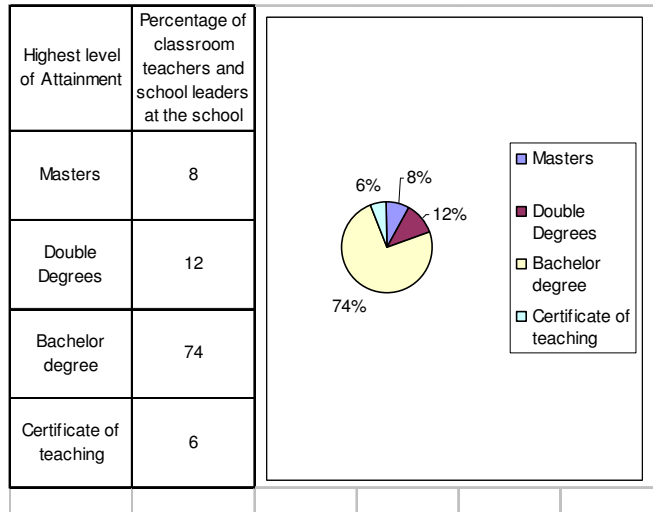


Our Teaching Staff

Academic qualifications of our teachers



Teacher Professional Development

Because we believe that it is important that our teachers stay on the cutting edge of the profession, each year we support a high level of teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2006 was \$32,000 .

The major professional development initiatives were :

- Workshops in high level thinking skills and community of inquiry.
- Curriculum workshops in which teachers extended their specialist expertise.
- Program workshops in which teachers wrote innovative new programs.
- Assessment workshops to help improve the alignment between teaching and assessment.
- Various workshops to assist staff with dimensions of the school's support and welfare work.
- Training to enhance teachers vocational education qualifications
- First Aid Training

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2006 was 100 %.

Average Staff Attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2006.

Staff Continuity

From the end of the 2005 school year, 92 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2006 school year.

Indicators of teacher excellence

Great teachers get out of their comfort zone to learn the very best teaching practice – and in 2006 there was abundant evidence of that commitment to be the very best:

- Our teachers have, in this last year, been leaders in a Federal Department of Education Science and Training research project to discover the best ways to teach and assess students – and we were especially mentioned for our contribution to the innovations resulting from that research.
- Our teachers then put their skills under the microscope in the Queensland Middle Phase of Learning research project, and were singled out for praise for their teaching practice with this age level.
- We have been participant in the National “values education” project. Our use of communities of enquiry and other ‘philosophy in schools’ approaches has been show to be highly effective in encouraging thoughtful reasoning, rigorous thinking and high levels of intellectual engagement.
- Our Science teachers performance was audited as part of the ‘Spotlight on Science’ initiative, and received high praise. A few weeks later their innovation and the quality of their work led to their recognition with a prestigious “Peter Doherty Award” for success in Science Education.
- We are presently very active participants in QCAR – Queensland’s most up-to-date attempt to establish best practice in teaching, learning and assessment and we are leading again – our teachers teaching others about the best way to get great achievements from students.
- Finally the level of support that our students enjoy is truly exceptional. It is taken for granted at Southport High that the role of teacher is indistinguishable from the roles of confidant, counsellor, mentor, coach, tutor and, as our students move into the senior grades, very often of friend.