



St John of Kronstadt
ACADEMY

2026 Academy Annual Report (based on 2025 data)

Where there is no struggle, there is no virtue

Welcome from Head of Academy

In 2025, the St John of Kronstadt Academy (Academy) entered its second year of operation as an independent classical Orthodox school in Queensland. The Academy experienced a growth in student numbers from 12 students in its first year to 23 students in the second year, along with the addition of Grade 4. Although these are modest numbers, this represents a 91% increase in our student numbers and sets a good trend for growth.

Building on our first year of operation, the Academy has focused on establishing and implementing a truly classical curriculum within the framework of the Australian and Queensland curriculum. This is by no means a one-off exercise, but a constant process that the Academy will continue to work through to ensure that it is able to deliver a truly classically focused education for our students and for those to come.

During 2025, the Academy also experienced a number of significant changes both internally and externally. The Academy welcomed a new full time teacher for grade 3-4 to fill the place of our retiring teacher in that grade, introduced and implemented a new phonics program and constituted a new Board of Directors. The new Board brings considerable educational experience to the table and is headed by our new Chair, Fr (Dr) John Simons. The Board is well positioned guide the strategic direction of the Academy and to help it through this initial growth and development phase.

In 2025, the Academy held Australia's first Orthodox education conference in Brisbane with the aim of bringing Orthodox educators from around the country to discuss what our purpose is as Orthodox educator and how to practically implement this. The keynote speaker for the conference was Mr John Heitzenrater III, head of our sister school in the US, Chrysostom Academy. The conference was a huge success and feedback received was very positive. The Academy intends to make the conference an annual event.

Our second year as a growing independent school has taught us much and as we expand and grow, we hope to continue to build on our experience and fulfil our vision to produce students characterised by wisdom, virtue and eloquence.

Fr Stephen David

Head of Academy

ACADEMY VISION

Our vision is to develop wisdom, virtue and eloquence through a classical Orthodox education.

Shaping the loves of our students is our prime objective and that starts and ends with love for God as revealed through His church: Father, Son and Holy Spirit and love for our neighbour made in the image and likeness of God.

ACADEMY MISSION

The Academy provides a classical Orthodox education that develops Christian wisdom, virtue, and eloquence leading students toward holiness through Christ and the Saints. Our education is anchored in the seven liberal arts, the great books, the study of classical languages and instruction in the Orthodox Christian faith. We achieve this by nurturing the souls, bodies, hearts and minds of our preparatory to Grade 6 students to create lifelong learners and critical thinkers who contribute to church and society and who seek and love God with their whole being.

The Academy serves Orthodox families and the broader Christian community of the Brisbane region. As we grow, we will continue to offer a truly Christian environment with classically trained teachers, small classes, a personalised teaching focus and a strong emphasis on partnering with parents and students. We highlight the inter-connectivity of all things in God's creation. We aspire for our students to understand what it means to be human, made in the image and likeness of God.

Classical Curriculum & Pedagogy

Paideia, the formation and shaping of character, seeks to cultivate moral virtue and intellectual wisdom by nourishing the true nature of the whole person. Within our academy, this paideia framework reframes the Australian Curriculum through ontological attunement, *phronema* formation, piety, and virtuous human flourishing. Education is therefore understood not simply as the acquisition of knowledge and skills, but as the formation of the person toward truth, beauty, goodness, and wisdom.

Rooted in the classical tradition of the ancient Greeks, Romans, and Christian educators, classical education is founded upon the seven liberal arts and the great books tradition. Its purpose is the cultivation of wisdom, virtue, and eloquence, forming students to become discerning, thoughtful, and fully human persons.

Our curriculum integrates the Trivium and Quadrivium alongside classical literature, Latin and Biblical Greek, chronological history, religion, and psalm memorisation as essential elements of paideia formation. The Australian Curriculum is taught through classical pedagogy, including explicit phonics instruction, narration, memorisation, rich literature and poetry, Singapore Mathematics, music and art theory, and physical and virtue formation within Health and Physical Education.



