

School Annual Report 2023 (Based on 2023 data)

School Sector: *

Independent

Year Levels Offered:

Preparatory – Year 6

Co-educational or Single Sex: *

Co-educational

School Overview

Sinai College is proud of its size. In 2023 we finished the year with an enrolment of 25 students. 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, with an exceptional student: teacher ratio.
- 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
- A zero-bullying and zero-prejudice campus (Student Code of Conduct Policy P.16, Student Bullying Policy P.19, Behaviour Management Procedure QP.006 and Student Bullying Reporting Procedure QP.0.12)
- Languages: Hebrew language is embedded in Jewish studies for children in Prep-Year 4, and is taught as a language other than English from Year 5,
- Community: Our students become contributing members of our Jewish and local communities
- Care: An on-site chaplain and after school programs ensure that children are cared for and nurtured
- 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.

Philosophy:

Sinai College is a small school with a big future. Here at Sinai College, we foster creativity, academic rigor, personal achievement and community service. The teaching and learning environment of Sinai College is optimal to foster this creativity and individual scholarship. Sinai College boasts **a world class education system that encourages and supports every student to be the very best they can be, no matter where they live or what kind of learning challenges they may face (Ref: Alice Springs Education Declaration -2019)**. The holistic education offered at Sinai College fosters independence, spiritual development, community connections and personal growth for each and every student.

Sinai College provides a learning environment that draws upon the individual strengths of each child, providing learning opportunities catered to their needs, whilst at the same time challenging each student to explore their own potential. Sinai College acts as a natural extension of the home environment, placing the social, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs of each child first, with an

understanding that a child cannot learn until they feel safe and loved. Sinai College encourages children to be curious about their world, and to take charge of their own learning through questioning and investigation.

We recognize our obligation to build a strong foundation in our learners, particularly our youngest students, that will support their learning throughout their schooling and beyond. We know that at the heart of lifelong learning is a love of learning, which is fostered through the pedagogical approach in each classroom.

Sinai College is proud of its international, culturally diverse and indigenous tapestry and embraces this diversity through explicit selection and teaching of curriculum, but also through the inclusive pedagogy practiced at the College. Every Sinai student is encouraged to not only be proud of the culture, religion and heritage, but to embrace and share it.

The children of Sinai College have the opportunity to engage in a rich variety of learning experiences, specifically designed for a multi-age classroom. We embrace the challenges set by composite classes, ensuring children learn in a genuine, multi-age learning community, lead and guided by experienced education staff. Children are assessed authentically, using student folios that the children themselves help to curate, taking personal ownership over their learning journey.

As the only Jewish day school in Queensland, Sinai College takes its responsibility for the religious and cultural development of our students very seriously, whilst maintaining a safe and inclusive environment for all students. Sinai College works to embed Jewish culture and faith throughout the curriculum and daily life at the College, as well as providing explicit teaching in these areas

Mission Statement:

Sinai College is an independent, Jewish day school, enrolling students from Prep to Year 6. Through a program that balances and integrates both the secular and Judaic activities as well as the curricular and non-curricular activities, students are encouraged to develop spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically. The School is dedicated to creating a caring environment in which students can grow to their fullest potential and strive for academic excellence, and as responsible and dedicated members of the Jewish people and of the wider Australian community.

Curriculum:

Sinai College delivers the most up to date Australian (ACARA) curriculum V9 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.

The foundational education programs at Sinai College are designed to provide a solid base from which children can launch their future learning. We design our early years programs to embrace the goals of the Alice Springs (Mparntwe) declaration.

Education programs at Sinai College are designed and implemented to support students to achieve the goals of the Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration (Dec, 2019). Our focus is to provide access to high quality education, while taking a holistic approach to the child and the curriculum. Understanding the child, how children develop and learn is a key component in the planning, delivery and assessment of the curriculum.

- Sinai College follows the Australian National Curriculum, as set out by ACARA from Preparatory to Year 6. Students are seen as capable learners and individuals, who regardless of backgrounds are encouraged and supported to achieve their best academically, personally and socially.

