

St Joseph's Primary TENTERFIELD  
Annual School Report to the Community

2015



**School Contact Details**

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**Principal**

Mrs Cherie Yates

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## ABOUT THIS REPORT

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St Joseph's Primary is registered by the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW. The Catholic Schools Office, Armidale the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the Education Act 1990 (NSW).

The *Annual School Report to the Community* provides parents and the wider School community with fair, reliable and objective information about School performance measures and policies, as determined by the Minister for Education. The *Report* also outlines information about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance during the year and the achievements arising from the implementation of the School's Annual Improvement Plan.

The *Report* demonstrates accountability to regulatory bodies, the School community and the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale. This *Report* has been approved by the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale in consultation with the Regional Consultant who monitors that the School has appropriate processes in place to ensure compliance with all Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards, NSW requirements for Registration and Accreditation.

This *Report* complements and is supplementary to School newsletters and other regular communications. Further information about the School may be obtained by contacting the School or by visiting the School's website.

### **Principal's Message**

The 2015 school year was my first year as Principal of St Joseph's School and it has been a wonderful experience.

At St Joseph's we are aware of the need for spiritual as well as the academic, social and emotional education. We see our role as educators as a partnership with parents. St Joseph's has a committed School Board and a hard working P&F Association who work tirelessly for our students.

Students at St Joseph's participate in a varied curriculum which marries the fundamental aspects of learning with technological innovation. All classrooms have a Smart-Board, iPads and laptops. This year the school purchased Chrome books for all students in Years 3 to 6. Teachers are continually seeking ways to assist with the effective use of technology in the classroom.

Our classrooms were purpose built in 2008 and are equipped with state of the art technology. Further building in 2011 ensured we continue to have some of the most up to date facilities. Our teaching staff are committed educators and have a depth and breadth of experience which allows them to tailor learning experiences to the needs of the students. The Staff are concerned for the wellbeing and success of all students.

### **Parent Body Message**

This year the P&F has contributed a substantial amount of money to the school to help purchase resources for Maths and English. As well as providing money for resources the P&F have contributed money for excursions and general outings around the local area. The major fundraising event for our P&F this year was the Biannual Debutante Ball. With monies raised, the Association bought the students new aluminium picnic tables which has ensured all students no longer sit on the cement to eat their food, but rather have a lovely environment for their recess and lunch breaks.

The P&F however are more than a fundraising body. We have been able to help the school with a welcome BBQ for new parents, morning tea for grandparents, a BBQ for Carols By Candlelight and catering for the end of year presentation day. All of these events help to build the school community as a welcoming and friendly place to be.

### **Student Body Message**

At St Joseph's Year 6 students are school leaders. As leaders we are expected to run assemblies, welcome visitors and maintain the sports shed. We are also expected to look after the other students. We also lead the school in morning prayer. We assist anywhere needed such as representing our school at ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. We also assist with fundraising activities for Catholic Missions. The Sports Captains work hard to assist the staff in organising the younger students at Sports Carnivals and by giving out sports equipment during break times all year.

Our roles have enabled us to be responsible, trustworthy, organised and active members of our school.

School leaders 2015.

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## SECTION TWO: SCHOOL FEATURES

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St Joseph's Primary is a Catholic systemic Co-educational School located in TENTERFIELD.

St Joseph's Primary is a co-educational school catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 6. The first Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart came to Tenterfield on 17th April, 1880. Saint Mary MacKillop visited the first convent in August 1890. In July 1914, the now School Administration Centre was blessed and dedicated as the new convent. The first school was the lower storey of the first convent until the building of the school on the present site in 1914. In 1966 further additions and alterations were made to the school. A demountable classroom was added in the late 1970's. The Parish of Tenterfield farewelled the Sisters of St Joseph in 1992. In the 2008 school year the school completed a major building and refurbishment project, having received a Commonwealth Grant of \$955,000 in 2005. St Joseph's has been part of the Country Areas Program (CAP) for 16 years and receives extra funding to support teacher development. In 2008 and 2009 the school received Australian Government grants each to the value of \$55 000 to install water tanks and solar panels. In 2009, the perimeter fencing around the school was erected and footpaths in front of the Administration Centre and along Scott St were constructed. In 2010 the school held celebrations to mark the canonisation of St Mary MacKillop whose sisters founded the school in 1880. In 2011, a new hall, classroom and disabled facilities were constructed completing the master plan of the school.

