

2014

Annual Report

St Joseph's Primary School, Wagga Wagga

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The School

St Joseph's Primary School is a quality centre of learning where the faith of students is nurtured and a wide range of teaching and learning opportunities are provided in a safe and caring environment. Our motto 'Deo Omnia' (All things for God) inspires all to do their best in all aspects of personal and school life.

The school continues to have a stable enrolment with 193 students enrolled at the time of the August census.

During 2014, the school continued to develop our policies and procedures. The school community can be proud of its high level of compliance in all areas pertaining to education and learning, policy development and health and safety.

The Annual report summarises aspects of the life of the St Joseph's School Community.

Catholic Identity

School Vision

We are:

- A Christ centred community which embraces the teaching, values and ministry of our Catholic faith.
- A community in which each member is to be acknowledged and nurtured in a unique, caring, respectful manner.
- A community which provides an education which nurtures the soul, body and mind and encourages an ongoing love of learning.
- A community that strives to provide a positive and safe environment for all.

St Joseph's School is part of a long tradition of Catholic education in Wagga Wagga. The first Catholic school was established on this site in 1885. Over the years lay men and women and religious sisters from the Presentation Congregation have provided quality Catholic education.

The presence of the clergy is evident in our school community. The parish priest visits regularly and attends many school meetings and gatherings. He actively contributes to the nurturing of the faith life of staff, students and families through liturgies and sacraments.

The school enjoys a rich liturgical life as part of the St Michael's Cathedral Parish. Students from Years Three to Year Six regularly have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance. Year Three students prepared for and received the Sacrament of Eucharist in Term 3, and Year Two students received the Sacrament of Penance for their first time in Term 4. Year Six students were confirmed at St Michael's Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday by Bishop Gerard Hanna.

St Joseph's School has a comprehensive Religion Education program developed by the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. It is the resource on which all teaching is based. The program covers the areas of Prayer and Liturgy, Life in Christ, Celebration of the Christian Mystery and the Profession of Faith. Students receive a thirty minute RE lesson daily. It is a developmental program, with each year building on prior learning.

Teachers of Kindergarten to Year Six continued to integrate the 'Making Jesus Real' programme into their classroom learning experiences.

Year Three participated in a reflection day on the Eucharist facilitated by their class teacher.

Several students from Years Four and Five are altar servers for school Masses and on weekends.

A key focus for the school community has been reaching out to those in need as part of the mission of the church. Each class nominated an activity that they would engage in to support the needs of others during the year.

Students engaged in activities to raise money to support the endeavours of CARITAS, Catholic Mission and St Vincent de Paul. In 2014, the school raised \$1967.50.

St Joseph's Feast Day was a focus in the community, with the school community celebrating Mass together and students engaging in activities focussing on the qualities of Saint Joseph and his life.

A Message from key School Bodies

The School Council had a full year. The body established priorities at the commencement of the year and focussed on these.

The School Councils key achievements during 2014 were:

- Working with the principal to develop a five year maintenance plan for the school
- Working bees to keep the school a safe and attractive place for all
- Review sport policy, conduct policy and student leadership policy

School Council Chairman

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

The staff reviewed the data from the NAPLAN testing and were pleased with the results for our school. The detailed data is available from the My Schools website.

Staff members have identified strengths and areas to focus on in teaching and learning from the assessment data. Staff continue working to address the needs of learners particularly in the areas of writing and working mathematically which were areas identified as focuses for 2012 and 2013.

Professional Learning

Developing staff knowledge and understanding of the Australian Curriculum was a major focus of professional learning during 2014. Teachers participated in two full days of learning with other teachers from the diocese and engaged in twilight sessions and staff meetings to ensure readiness to implement the Australian Curriculum - English in 2014.

All staff participated in a faith development day with the focus on continuing the mission of Jesus through our Catholic tradition and Presentation heritage.

Staff were also involved in the following:

- Leadership retreats – organised by Catholic Schools Office
- 'Wellbeing' - CSO
- Best Start training - CSO
- Numeracy – CSO
- Sena Training – CSO
- Principals conference – Mulwala
- 'Faith, Story and Witness' – CSO

- Leadership
- 'Keeping them Safe' – online training – CSO
- CPR training – CSO
- School improvement tool – focus on data – school based

Teaching Staff

The NSW Government requires that this report details 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.

A	B	C	TOTAL
11	-	-	11

Workforce Composition

The staff is made up of the following roles:

- 6 x full time teachers, including the Assistant Principal and Religious Education Coordinator
- 4 x part time teachers
- 1 x Principal
- 1 x part time teacher assistant
- 1 x full time school secretary
- 1 x part time teacher librarian
- 1 x part time chaplain
- 1 x part time tuckshop coordinator
- 1 x part time grounds keeper

There are no Indigenous employees.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	95%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	95%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	96%

Student Non-Attendance

Student non-attendance is monitored through the following procedures that the school has in place:

- The class roll is marked daily by teachers online using SAS, with absences being carefully recorded.

-Parents/carers are to supply formal notification to the school explaining absences.

-Unexplained absences are initially followed up by the class teacher.

-In the case that absences are not explained or there is a significant absence pattern, the matter is followed up by the principal making contact with the parents/carers.

-In the event of many unexplained absences the principal contacts the Catholic Schools Office and Family and Community Services so that appropriate follow-up can be implemented.

Enrolment Policy

Our school implements the Diocese of Wagga Wagga Enrolment Policy.

Characteristics of the Student Body

As of 2014 August census:

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
93	100	0	16	193

**Language background Other Than English*

School Policies

Discipline

Our Discipline Policy is written with the welfare of the child as our highest priority. Our policy aims to ensure that each child is treated in a fair and Christian manner. Our policy and attitude promotes self-responsibility and care for one another. Students, as it becomes necessary, are supported to improve and develop their behavior through behavior coaching and mentoring.

