

2009 School Year

Contextual Information:

Birlirr Ngawiyiwu (Spirit of God) Catholic School was founded in 1985 by the Sisters of St Joseph, upon request from the Djaru Community. It is an integral part of life for the Kundat Djaru people with an enrolment of approximately 54 students from Kindergarten to Year 7. The school is located in the remote East Kimberley region.

A unique focus for the school is the two way learning of Jaru and English. Teachers and Aboriginal Teacher Assistants work collaboratively in providing a holistic education which encompasses the Key Learning Areas of the Curriculum whilst catering for the remoteness of the Yaruman situation and continuing the language, culture and traditions of the Jaru people.

Four learning centres include Kindergarten, Junior Primary, Middle Primary and Upper Primary. A playgroup for toddlers is available to the age of 4, and is facilitated by parents on a daily basis.

As ESL learners, students benefit from small group and individual tuition aimed at exploring Literacy and Numeracy in focused sessions that take into account different learning styles. Computer technology and hands on activities support students in their learning. Programs to enhance health, personal development and pastoral care are implemented from Kindergarten to Year 7.

Birlirr Ngawiyiwu strives to empower young people to build lives based upon the Gospel values of love, truth, justice and peace.

Teacher Standards and qualifications:

All teaching staff members were WACOT (Western Australian College of Teaching) registered.

Staff qualifications included:

Bachelor of Education Bachelor of Teaching Trained Infant Teacher's Certificate
Graduate Diploma TESOL Master of Teaching Degree-Primary Master of Education
Bachelor of Business Bachelor of Arts (Honors)

Workforce Composition

Staffing	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Male	Female
Principal		1		1
Teachers	1	2		3
ATAs*	7			7
Groundsperson & Maintenance	1		1	

Staff allocation for 2009 included 1 Principal and 3 Teachers.

2 relief Teachers assisted in Term 4 as replacement Staff.

*7 Aboriginal Teaching Assistants, (on an average of approximately 3 per Term), as well as the Administration and Liaison Officer and the Maintenance and Groundsperson were all members from the Kundat Djaru Community, Yaruman/Ringer Soak.

Student attendance at school

Class	Attendance %
Kindergarten	66.8
Pre Primary	49.2
Year 1	55.25
Year 2	59.5
Year 3	65.2
Year 4	40.5
Year 5	61.3
Year 6	59.3
Year 7	28
Visitors	42.2
<u>Total Kindy –Yr. 7</u> (excluding visitors)	59.8
<u>Total Kindy- Yr. 7</u> (including visitors)	52
<u>Total PrePrim. – Yr 7</u>	49

“Non attendance” includes “being out of the Community”.

i.e. Students who were absent from the Community are included in this table. Students were often absent from the Community due to family related reasons such as funerals, cultural obligations and meetings in other Communities. The school is notified of these reasons but the students are recorded as absent. These absences may be of long duration.

The Attendance table also includes “Visitor Attendance”. Many children visit our Community and attend school whilst here. These figures are included, as provision for visitors affects attendance records, staffing and resources overall. However, visitors are always welcome, in the effort to continue students’ involvement in ongoing education and to support parents & families who wish their children to continue in their learning whilst away from their own communities.

Non -Attendance Strategy:

At the start of each day a list of absentees known to be living in the Community is compiled. The Principal and the Liaison Officer drive to the homes of the students and seek explanations for the absence of children from school. Students are encouraged to come to school even if it is late. As a Community initiative, the Store does not serve children during school hours and non-attendees are excluded from after-school club activities.

NAPLAN Information: Student Outcomes in standardised national literacy and numeracy testing:

Year	Students Present for Testing	Students Absent for Testing	Below Minimum Standard	At Minimum Standard	Above Minimum Standard
Yr 3 Reading	7	3	4	3	0
Yr 3 Writing	7	3	6	1	0
Yr 3 Language Conventions	7	3	7	0	0
Yr 3 Numeracy	7	3	6	1	0
Yr 5 Reading	2	1	1	1	0
Yr5 Writing	2	1	2	0	0
Yr 5 Language Conventions	2	1	2	0	0
Yr 5 Numeracy	2	1	1	1	0
Yr 7 Reading	4	5	4	0	0
Yr7 Writing	3	6	3	0	0
Yr 7 Language Conventions	3	6	3	0	0
Yr 7 Numeracy	4	5	4	0	0

N.B. Students are ESL learners who speak Jaru, the language of the local Community of Kundat Djaru.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction:

The results of discussions with parents, students and staff indicated a high level of satisfaction by all concerned in the education of students at Birlirr Ngawiyiwu. All were pleased with the variety of learning opportunities in which they were involved and the extensive building projects that are currently underway. The involvement of the wider Community with the school is a very positive sign.

Post-school destinations:

As Yaruman/Ringer Soak is a remote Community, exiting Year 7 students are enrolled in a number of Boarding schools in both Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Students travel by air to the various Colleges, assisted through Abstudy. The students who decide to remain in the Kimberley have the opportunity of attending the local District High School at Halls Creek, as day students, if they have family/relations living close to the school.

School Income :

Please refer to the [Birlirr Ngawiyiwu MySchool webpage](#) on the My School Website.