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## SECTION THREE: STUDENT PROFILE

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### Student Enrolment

The School caters for students in Kindergarten to Year 6. Students attending this School come from a variety of backgrounds. The following information describes the student profile for 2015:

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
62	59	6	121

\* Language Background Other than English

### Enrolment Policy

The Diocese of Armidale adheres to the policy as endorsed by the Bishops Commission for Catholic Schools 'Enrolment of Students in the Catholic Systemic Schools of the Diocese of Armidale'. The Catholic Schools Office Armidale monitors the implementation of this policy. The policy has been developed in the context of government and system requirements. Children from families who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church may be considered eligible for enrolment. A pastoral approach is adopted for parents experiencing genuine difficulty with the payment of fees.

The full text of the 'Enrolment of Students in Catholic Systemic Schools of the Diocese of Armidale', along with any specific enrolment policy for the school, is printed at the end of this document.

### Student Attendance Rates

The average student attendance rate for 2015 was 93.30%. Attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group	
Kindergarten	94.00%
Year 1	92.74%
Year 2	89.98%
Year 3	94.50%
Year 4	93.58%
Year 5	93.37%
Year 6	94.91%

## **Managing Student Non-Attendance**

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. The School, in partnership with parents, is responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, School staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

School staff, under the Principal's leadership, support the regular attendance of students by:

- providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the School community;
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance;
- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance;
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise.

The Principal is responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by ensuring that:

- parents and students are regularly informed of attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance;
- all cases of unsatisfactory attendance and part or full day absences from school are investigated promptly and that appropriate intervention strategies are implemented;
- the Director of Catholic Schools or designated Catholic Schools Office Armidale officer is provided with regular information about students for whom chronic non-attendance is an issue and for whom School strategies have failed to restore regular attendance.

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**SECTION FOUR: STAFFING PROFILE**

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The following information describes the staffing profile for 2015:

Total Teaching Staff*	Total Non-Teaching Staff	Combined Total
8	4	12

\* This number includes 7 full-time teachers and 1 part-time teachers.

Percentage of staff who are Indigenous	0%
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### Professional Learning

The ongoing professional development of each staff member is highly valued. Professional learning can take many forms including whole school staff days, subject specific in services, meetings and conferences and a range of professional learning programs provided by the Catholic Schools Office Armidale. The School takes responsibility for planning, implementing, evaluating and tracking of its staff professional learning and individual staff members take responsibility for their ongoing professional development. All teachers have been involved in professional learning opportunities during the year related to improving student outcomes.

The School held the equivalent of five staff development days this year with areas of focus as follows:

<b>Term 1</b>	Paraprofessional Comprehension Training, Middle Years Mathematics, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention
<b>Term 2</b>	Core Values and Christian Anthropology, Twilight Staff RE Retreat, Modelled Reading, Storytelling in Religious Education, BOSTES Accreditation Information Day, Indicators of Abuse and Reporting, Creating an environment for Learning and Social Interaction. Hawker Brownlow Conference Brisbane
<b>Term 3</b>	Introduction to the History and Geography Syllabus, Grading work A-E Bostes Inservice, Twilight Staff RE Retreat, Google Expert On Site Training, Google Certified Educator, Let's Talk Dhwanda
<b>Term 4</b>	The Pearson National Learning and Teaching Conference 2015, K-6 NSW Syllabuses History and Geography Writing Days,

Staff have attended a wide variety of opportunities this year. With the introduction of the History and Geography Syllabuses in 2016 this was a focus for all staff to familiarise themselves with the documents and to plan and write appropriate units of work for 2016. In Religious Education the Staff attended the Professional Development Days led by Bishop Kennedy and

were involved in Twilight Staff Retreats. Senior Staff attended the National Learning and Teaching Conference for the first time this year.

### **Teacher Standards**

The following table sets out the number of teachers who fall into each of the categories determined by the Board of Studies:

Teacher Qualifications		Number of Teachers
1	Those having formal qualifications from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	6
2	Those having graduate qualifications but not a formal teaching qualification from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	0

St Joseph's Primary follows the Armidale Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student text *To Know, Worship and Love*, as authorised by the Bishop of Armidale, Michael Kennedy.

