



# 2025 Annual Report

based on 2024 data



## Overview

School Sector: Independent  
Address: 138 Reedmans Road, Ormeau, QLD 4208  
Total Enrolments: 120 (as of 2024)  
Year Levels Offered: Years 4 – 10  
Co-educational or Single Sex: Single Sex (Boys)



# Our School

Located between the Gold Coast and Brisbane, Toogoolawa School is a values-based independent school dedicated to supporting boys who have faced challenges in mainstream educational settings. Our students come from a range of life experiences and circumstances that may have interrupted their learning journey. These challenges may include disrupted schooling, family changes, or difficulties with engagement in traditional classrooms. At Toogoolawa, we provide a fresh start—offering a safe, supportive, and understanding environment where students can reconnect with education and rediscover their potential.

At the heart of our small school is a commitment to empowering students with knowledge, character, and values, laying the foundation for a fulfilling and meaningful life. Our educational philosophy, known as Educare, is based on the principle of drawing forth the innate goodness, wisdom, and potential within each student. Derived from the Latin “to draw out,” Educare emphasises holistic development, nurturing the intellectual, emotional, physical, and ethical dimensions of each child. Our approach blends academic learning with strong character education. Through Educare, we guide students on a journey of self-discovery and ethical growth, supporting them to build emotional intelligence, resilience, and personal responsibility. Mindfulness, daily reflection, and value-focused practices are woven into our routine, helping students develop self-awareness and a greater sense of purpose.

Toogoolawa School actively applies the Values-based Education (VbE) model—often referred to as Human Values Education—which brings to life the five universal human values of Love, Truth, Peace, Right Conduct, and Non-Violence. These values permeate every aspect of school life and are integrated into both the curriculum and everyday interactions. We believe that when students live by these values, they not only become better learners, but more compassionate and socially responsible individuals. Toogoolawa School is more than an educational institution—it is a community built on compassion, and belief in the potential of every child. Through our holistic, values-based approach, we aim to nurture students who are not only equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed, but also the moral grounding and emotional strength to contribute positively to the world around them.





# Our Values

**Love | Peace | Truth | Right Conduct | Non-Violence**

These universal human values are embedded across all learning experiences and relationships within the school community. They are modelled daily by staff and mentors, and serve as the foundation for personal growth and decision-making.

## Our Goals

1. To operate a not-for-profit, independent educational facility that offers boys a second chance to thrive.
2. To deliver a holistic curriculum that integrates learning with character development and mindfulness
3. To foster a school culture rooted in love, peace, truth, right conduct, and non-violence.
4. To guide students on a journey of self-discovery through the Educare philosophy, focusing on emotional intelligence and ethical growth.
5. To create an environment where every student feels safe, respected, and supported by caring adults and positive role models.
6. To build strong relationships between school, families, and the broader community to support each student's wellbeing and success.

To prepare students for successful transitions into further education, training, or employment with the confidence and skills to navigate life with resilience and empathy.

## Our Vision

To nurture and educate young men through a values-based, holistic approach that draws out their innate goodness, builds character, and supports them in creating a purposeful and fulfilling future.

## Our Mission

To provide a supportive, inclusive, and structured environment where boys can reconnect with education, grow emotionally and ethically, and become resilient, compassionate individuals who contribute positively to their communities.

# Our Student Body

Toogoolawa is an Aboriginal word meaning “A place in the heart”, a name chosen to reflect the loving and compassionate foundation on which our school is built. This guiding principle continues to shape our teaching practices and interactions, affirming the importance of connection, care, and dignity in education.

As a Special Assistance School (SAS), Toogoolawa caters to students with a wide range of learning, emotional and psychological needs. We are committed to providing a supportive and structured environment that offers each student the best opportunity to lead a purposeful, meaningful, and fulfilling life.

Students come to Toogoolawa with a variety of complex and individual circumstances that have made participation in mainstream schooling difficult. Many have experienced disconnection, exclusion, or educational gaps due to anxiety, trauma, behavioural challenges, or unmet learning needs. Others simply thrive in a smaller, therapeutic setting where they feel seen, heard, and valued. Admission to Toogoolawa is based on a student being at significant risk of, or already disengaged from, traditional educational pathways.

We work closely with students and families to identify personalised pathways that reflect each learner’s needs, strengths, and aspirations. Our programs are designed to rebuild confidence, foster emotional wellbeing, and support students to re-engage with their education. Whether students seek re-entry into mainstream schooling, pursue vocational training, or transition into the workforce, we equip them with the character and skills needed to succeed.

In 2024, 15% of our students identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and 70% received substantial to extensive adjustments to access the curriculum.

Many of our students are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), anxiety, or have experienced the impact of developmental trauma.

At Toogoolawa, we believe that “the end of education is character.” Our approach goes beyond academics—we explicitly teach values, virtues, and social-emotional learning (SEL) as integral parts of the curriculum. Our aim is to help students build self-respect, form positive relationships, and develop a strong sense of purpose. We inspire our boys to live by the universal human values of love, peace, truth, right conduct, and non-violence, guiding them towards becoming compassionate, resilient, and ethical young men.



# Our Staff

By the end of 2024, Toogoolawa School operated seven classrooms, each led by a dedicated full-time teacher using a primary-style classroom model. Every classroom was supported by two classroom support staff who provided both academic guidance and behavioural/emotional assistance tailored to individual student needs.

The teaching team comprised of 12 full and part time Teaching Staff, supported by 26 support t staff.