- The Humanities, Arts, and Social Science (HASS) and Health and Physical Education (Health) curriculum helps students develop a sense of self-worth, self-awareness and personal identity. These attributes, together with essential skills in literacy and numeracy sees students becoming successful lifelong learners.
- Sinai College embraces a positive approach to the “Student Code of Conduct and Positive Behaviour Management Policy” where members of the school community foster and create an environment of care, courtesy, respect and responsibility. Within the Jewish environment of Sinai College, students are expected to behave and act in a manner which exhibits moral and ethical integrity.
- Participation in ‘Student of the Month’, “Davening Award” and “Virtue of the Month” awards from Prep to Year 6 recognises an individual’s personal growth and achievement in identified areas. Students feel a sense of optimism, achievement and pride when receiving the award.
- Sinai College values the beliefs and teachings of Judaism with a focus on:
 - Commencing each day with Davening, led by our Rabbi
 - Benching after meals to show thanks and gratitude
 - The school curriculum delivery is enriched by teaching not only the Hebrew as a scripture language in Prep-Year 4, but as a LOTE in Years 5 and 6
 - The school curriculum is supported by the addition of extra curriculum Jewish Studies taught from Preparatory to Year 6
 - Through the teachings of the Torah, students demonstrate respect for parents, teachers, elders, surroundings and environment as well as to differences in opinions and cultures.
- Students of Sinai College are visibly active in community affairs, demonstrating empathy for the circumstances of others and to work for the common good of others

The ACARA Curriculum

Children at Sinai College receive academic instruction from qualified and registered teachers with curriculum written around the Australian Curriculum, endorsed by ACARA. The subjects offered, and the hours of instruction, as indicated by QCAA are shown below

Learning area	Hours per year over 37–40 weeks per year			
	P–2	3–4	5–6	
English	250–270	203–220	185–200	
Mathematics	166–180	166–180	148–160	
Science	37–40	64–70	64–70	
Health & PE	74–80	74–80	74–80	
	History	18–20	37–40	37–40
	Geography	18–20	37–40	37–40

Humanities & Social Science	Economics & business			18–20	
	Civics & citizenship		18–20	18–20	
The Arts		37–40	46–50	46–50	
Languages		46–50			
Technologies	Design & technology	18–20	37–40	55–60	
	ICT				

Assessment

The curriculum is developed to ensure a thorough exposure to all content descriptors and so that children have ample opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency in these areas through formative and summative assessment. Children are graded based on a school-based assessment rubric which includes the ACARA Standard Elaborations and, where applicable, the ISQ Progression Points. This ensures a thorough and authentic assessment framework.

Parents are communicated on their children's progress through

- A Term 1 Interim Report (qualitative)
- Semester 1 Academic Report (summative)
- Semester 2 Academic Report (summative)

Additionally, parents have the opportunity to attend Parent teacher meetings each semester and also Celebrations of Learning that occur once a term.

Total Enrolments:

Enrolment Category	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	25	30	39	34	32	31	25
Girls	17	22	24	19	17	16	12
Boys	8	8	15	14	15	14	13
Indigenous	0	1	2	2	2	2	2

Workforce Information

Staff Composition, Including Indigenous Staff: *1

Description	Full time	Part time	Full time equivalent	
Teaching staff	4	2	4.6	
Support staff	1	6	3.5	
Indigenous staff	0	0	0	

Qualifications of all Teachers: *2

Qualification	Detail the number and/or the percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school who hold this qualification
Doctorate or higher	0%
Masters	50%
Bachelor	100 %
Diploma	25%
Certificate	0 %

Funding Information

School Income Broken Down by Funding Source *3

Funding information can be found by accessing the My School website <http://www.myschool.edu.au/> under this section of the report.

¹ Australian Education Regulation 2013 s60 (1)(c)

² Australian Education Regulation 2013 s60 (1)(b)

³ Australian Education Regulation 2013 s60 (1)(g)