#### Liturgical Life

St Joseph's Primary School is part of St Mary's Parish, Tenterfield. The Principal/ Religious Education Co-ordinator, works with the Parish Priest, who is often involved in school activities. The school incorporates the Program 'Celebrating Our Journey' into all aspects of school life and this contributes significantly to the Catholic culture evident in the school. All classes attended Parish Masses a number of times each term. Once a term the whole school celebrated Mass together. St Joseph's commenced the school year with a Mass and Induction of school leaders. St Joseph's Feast Day was celebrated with a school Mass. Ash Wednesday saw all students attend Mass. The school also gathered to celebrate Feast Days in the Liturgical Year. The school gathered to celebrate the conclusion of the school year with a Mass in the Parish Church.

#### Staff and Student Faith Formation

Daily prayer time continued for staff and students throughout the year with school leaders also leading the school community in prayer at assemblies. Sacramental programs were carried out with Year 3 students making their first Reconciliation and receiving First Holy Communion. Parents were welcomed to participate through meetings and attending programs. The whole school staff participated in a Religious Education Inservice day in April which was led by Bishop Kennedy for the Catholic Principles and Values and Christian Anthropology components of our guidelines to be incorporated in our NSW Syllabus. Staff attended two Twilight meetings led by the CSO Spirituality Team.

#### Social Justice

The students learn about issues regarding those who are marginalised in society and how people perceive those who may be different. There is an emphasis on 'treating people as you would like to be treated yourself'. A part of the Religious Education syllabus requires students to live out the Gospel values in a practical way in their daily lives. This year the students raised money for Caritas with a walk-a-thon and during Advent they prepared Christmas hampers for those less fortunate people in our local community giving to St Vincent de Paul for distribution.

#### Parish Links

St Joseph's School, Tenterfield is very much a part of St Mary's Parish. Father Barry Leech, the Parish Priest, supports the pastoral role of the school. Fr Leech is actively involved in the St Joseph's School Board and is consulted regarding administrative and financial matters of the school. Members of the school staff are active members of St Mary's Parish. Parish Family members are invited to all significant school events in our Parish. This year the school took pride in helping to celebrate the Sesqui Centenary of our Parish. The school also hosted the Carols By Candlelight event which was well attended by the parish.

Students in Years 6 in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Armidale undertake the Diocesan Religious Education (RE) Test annually. The test consists of fifty multiple-choice questions. Results of the test are analysed by teachers and are used to inform teaching and learning in Religious Education.

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## SECTION SIX: CURRICULUM

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The school provides an educational program based on, and taught in accordance with the Board of Studies, Teacher and Educational Standards, NSW syllabuses for Primary Education. The Key Learning Areas (KLAs) are English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. In addition, the school implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Schools Office Armidale.

St Joseph's Primary School follows the Board of Studies syllabus for each subject offered (as required for registration under the Education Act 1990) and implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Schools Office.

Staff at St Joseph's have continued their commitment to cater for the varying academic range and needs of the students. Scope and Sequence plans for all Key Learning Areas are continually revised and updated to allow for more clearly defined outcome oriented programs. Experienced Educational Assistants support teachers with students within the classroom. The school has strived to continually update technology with the acquisition of interactive touch screens, new Chrome Book computers, smartboards and internet access available in all classrooms. A comprehensive sporting program exists with three major school carnivals through which children may reach Diocesan, State and National representation. Students represented the Diocese at state level in athletics while there were representatives at Diocesan level in cross country, swimming, cricket, soccer and touch football. Daily physical education continues to be a part of the program for all classes complemented by the continuation of the Crunch and Sip program throughout the school. The cultural program saw students broaden their outlook through participation in Oracles of the Bush which resulted in six of our students being published in a reputable National Poetry Magazine. During NAIDOC Week this year we were fortunate to use the talents of Mr Rod Macintosh who lead the students through the significance of Aboriginal tools, language and art. Rod painted a beautiful mural for our school library which represented our local community as the 'Gathering of the Clans'.