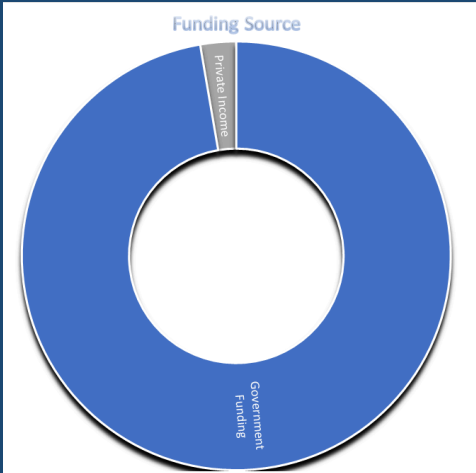
Qualification	The percentage(%) of classroom teachers & leaders who hold this qualification
Doctorate	8%
Masters	8%
Bachelor’s degree o	84%
Diploma	0%
Certificate	0%

Toogoolawa School is deeply committed to the ongoing professional development of its staff. Throughout 2024, staff engaged in a range of individualised study opportunities and attended Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) seminars, QCAA professional development workshops. All staff received annual first aid training, child protection training, additionally, Dr Anette Renneflott, a clinical psychologist, delivered a training workshop on our supporting boys.

Toogoolawa School is proud to be an equal opportunity employer, committed to building a staff community that reflects the diversity of the broader Australian society. Our team includes individuals from a wide range of cultural, spiritual, and professional backgrounds, including First Nations peoples. This diversity enriches our school culture and strengthens the support we offer our students.

# Funding

The school receives the vast majority of its funding from government sources, with over 98% of total revenue derived from recurrent government grants and support programs. This financial support ensures the sustainability of our specialised educational model and enables us to provide targeted services that meet the complex needs of our students. The school is also fortunate enough to accept donations from the public.



# Social Climate

In 2024, Toogoolawa School conducted its annual Parent, Teacher, and Student Satisfaction Survey to gather meaningful feedback from the school community. The survey was administered digitally via Microsoft Forms and invited participants to reflect on various aspects of school life, including the quality of teaching, communication, school culture, student wellbeing, and overall satisfaction.

Parents were asked to rate the school using a five-point Likert scale, allowing for consistent measurement across key areas. The goal of the survey was not only to assess current performance but also to identify opportunities for growth and improvement, ensuring that the school continues to meet the needs of its students and families. A summary of the results can be found below:

Parents Reported	Parents Response
95% Reported	This is a good school
97% Reported	Teachers at this school are interested in my child’s wellbeing
92% Reported	The expectations and rules are clear at this school
95% Reported	Teachers at this school expect my child to do his best
96% Reported	This school has a strong sense of community
91% Reported	This school fosters respectful relationships among all students



# Social Climate (cont.)



A summary of the staff and student results can be found below:

Staff Reported	Staff Response
89% Reported	Our class team focusses on building good character in our students
88% Reported	I am satisfied with the level of support from administration
83% Reported	The school leadership team model the behaviours expected of all employees
83% Reported	Students are encouraged to do their best at this school
81% Reported	I feel confident managing the behaviour of all my students at this school
81% Reported	I enjoy working at this school

Student Reported	Student Response
85% Reported	My school gives me opportunities to do interesting things
83% Reported	My teachers help me with my school work when I need it
85% Reported	I can access computers and technologies at my school for learning
78% Reported	My teachers expect me to do my best
76% Reported	My teachers motivate me to learn
78% Reported	My school encourages students to live the school values

# Parent Involvement

At Toogoolawa School, we believe that education is most effective when there is a strong partnership between home and school. We place a high value on building genuine, collaborative relationships with parents, carers, and guardians, recognising that open and respectful communication is essential to student success.

To support this partnership, we provide families with easy access to information and services through the Sentral Parent Portal, which enables real-time updates on information, communication and school services. We also hold Parent/Carer/Guardian and Student meetings to review and develop Individual Education Programs (IEPs). These meetings provide an opportunity to set personalised learning and wellbeing goals, which are tracked and reviewed throughout the semester.

In addition, we host regular Parent Mornings at the school to foster a sense of community and reduce social isolation. These gatherings offer parents and carers the chance to connect with others who may share similar experiences, build supportive networks, and access information on external services and referral pathways where needed. Through these efforts, we aim to create a strong, inclusive support system around each student, helping them grow with confidence and resilience.

# Student Enrolment and Attendance

Toogoolawa School welcomes students from a wide geographic area, with recommendations of enrolments coming from Education Queensland and Independent schools across Southeast Queensland. The demand for places at Toogoolawa remains consistently high, with waiting lists in multiple year levels. Families are encouraged to express interest and begin the enrolment process as early as possible to ensure timely consideration.

We continue to monitor and support student attendance closely, recognising its vital role in academic progress, wellbeing, and long-term engagement. Average student attendance rate (%) for the whole school The average student attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2024 was 74.45%

Below is the average attendance rate for each year level in 2024:

Year Levels	Average attendance for each year as a percentage in 2024
Year 4	87%
Year 5	72%
Year 6	76%
Year 7	73%
Year 8	69%
Year 9	72%
Year 10	68%



# Extra-Curricular Activities

Toogoolawa School provides students with meaningful opportunities to engage in the broader school community through a diverse range of extra-curricular activities and camping programs. These experiences are designed to build confidence, encourage teamwork, and expose students to new challenges and environments that they may not have previously encountered. Participation in these programs supports personal growth, resilience, and a stronger sense of belonging.

Some of the activities offered include:

Swimming	Camping	Running
Football & Soccer	Basketball	Touch
Volleyball	Cricket	AFL
Lacross	Work Experience	Social Skills
Scouts Group	Nature Experiences	Community Services
Leadership	Senior Flexi School Visits	First Nations Education

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