



2014

Annual Report

St Joseph's Primary, Leeton

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The School

St Joseph's school is a vibrant community of 14 classes ranging from Kindergarten to Year 6 with a total of 316 students. They are country children from supportive families. We have a teaching, clerical and support staff who are dedicated and committed to our school community.

During 2014 Stage 3 experienced 21st Century learning in the Village learning environment. Year 1/2 and Year 2 brought their learning environment alive in the renovated upstairs classroom on the top level of the Lacey Building. The Old Church Building was alive with Year 1 as well as Year 3 and Kindergarten and Year 4 occupied San Antonio creating a learning environment where all students had the opportunity to develop strong Literacy and Numeracy skills, using the Inquiry model.

All students enjoyed experiencing dance and music lessons as well as the early bird reading room in the refurbished bottom level of the Lacey Building.

Catholic Identity

St Joseph's Leeton is a Catholic, Christ-centred school. Our foundations were laid by the Josephite Religious order who established our school. We'd like to acknowledge and thank the Sisters' of St Joseph for their commitment and dedication over many years in bringing strong Catholic Education to the children and families in Leeton and the surrounding area. They came to Leeton in difficult circumstances and times, to establish our school. We have acknowledged and we celebrate their contribution with our round stained glass window in the new library. The window shows the baptism of water on the bottom. The Josephite cross is very distinctive and the gum nuts and leaves represent the bush where Mary Mackillop lived and worked. The Southern Cross represents our country, Australia. Thank you so much to the Sisters' of St Joseph for giving us the foundation and strong building blocks of our school.

The children participate in daily religion lessons based on the 'Sharing Our Story' Religious Education Syllabus, which is used by every school in the Wagga Wagga Diocese.

Students are involved in daily prayer, liturgy and sacramental programmes. First Friday masses are attended by the whole school and organised by classes on a roster basis.

Classes attend Friday parish masses throughout the year. In addition, our school organises Sunday masses on a monthly basis. We work closely with the parish state school sacramental programme, with both state and St Joseph's students celebrating the sacrament together. Our priests are regular visitors to the classrooms, playground and staffroom.

Staff and students wholeheartedly support the work of Caritas and Catholic Missions with ongoing fundraising and celebrate Catholic Mission week each year by setting up stalls to raise funds.

1.3 School Policies

Improvement Targets

The school's Annual Improvement Plan for 2014 involved the following curriculum areas.

- Connections and Executive Retreats
- Shared Leadership and Community Building
- 21st Century Learning Environment
- Individual goal setting
- Focus of students' point of need learning
- Student voice
- Choice
- Teacher child conferencing
- Inquiry mindset
- 21st Century fluencies
- First steps Maths
- ICLT Infrastructure
- Meaningful Learning
 - o Inquiry Learning
 - o Habits of Mind
- Naplan Analysis and Action Plans
- Leadership Administration and Organisation
 - Appointment of Principal
 - Appointment of Assistant Principal
 - Appointment of REC for 2015 onwards.
 - Executive Role Description
- Professional Development
 - As above
- Facilities and Resources
 - Technology
 - New Learning Village

The 2014 School Renewal Framework saw the successful implementation of the following priorities

- Policies Curriculum and Programs
 - RE Syllabus
 - Mathematics – working mathematically
 - Resilience Review
 - Technology – Interactive whiteboards
 - Curriculum Reviews – Religious Education and Creative Arts
- Leadership Administration and Organisation
 - Executive Radpor
 - Executive Role Description
- Professional Development
 - As above
- Facilities and Resources
 - Technology
 - New Learning Spaces

A Message from key School Bodies

School Council and P & F are working cooperatively to build positive perceptions of our school in the community. They recognise the hard work staff are putting into teaching and learning. They also support and suggest initiatives in the school around increasing enrolments, addressing why families may be leaving, and the importance of positive staff relationships.

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

In Year 3 the percentage of children achieving at or well above the state average

Reading 100%

Writing 100%

Spelling 97%

Grammar and Punctuation 97%

Numeracy 100%

In Year 5 the percentage of children achieving at or well above the state average

Reading 97.6%

Writing 95.1%

Spelling 92.7%

Grammar and Punctuation 92.7%

Numeracy 95.1%

Professional Learning

Professional learning is highly valued by staff at St Joseph's. All staff participated in many professional learning opportunities this year. The following is a summary of professional learning at St Joseph's in 2013.

