled students. This procedure covers absenteeism and early departures and late arrivals

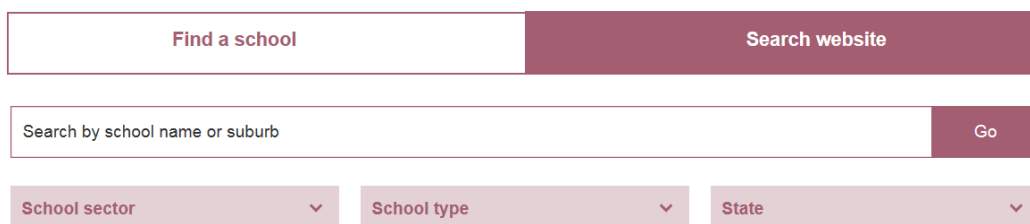
Attendance Rolls are marked twice a day (each morning and after lunch) and delivered to the Administration Officer. Where there are a number of unexplained absences, parents are contacted by the Principal with the view to developing and implementing strategies to minimize absences where possible. Ongoing unexplained absences will result in a formal Attendance Conference being scheduled with the Principal and parent.

NAPLAN

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 NAPLAN tests are available via the [My School](#) website.

How to access our NAPLAN results

1. Click on the *My School* link <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.
2. Enter the school name or suburb of the school you wish to search.



3. Click on 'View School Profile' of the appropriate school to access the school's profile.



4. Click on 'NAPLAN' to access the school NAPLAN information.



Notes:

1. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a hard copy of the school's NAPLAN results.
2. The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy ([NAPLAN](#)) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.