Classical Curriculum & Pedagogy

The Academy's classical pedagogy is based on 8 key principles:

1. Festina Lente - Make Haste Slowly

The Academy is committed to mastery learning of important content for long term retention.

2. Multum Non-Multa - Much Not Many

The Academy seeks depth in knowledge and understanding in key learning areas, not overviews and surface level understanding.

3. Repetitio Mater Memoriae - Repetition Is the Mother of Memory

Students learn content by heart, committing to memory important truths, useful information, and learning that can be built upon in later grades.

4. Songs and Chants

Songs, chants, rhymes are used to aid in the memorisation of content.

5. Embodied Education

Classical Education is for the whole person- mind, body and soul. The Academy uses embodied education, that is, movement, actions, physical activity to aid in teaching and learning.

6. Wonder and Curiosity

Learning begins in delight, wonder, curiosity. The Academy strives to cultivate this in students, to bring about inquiring, open minds, and life-long learners.

7. Educational Virtues

Virtues like perseverance, patience, determination, humility, docility, and resilience are all fostered in the classroom to facilitate good learning and to form students as life-long learners.

8. Schole and Contemplation

'Schole', or 'restful learning' is used to counter the frenetic pace of modern life. The classroom should be a place to contemplate true, good and beautiful things, in community, for their own sake, at a restful and contemplative pace.

Academy Information

School Sector:

Independent

Year Levels Offered:

Preparatory to Grade 4

Co-educational or Single Sex:

Co-educational

Characteristics of the Student Body:

In 2025, the Academy's student numbers rose from 12 to 23 students. This consisted of 11 boys and 12 girls across Prep – Grade 4. Students came from diverse cultural backgrounds including Serbian, Middle Eastern, Russian, Australian and Romanian. 95% of enrolled students came from Orthodox Christian families.

Total Enrolments:

23

Workforce Information

Workforce Composition, Including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff:

The Academy employed two full-time teachers to teach composite classes – Prep/1 and Grade 3/4. It also employed four other full-time staff for the positions of Head of Academy, Accounts, Administration and Personal Assistant. Part-time and casual teachers were employed from time to time to fill vacancies in specialist areas such as Latin and HPE.

Qualifications of all Teachers:

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	2
Bachelor	2
Diploma	0
Certificate	1

Funding Information

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

Academy Growth

The Academy experienced a 91% increase in student numbers from 2024 to 2025. Although this is not expected to be a regular occurrence, our current estimates are between 50-60% growth in student numbers each year moving forward. This will assist the Academy to grow sustainably into the future while maintaining its financial viability.

Social Climate

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction with the School

Satisfaction among staff and students remains very high with the Academy experiencing a 52% growth in student enrolment numbers for 2025.

While one teacher formally retired after a 35 year career, the Academy has been able to retain all its teaching staff. Staff have expressed their high satisfaction with both the curriculum being taught and the learning environment.

Student Outcomes

Please refer to the My School website <http://www.myschool.edu.au/> for relevant attendance data.

Average student attendance rate (%) for the whole Academy

The average student attendance rate for the whole Academy in 2025 was 94%.

Average attendance rate for each year level as a percentage in 2025:

- Preparatory: 97%
- Grade 1: 98%
- Grade 4: 99%

2025 Preparatory Reading Outcomes

The Academy adopted a new phonics program in 2025: Spell to Write and Read. This program is phonics intensive and required Prep students to learn 70 phonograms along with the rules around applying them over the year. Reading assessments at the end of 2025 found:

- 78% of Prep students were reading significantly above their chronological age
- 60% of Prep students were reading at least 1.5 years above their chronological age.

These results demonstrate the effectiveness of the Spell to Write and Read Program and the importance of phonics in the early years.

A description of how non-attendance is managed by the Academy:

The Academy monitors attendance on a daily basis with a weekly report produced to identify any consistent issues. The Academy's attendance policy states that where a student has taken two or more unauthorised leave days (absent days without a justifiable reason) then a letter is sent out to the parents to remind them of the attendance policy and requirements. Where the issue persists i.e. further unauthorised absences, then a meeting is organised with the parents to work through the issues in a productive manner.



St John of Kronstadt ACADEMY

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