- A Community of Faith
 - Spirituality Day
 - Connections & Executive retreats
- A Community of Care
 - Restorative Practice
- A Community of Service
 - Shared Leadership and Community Building
- A Community of Stewardship
 - 21st Century Learning Environment
 - ICLT Infrastructure
- A Community of Learning
 - Meaningful Learning
 - Inquiry Learning
 - Habits of Mind
 - Lee Crocket 21st Century learning fluencies
 - Introduction to staged learning.
 - Naplan Analysis and Action Plan

Teaching Staff

The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:

A) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia

B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia but no formal teacher education qualifications

C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

All teaching staff at St Joseph's Leeton have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia.

A	B	C	TOTAL
22	nil	nil	22

Workforce Composition

The St Joseph's staff range in age from early career teachers to experienced teachers who have been teaching for 30 years. Most staff originate from country N.S.W. Some staff members have taught at several schools of a different size and culture.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	94%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	92%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	93%

Student Non-Attendance

The principal or authorised member of staff will undertake all reasonable measures to contact parents promptly concerning an unexplained absence. Contact with the parent may be made either by telephone, email or sms text message, if a pre-arranged secure address has been provided.

As per CSO POLICY & PROCEDURES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Enrolment Policy

Pre-enrolment may be made at anytime. An enrolment application and prospectus is available from the school office and is supplied on request. Once the form is completed it needs to be returned to the school. An interview with the parents/student is held. At this interview all required documentation is required.

Non-Australian citizens entering Australia must hold a valid visa and are subject to the specific travel, entry and residency conditions set by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA).

Education is compulsory for non-Australian citizens between the ages of six and fifteen holding a visa granting them permanent resident status and New Zealand citizens holding current New Zealand passports. Outside these ages they may enrol under the same conditions as Australian citizens.

Enrolments are falling for a variety of reasons. We are working very hard to halt this trend and turn it around. Enrolments for 2014 was 307.

Characteristics of the Student Body

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
163	144	9	18	307

**Language background Other Than English*

School Policies

Discipline

The School's Welfare Policy acknowledges students who are well behaved. It also outlines the procedures for working with students with behaviour difficulties. For students who require removing from the playground, a time out and detention area is available. This gives the detention teacher an opportunity to follow up an incident by interviewing all students involved. An appropriate withdrawal time is determined by the detention teacher after consultation with the classroom teacher. A letter is sent home to parents and meetings planned if necessary. A proactive approach is to provide an activity area for the students who feel they need time away from the playground. Such students are encouraged to invite a friend to go with them. This opportunity is also for students who find the playground activities unsuitable or for the children who may need some quiet time.

Student Welfare

Students learn to care, respect and trust others in an environment that is experienced as 'community'. In a community where students feel connected with each other, responsible and caring individuals are created. The following school policies can be accessed at the school.

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Health Care Policy
- Discipline Policy
- Students with Additional Needs Policy
- Road Safety Policy
- Students Code of Conduct Policy
- Critical Incidence Policy
- WH&S Policy
- Chemical Safety Policy
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Complaints and Grievances

The school's approach to resolving complaints and grievances is based on procedural fairness. It recognises that parents, teachers and students must have access to a process that allows them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory way. The above policies can be accessed at the school. The following is a link to the Catholic School's Office policies at their public website:

<http://web.csoww.catholic.edu.au/>

Changes to School Policies

It may be necessary to make changes or update school policies. As this need arises, the whole staff will discuss any issue and agree on the changes required. The changes are reported in the staff meeting minutes and the Curriculum Co-ordinator is then responsible for updating the necessary policy

Improvement Targets

SRF as submitted to CSO NOV 2014.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

We place high value on promoting activities that develop in the children an awareness of good citizenship and helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Year 6 sponsored a child from St Jude's school in Africa. They raised funds during the year to support him financially. The students raised money for Caritas during Lent, and Catholic Missions throughout the rest of the year, with a particular effort on Mission Day in October, which is run by the children.

Year Six students are encouraged to recognise their own growth in attitudes and values through the "Making Jesus Real" Programme. The "Making Jesus Real" is a program which aims to reflect on the great things that happen every day in our schools. The MJR message is: 'Love God by loving your neighbour'

The principles of Restorative Practice are used within the playground, classroom and 'Time Out' environments providing an opportunity to work with children so they grow and develop into responsible citizens. Treating others how you want to be treated is a focus for children to live by. We focus on a value in our "Word of the Week" programme. Children are encouraged to focus on values such as patience, respect and persistence. Values education continues in the classroom. Children are invited to participate in the Anzac Day March, visit Gralee School, our local school for children with special needs, and are regular visitors to the local aged care in our town to share their love of music with our senior citizens. The school choir also performs at our local Carols by Candlelight and Light Up Leeton Concerts at Christmas.

All classes are invited to participate in our Leeton Eisteddfod.

Respectful, responsible behaviour is always expected. Keys to success support the

children with behaviour and attitude and good learning practice.