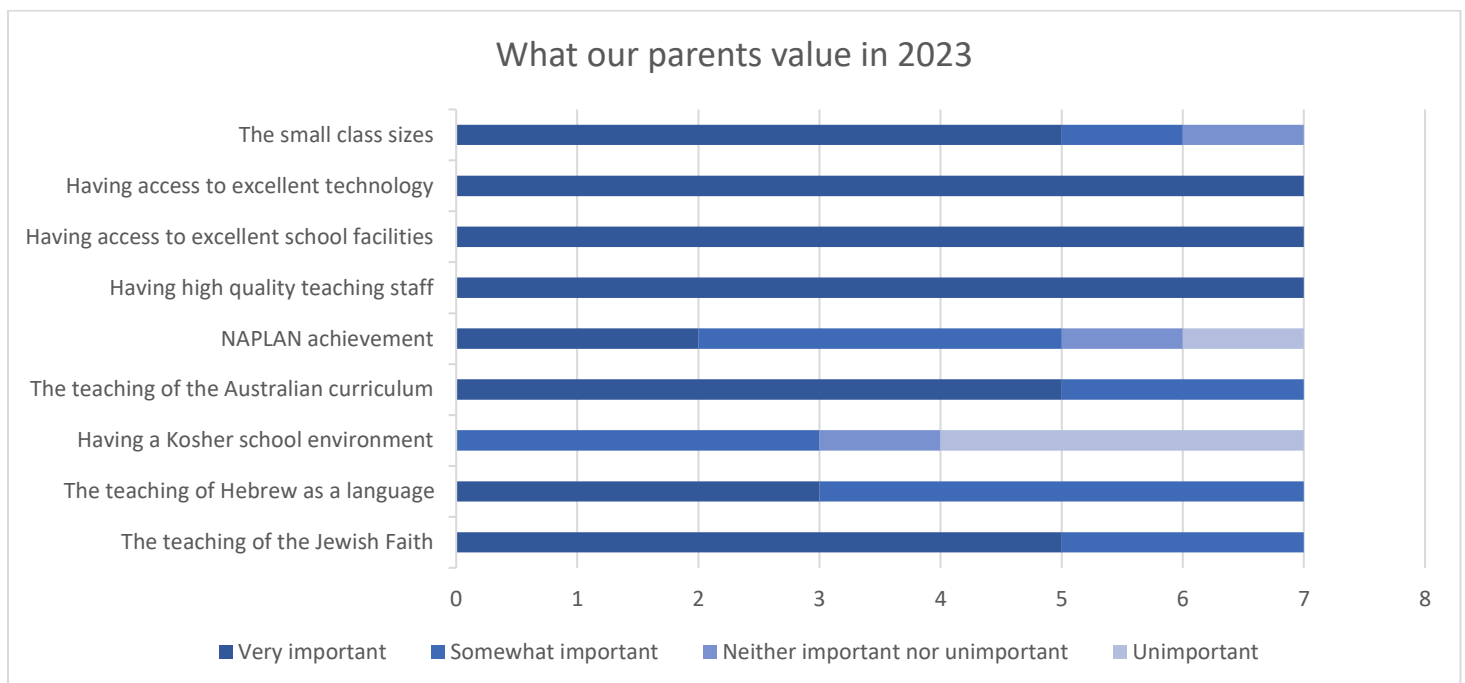
Social Climate

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction with the School *4

Parent and community engagement

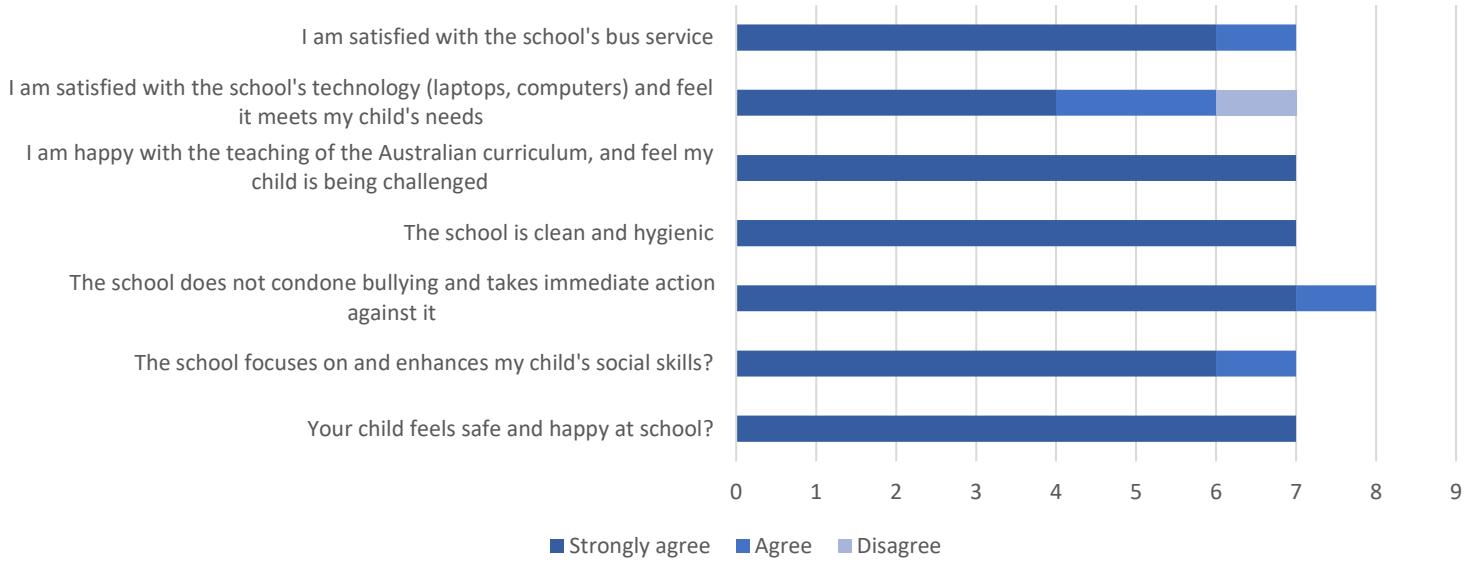
The school encourages the participation of parents in its education program. Parent volunteers help with reading, individual support and library. A fortnightly newsletter is sent home detailing important events and upcoming dates. Parents are requested to become actively involved in the education environment provided by Sinai College through involvement in classroom activities but also through the many cultural events held across the year. Sinai college continues to focus on giving back to the broader community through open events that include community members as well as outreach, where Sinai College students venture to the Mary St Synagogue and local retirement centres to provide gifts and support to members of the Jewish community.