The school adheres to diocesan policy ensuring that no corporal punishment is used in the school. It does not sanction the administration of corporal punishment by non-school persons, including parents to enforce discipline at school.

Student Welfare

All at St Joseph's have the wellbeing of students as a primary focus. Policies are in place to assist staff to ensure procedures and

structures are in place to support the care of students.

The school follows up quickly on all concerns raised by students or parents concerning the welfare of students and appropriate action is implemented to remediate the situation.

Students and families have access to a school counselor from Centacare who visits the site weekly. The chaplain, available on site two days a week, provides support for the wellbeing of students and their families.

Complaints and Grievances

In order to ensure procedural fairness, St Joseph's School follows the policies and procedures detailed in Catholic Schools Office Handbook regarding complaints and resolving grievances.

St Joseph's School encourages any person or group of people with a complaint to seek the assistance of the principal. Through the weekly newsletter members of the community are encouraged, should they have a concern, to raise it with the teacher concerned or the principal.

If the issue remains unresolved the person/persons may wish to express their views in writing to the principal or the parish priest.

If the person/persons are not satisfied that the matter has been resolved within the school or has a grievance with the principal, then they may approach the Catholic Schools Office. The CSO personnel dealing with the issue will assume that the relevant procedure has been followed.

Changes to School Policies

Policies in relation to the above mentioned areas were reviewed during the year. New policies were developed and implemented for school student leadership, sport, and community code of conduct.

Polices may be accessed by contacting the school office or principal. It is hoped that policies will be available via the school website during 2015.

The school has implemented a cyclic plan for review of all school policies to ensure that they reflect current requirements and practice.

Improvement Targets

Developing a deeper sense of the schools' history, tradition and spirituality:

Staff participated in reflections based on 'The Bishop's Mandate' and in a day of reflection based on the life of Nano Nagle – her mission and ours.

Staff engaged in professional learning based on current educational practice, goals were set and staff reflected on achievement of goals for improved teaching and learning.

With the use of the National School Improvement Tool, the staff carried out a thorough analysis of data for improved student learning.

Staff analysed Best Start and NAPLAN data to identify areas for improvement. Evidence suggests that practice and reflection is impacting on student achievement in some focus areas.

Engagement in professional conversations to improve student achievement

The quality of professional conversations continues to develop whether formal or informal.

Staff worked on increasing teaching collaboration and commitment to 21st century classroom practices.

Staff are reflecting on their practice to enable improvements for students.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

Respectful behaviours are highlighted and examples given regularly at assemblies and classrooms.

Students are consulted about some matters relating directly to them and their opinions taken into account in decision making. In 2015, we wish to formalise this into a SRC.

Students initiated a School Talent Quest and with support organised and facilitated the event.

Restorative practices are used in classrooms to develop cohesive communities.

Individual students took on the responsibility of watering the garden.

In 2014, the school introduced 'You Can Do It' for Kindergarten to Year 6 to build social and emotional skills across the school.

In support of this, students have continued with 'Making Jesus Real' and classroom initiatives to improve positive relationships.

Coaching and mentoring of individual and small groups of students continued.

Parents and key professionals involved as part of student wellbeing meetings.

Centacare Counsellor implemented specific programmes in classrooms.

Year Five designed 'respect' posters and displayed them around the school to highlight the importance of respect.

Community Satisfaction

Feedback from parent meetings and survey indicates that parents are very satisfied with the school.

Feedback from the staff survey indicates that the staff are very satisfied with life at St Joseph's school.

Feedback from the students survey and discussions indicates that they are happy, feel safe and are learning.

Whilst there is a high degree of satisfaction the community is aware of areas that it can continue to grow and improve.

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.

Parents

My child is usually happy at St Joseph's School.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
<i>49 %</i>	<i>50.5%</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	<i>0 %</i>

Students

I am usually happy at St Joseph's School.

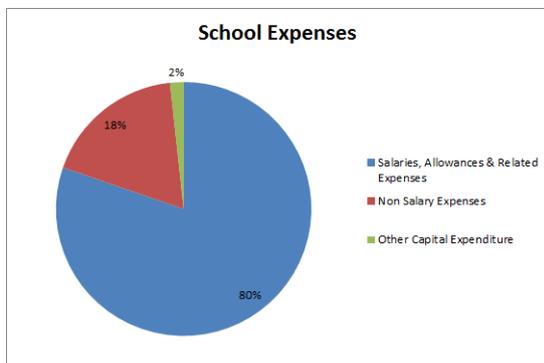
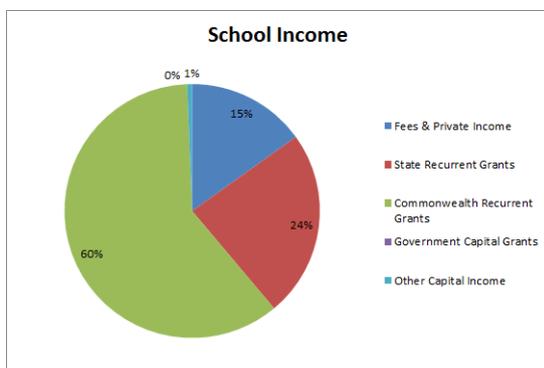
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
30%	65%	5%	0%

Staff

I am usually happy at St Joseph's Wagga Wagga.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
75%	25%	0%	0%

Financial Statement Summary



About This Report

This report was written by the Principal, Mrs Kathy Gaskin, in consultation with the staff. It was resourced using diocesan and school policies, student, staff and parent input.