



Annual Report 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

Compass Independent School acknowledges and pays our respect to the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples of Meanjin as the traditional custodians of the land in which we learn, play and gather together.

We pay our respects to elders past and present, including the ancestors of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and extend that respect to all First Nations people.



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Our Context

Compass is a small independent school located on-campus at QUT, Kelvin Grove. The School is co-educational, non-denominational, a registered charity and accredited by the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board.

Philosophy and Values

Compass focuses on the child's learning journey with a program of inquiry, play, creativity and collaboration.

Children learn in a multi-age setting in which they delve into rich units of inquiry, learn in small groups at their level, and enjoy 90 minutes of outdoor learning and play every day.

Our values of be caring, fair, open-minded and respectful, and being me are central to all that we do.



2025 - The Third Year of Compass

2025 commenced with our teaching and learning spaces expanding from one classroom to two with Compass now occupying all of Level 3. A new teaching team began the year with Felix leading Base Camp East as a Prep to Year 2 learning environment and Jenn leading Base Camp West, catering for children from Years 3 to 7. Year 7 was offered for the first time, marking an exciting milestone as Compass welcomed its first cohort of high school students.

The year began with our first unit of inquiry, *Identity and Diversity*, which invited children to explore these important concepts in depth. Our second unit of inquiry, *Adaptations*, focused on rock pool habitats and included our very first Compass Community Camp. With all Compass families invited, children, teachers and families journeyed to Flat Rock in Northern NSW to explore this incredible ecosystem together.

Our third unit of inquiry, *We Are Makers*, involved analysing design and making processes. This culminated in Compass Kids operating their very own market stall at the Kelvin Grove Village Markets, where they sold handmade creations.





Our fourth unit of inquiry, *Exploring Phenomena*, examined natural phenomena through hands-on investigation. The children also carried out a wide range of science experiments, with older learners designing and conducting their own fair tests.

Our final unit of inquiry for 2025 was *Let's Travel!* which invited the children to plan and undertake their own field trips. The children selected Shorncliffe Beach and Cedar Creek, Samford, as destinations, both of which provided wonderful opportunities for exploration and discovery.

Another highlight of 2025 was our 'Compass Has Talent' event. Held in the QUT Amphitheatre and organised by our Year 7s, the event showcased the remarkable range of talents within the Compass community.

In 2025, children in the primary school learnt Spanish through our partnership with The University of Queensland. Weekly classes, led by Paula, provided the children with rich language-learning opportunities and meaningful cultural experiences. Year 7s had a choice of languages, learning French, Japanese, Spanish or Mandarin with specialist language tutors.

Compass welcomed a specialist teacher, Alfina to Base Camp East to further support and enhance literacy in the early years.

2025 was a wonderful year of learning and play, including through our outdoor learning and play program. Tom, Tilly and Mandy supported the children through play, sport, movement and nature-based art experiences, further enriching the Compass offering.

Enrolment Numbers

Year level	Enrolments
Prep	9
Year 1	7
Year 2	4
Year 3	7
Year 4	5
Year 5	6
Year 6	3
Year 7	6

Enrolment data as of August 2025

Team Compass 2025

Principal	Alicia Gilbert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Education (Primary) • Master of Education (Leadership & Management)
Principal	Kim Summers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Education • Graduate Diploma of Education • Bachelor of Arts
Classroom Teacher	Felix Fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Education (Primary)
Classroom Teacher	Jenn Espinosa-Lear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction • Elementary Teaching Certification Program • Bachelor of Secondary Education • Bachelor of Arts in English

Compass requires teachers to meet the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) Teacher registration eligibility requirements policy, which outlines requirements regarding qualifications and experience.

Staff attendance has not been reported as publication of this data could compromise the individual's right to privacy.



Attendance

Attendance rate = 83%

The whole school attendance rate rather than year level attendance rates has been provided to protect the privacy of each individual child's data.

Compass has a comprehensive Attendance procedure that outlines the school's process for managing emergent, planned and ongoing absences. When a pattern of non-attendance is identified, the Principal contacts the family to organise a return-to-school planning and support meeting.



NAPLAN

2025 was the third year that Compass participated in NAPLAN. Year 5 and 7 NAPLAN results are not provided due to the small cohort size and need to maintain the privacy of individual student information. Year 3 NAPLAN results are available via the My School website <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

Financial Statements

Please refer to the My School website via <http://www.myschool.edu.au/> to access the School's funding information.



Highlights: Compass Community Camp

This was our first community camp bringing together children, families, teachers, and staff for an overnight adventure at Flat Rock, NSW. Highlights included learning about the East Ballina Aboriginal Place, sharing a barbecue dinner, exploring the rock pools with the guidance of a marine ecologist and spotting day octopuses! The Year 7s journeyed to many local destinations, accompanied by an environmental scientist, to investigate hydrological hazards in the region.



Highlights: Field Trips



Our *Let's Travel!* unit had the children plan and carry out their very own field trips to Cedar Creek, Samford and Shorncliffe Beach.

Highlights: Compass Has Talent



Hosted by the Year 7s, Compass Has Talent was held in the QUT Amphitheatre, providing an incredible outlet for children of all ages to showcase their talents!

Highlights: Kelvin Grove Village Markets



Compass joined the Kelvin Grove Village Markets, where Compass Kids not only created all of the handcrafted items but also sold them to the public. This was a wonderful real-world learning experience for our budding entrepreneurs, designers, makers and creatives.

Highlights: Outdoor Learning and Play



The children enjoyed 90 minutes of outdoor learning and play every day, taking advantage of our urban oasis to connect with nature, enjoy sports, be active and build friendships.

School Satisfaction

Quotes from the Families

“

We've truly appreciated the care and support you've shown our child over the past year — it's meant a great deal to us as a family.

“

Compass has many wonderful qualities and we've greatly appreciated the dedication and care shown by the Principal and the teaching team.

“

Compass offers an exceptional and high quality learning curriculum that is head and shoulders above almost everything else.

Quotes from the Staff

“

I loved following children's interests and seeing our units of inquiry culminate in rich, authentic experiences such as our community camp.

“

I love how what we practise as a group of professionals is reflected in what we do with the children. We apply best practice through the ways in which we inquire, play, explore, and collaborate.

Quotes from the Children

“

I liked my friends being really good to me. The school is like really special because you get to make things.

“

I liked doing mathematics and had lots of fun. I went to outdoor learning and play and I also liked when I went to the Compass camp.

“

I really liked doing the Kelvin Grove Village Markets because of how interactive it was. We could make everything and then go to the markets and try and pitch our ideas.





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