Community SatisfactionParents

Parents in general are supportive of our school and support the school community through the P & F, School Council, and other activities through volunteering their time and contributing to fundraising activities.

Most parents with concerns make appointments to see the relevant party, with success.

The school community continues to endeavor to work in partnership with parents and caregivers. The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school. The school is working on transparency and communication with the various stake holders.

Students

This survey completed in 2014 by the then current Yr 6 students indicates how they perceive our school:

YEAR 6 Survey August 2014St Joseph's Primary, Leeton, is a Catholic School. What is special about our Catholic School?

- Going to Mass;
- doing sacraments;
- having technology to use;
- we believe in God;
- we follow and worship Jesus;
- it has nice people like teachers; we work together;
- St Joseph's accepts everyone-not just Catholics;
- we treat everyone equally;
- we have a great education with a good learning environment;
- we have good experiences on excursions;
- it is special because it brings people together to have faith in God;
- we learn so much about Jesus and how he lived and our school is trying to follow this;
- it's friendly and fun and make lots of friends;
- always trying to make new experiences like the Indigenous garden;
- students and teachers are respectful to each other;
- our church community make our school special;
- we use the latest technology in our learning;
- it's hands on while still learning about religion;
- it is named after St Joseph;
- we may be a Catholic school but we are also multicultural;
- we get recognised for special behaviour or things with awards

How does the community know we attend a Catholic school?

- By our manners;
- we attend church regularly;

- our uniform and how we dress;
- by the way we act and speak and the way we show leadership;
- our school emblem, the way we believe in God;
- our good behaviour;
- how we treat each other;
- it says "St Joseph's" on the sign;
- by being reverent;
- the cross on our school emblem;
- we follow in the steps of Jesus and try to be polite and kind in every way;
- we wear our uniform with pride so that others can see where we come from;
- we invite the community to be part of everything we do;
- we receive the sacraments;
- we get put down in files through the computer so the diocese can see it

If a new family from out of town asked you why they should send their child to St Joseph's Primary, Leeton, what would you tell them?

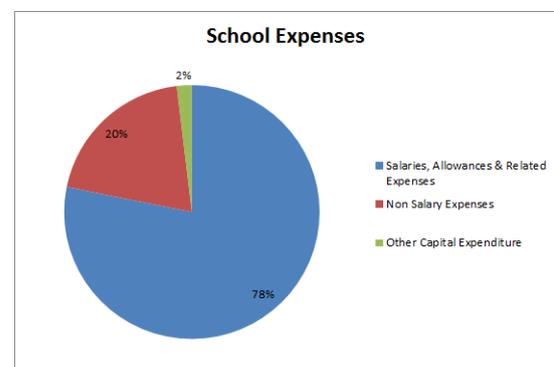
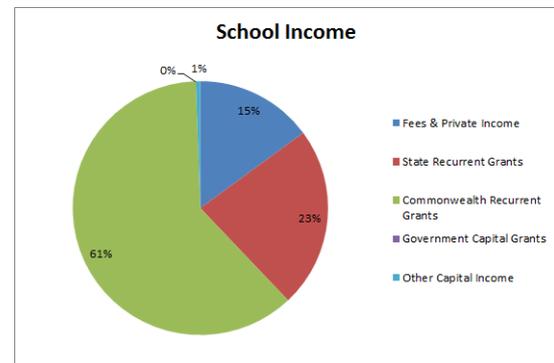
- St Josephs is a mature school that is good if you want your child to have a Catholic education;
- it is a very friendly environment with great teachers who make sure that you always feel safe;
- welcoming warm place;
- our school allows us to learn about lots of things from Maths to Religion and sport;
- there are lots of opportunities in sport and learning;
- the community is able to come in any time;
- you don't have to be Catholic because everyone is welcome;
- your child would have a Religious understanding;
- we follow God's peace, your child would love the way we do our subjects;
- we work together as a school community;
- your child will go home with a smile;
- positive, happy learning environment with lots of amazing teachers;
- we have an amazing Indigenous garden and stained glass window about Mary MacKillop;
- teachers use different learning strategies;
- interesting learning spaces like the Village;
- it's a school where all students benefit from its resources;
- by coming here it increases your faith in God and you learn a boatload of stuff;
- great principal;
- teachers who support learning;
- we have one of the best Education systems in the Riverina;
- strict on bad behaviour;
- we get involved in charity work like fund raising for children in other countries so they can be as lucky as us and get a great education

Staff

Staff are continuing to work on creating a 'Welcoming, Professional and Collaborative'

environment. These key features of wellbeing were identified as our staff creed

Financial Statement Summary



About This Report

This report was collated by the school's Executive Team. All Staff contributed to the content of the 2014 School Annual Report.