



## **General Information for Applicants for Teaching Positions at All Souls St Gabriels School**

### **Living and Teaching in Charters Towers**

Charters Towers is one of Queensland's oldest cities, founded during the Gold Rushes of the 19th Century. Among the many notable buildings is the Stock Exchange which was the only Stock Exchange to operate outside of an Australian capital city, such was the size and worth of the city.

These days it is a more modest 10,000 inhabitants with five main industries, so unlike many country towns it is not dependent upon the one industry in tough financial times. The major industries are: education, agriculture, mining, health care and tourism.

The town is home to 8 schools, so there is a large teacher population in town. There are three State Primary Schools, a School of Distance Education, a State High School and three Co-educational Day and Boarding schools.

Boarding schools made Charters Towers the education centre of the north at the start of the 1900s as they were established in "the Towers" as the climate is much less humid than Townsville. Initially, there were 6 boarding schools, three boys and three girls, but they have become 3 co-educational schools.

For its size, the city is well served commercially with two large supermarkets (Woolworths and IGA) and a number of smaller grocery stores and a range of businesses from furniture retailers, electrical retailers, Target, chemists, fashion, discount goods, banks, travel agents, gift stores, cafes, bakeries etc. Takeaway food stores include McDonalds, Red Rooster and pizza shops, among others. The shops in Townsville are also easily accessed at weekends with a drive to Townsville taking approximately 1 hour to the edge of town and 1.5hrs to most major shopping areas.

The city is very proud of its World Theatre, a state of the art concert and theatre venue for 660, that also includes two separate cinemas which show new release films as seen in larger cities. There is a large modern public library built in a restored old hotel. Charters Towers is also home to one of the last remaining drive-in theatres in Queensland. Restaurants and pubs offer a variety of food and entertainment.

There are numerous sports clubs with teams of various standards competing in either local or Townsville based sport in Rugby League, Rugby Union, AFL, Cricket, Netball, Touch, Tennis, Bowls, Archery, Pony Club, Horse Sports, motocross and more. There is a racecourse at Charters Towers and the Towers Jockey Club and the Charters Towers Amateur Race Club hold meetings each year. Rodeos and various horse sports are also held at the undercover Dalrymple Arena. In January each year the town hosts the renowned 3 day Goldfields Ashes Cricket Festival with approximately 230 teams competing and with 67 fields in operation. As this occurs before the start of school, ASSG makes its fields available to the organizers.

There are adequate medical services in town with private doctors and a public hospital. Specialist appointments are accessed through both local medical clinics and Townsville hospitals.

Charters Towers is a country town, so it will not have all the features of city life, but there is plenty to do close at hand for families and single teachers. It is a friendly place and you will soon get invitations to join in to various activities.

Nevertheless, if you come to live and work in the town there are some things you will need to give up:

- The long drive to work (5-10 mins max) or shop or play
- The traffic (no traffic lights)
- The loneliness of city life where you know few people
- The cold southern climate during winter

### **Teaching at All Souls St Gabriels School**

Please read our website for more information.

In 2020 our school is 450 students strong, with 120 in the Junior School and 330 in the Secondary School. Most of our Junior School students are day students, whereas most of our secondary students are boarders. We have 192 boarders from Years 6 -12, who come from all over the northern Queensland, as well as some from the Northern Territory and even PNG. Most are off rural properties, but some are from smaller country towns such as Hughenden, Richmond, Cloncurry, Winton, Karumba and larger cities such as Cairns and Townsville.

Our staff is a small staff. Everyone knows everyone else. We believe there is a good sense of collegiality. Staff have opportunities to be involved in areas that may not be available in larger schools.

The school offers a generous discount of Tuition Fees for children of staff members (up to 50% for full time teaching staff) and we therefore have large numbers of staff children at the school.

School holidays are generous with usually 2 weeks at Easter, 3 at the end of Semester 1, 2 in September/October, with school breaking up for the summer holidays usually very late in November or early December, giving teaching staff around 15+ weeks. Term 1 commences with 3 staff days and all other terms begin and end with a staff day on our Boarders Travel Day.

The school day commences at 8.15am with Tutor Group meetings, first lesson at 8.30 am and the final lesson of seven ends at 3.00pm.

During the last decade the School has undergone major refurbishments and has completed the following projects:

- Multi-purpose Sports Centre
- 5 lab Science building
- Learning Support Centre
- Laundry
- Two new Junior School classrooms
- Converted 2 classrooms to a Computer Centre
- New Clinic
- Refurbished 6 dormitories
- Refurbished Kitchen

- Refurbished Croft Pavilion
- Resurfaced Millett Tennis Courts
- Upgraded power supply and roads
- Upgrade of Administration Centre
- Airconditioned all classrooms and dormitories

Each year in mid-late January, the Kevin Burry Work Weekend is held, and past students, current parents and students and some staff attend (purely voluntary) for a weekend-long working bee. Usually, between 50-80 people attend. Accommodation and meals are provided, and a great spirit of community is enjoyed.

As in all independent schools, staff are required to make a contribution to the extra-curricular life of the school, either through sports teams, music activities, debating, Duke of Edinburgh's International Award programme or other activities outside of normal school hours. This will be discussed at the interview.

Lunches are provided free of charge for all staff in the Dining Hall, provided that staff eat in the dining hall.

All Souls St Gabriels School has a range of relocation packages based on individual circumstances. These will be discussed with you. The base relocation package includes a \$1,500 allowance. The allowance is to cover the cost of buying furniture, white goods and other items necessary to set up your accommodation. Allowances require at least 2 years' service to the school. If you leave earlier than 2 years, you agree to reimburse half of the relocation allowance back to the school.

### **RENTAL OFFSET**

All Souls St Gabriels School may provide accommodation to staff residing on campus in return for duty as prescribed by the Headmaster or Head of Boarding. The School seeks to provide accommodation at an acceptable standard. This policy aims to set out the terms of the agreement between the school and the occupant to ensure that both parties are fully informed of their expectations in this matter. The hours of duty to be provided by each household occupying school accommodation is determined by the School Enterprise Bargaining Agreement duly adopted by the school and staff. Staff may also enter into an agreement with the school for additional hours of duty if they so desire.

The School can also contact local real estate agencies to initially assist you in finding suitable accommodation. In addition, the School can arrange rental payments to real estate agents through payroll deductions and can offer a range of tax-free options to offset your rent from salary sacrificing, to tax-free payments for extra duties, similar to those offered to staff for onsite accommodation. Our Finance staff will be happy to run through the options available should you require further information.

Teaching staff who relocate to Charters Towers in order to take up a teaching position at this school are eligible for a rent rebate of 7 weeks during the Christmas School holiday period.