Throughout 2023 students, parents and teachers were engaged in formal and informal feedback sessions and parent surveys. Parents were issued a parent survey in May 2023 with the result showing overwhelming support for the College and excellent levels of satisfaction not only with the curriculum delivery, but also with the Colleges stance on student wellbeing, bullying and communication with families. Survey results are published below.

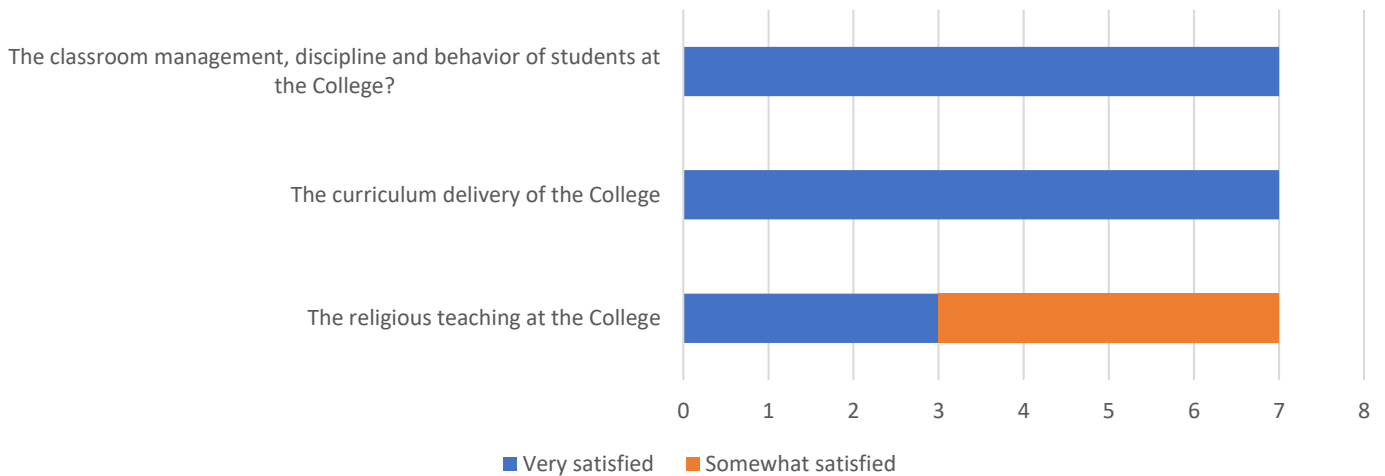


⁴ Australian Education Regulation 2013 s60 (1)(f)

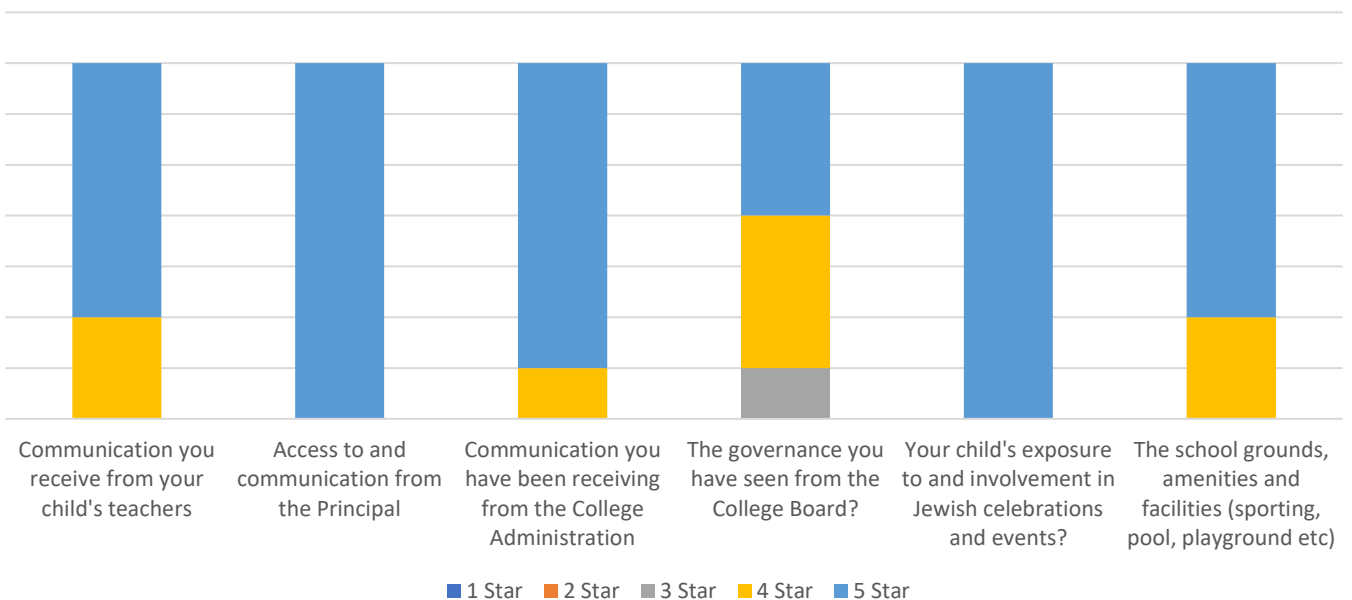
Parent Satisfaction 2023



Parent satisfaction 2023



Parent satisfaction 2023



Student Attendance

Average student attendance rate (%) for the whole school: *⁵ and for each year level: *⁶

	Total number of students in year level (FTE)	Number of possible attendance days for year level	Total number of days absent for year level	Total attendance days for year level	% Attendance rate
Prep	1.5	280.5	9	271	97%
Year 1	1.5	280.5	26	254	91%
Year 2	3.5	654.5	89	565.5	86%
Year 3	1.25	233.75	12	221.75	95%
Year 4	8	1496	219	1277	90%
Year 5	4	748	56	692	85%
Year 6	2	374	60	314	84%
Total	22.75	4020.5	471	3579.5	89%

The average student attendance rate for the whole school in 2023 was 89%

A description of how non-attendance is managed by the school: *⁷

Sinai College *Absence Management Policy* (P.22) 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* (QP.008) provides detailed instructions in respect to student absence and applies to all staff and parents of enrolled students. This procedure covers absenteeism, early departures and late arrivals.

Attendance Rolls are marked twice a day (each morning and after lunch) and delivered to the Administration Officer. This data is then transferred onto an electronic Attendance data register that is monitored daily and version controlled. 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.

Student Outcomes

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'.

⁵ Australian Education Regulation 2013 s60 (1)(d)(i)

⁶ Australian Education Regulation 2013 s60 (1)(d)(i)

⁷ Australian Education Regulation 2013 s60 (1)(d)(ii)

Sinai College participate in NAPLAN assessments. The school, as a whole, achieves excellent results.

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

NAPLAN results for Years 3 and 5 in 2023*⁸

At Sinai College we are incredibly proud of the results of our students. Despite being a small school, quite [possibly because of it, our students have consistently ranked **well above average** in most areas in NAPLAN data when compared to all other Australian students.

Benchmark Data for Year

	Reading	
	Year 3 (2023)	Year 5 (2023)
Average Score (School)	399	515
Average Score (National)	393	489
	Writing	
	Year 3 (2023)	Year 5 (2023)
Average Score (School)	507	464
Average Score (National)	405	467
	Spelling	
	Year 3 (2023)	Year 5 (2023)
Average Score (School)	444	454
Average Score (National)	392	479
	Grammar	
	Year 3 (2023)	Year 5 (2023)
Average Score (School)	466	476
Average Score (National)	398	491
	Numeracy	
	Year 3 (2023)	Year 5 (2023)
Average Score (School)	371	512
Average Score (National)	397	478

⁸ Australian Education Regulation 2013 s60 (1)(e)