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**SECTION SEVEN: STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN STATE-WIDE TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS**

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The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. An analysis of these results assists School planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

The tables below show the percentages of students who achieved particular skill bands in numeracy and the aspects of literacy. The School results shown are compared to students nationally. Literacy is reported in four content strands (aspects): Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. Numeracy is reported as a single content strand.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2015		% of students in the top 2 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Reading</b>	38.00%	48.20%	0.00%	11.00%
	<b>Writing</b>	50.00%	46.80%	0.00%	7.40%
	<b>Spelling</b>	19.00%	41.10%	6.00%	14.50%
	<b>Grammar</b>	38.00%	51.80%	13.00%	10.70%
	<b>Numeracy</b>	25.00%	33.60%	13.00%	15.20%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2015		% of students in the top 2 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Reading</b>	29.00%	33.40%	18.00%	18.20%
	<b>Writing</b>	0.00%	19.10%	0.00%	17.50%
	<b>Spelling</b>	22.00%	32.60%	17.00%	15.30%
	<b>Grammar</b>	22.00%	36.20%	17.00%	16.20%
	<b>Numeracy</b>	22.00%	27.50%	6.00%	15.80%

### **Student Welfare Policy**

At St Joseph's Primary School, we are a Kismatter School. Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 are involved in the Bounce Back Programme in Personal Development lessons. Students respect themselves, others and their teachers. The rights of all students and adults will be respected. Positive behaviour is encouraged and rewarded. Pastoral Care is an important part of St Joseph's School for all students.

The full text of the School's Pastoral Care Policy may be accessed on the School's website or at the administration office.

### **Discipline Policy**

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this School. The School does not sanction administration of corporal punishment by School persons and non-School persons, including parents, to enforce discipline in the School.

St Joseph's Primary School bases its Discipline Policy on the following documents: The Bishop Commission Policies Pastoral Care In The Catholic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese, Policy On Suspension, Expulsion of Students In Catholic Schools In The Diocese of Armidale, the Anti-bullying Guidelines and Management Of Drug Related Issues In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale. These policies are based on procedural fairness and are discussed with students on a regular basis. Staff deal with discipline in a fair and consistent manner.

The full text of the School's Student Discipline Policy may be accessed on the School's website or at the administration office.

### **Anti-Bullying Policy**

The Catholic Schools Office, Armidale has established a *Student Anti-Bullying Policy* which is implemented by our school and all systemic schools in the Diocese. It provides a framework for school communities to work together to prevent and address issues of student bullying, in order to build respectful relationships that respond effectively and sensitively to the needs of each person. The Catholic Schools Office (CSO) monitors the implementation of this policy. No changes were made to the policy this year.

The full text of the *Anti-Bullying Policy* may be accessed on the School's website, the administration office or at the CSO website.

### **Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy**

The Diocese of Armidale has established a *Staff Grievance Policy* which is implemented by our school in the Diocese. Each school also has an individual Grievance Policy and Procedure for dealing with matters at a school level. The rationale for these policies is that within the reality of the schooling experience, it is recognised that, from time to time, misunderstandings and differences of opinion will occur, and that these need to be resolved satisfactorily. Addressing such matters within a framework of dignity, respect and truth can provide powerful opportunities to model the love of Christ in the reality of our contemporary world. The Catholic Schools Office monitors the implementation of these policy. No changes were made to the policy this year.

The full text of the individual policies may be accessed on the School's website, the administration office or at the CSO website.

### **Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility**

It is expected that students at St Joseph's School will demonstrate respect for each other and for members of the school community in order to maintain a harmonious environment. Students are expected to address their teachers and each other by name. It is expected that students will use manners and demonstrate respectful, cooperative and inclusive behaviour whilst at this school. The children are expected to act responsibly at this school. The students are expected to work and play in a respectful and very cooperative manner. They are also given many responsibilities at the school. The structure of student leadership lends itself to this. Students also participate in a buddy system where they act as mentors for younger students. In 2015 all classes participated in the Bounce Back programme.

Each year, the School develops an Annual Improvement Plan indicating the intended key improvements for student learning outcomes. The plan is drawn from the School's Strategic Improvement Plan and informed by the Catholic School's Office Annual Improvement Plan. The School engages in an annual evidence-based evaluation of its effectiveness against these external standards in collaboration with the Schools Consultant.

### **Key Improvements Achieved in 2015**

Implementation of the Science and Maths Curricula has been a priority for 2015, as was the continuation of MiniLit and MultiLit in our school along with intensive use of Comprehension strategies which was supported by the Diocesan Literacy Enhancement Strategy. Staff have begun to build Professional Learning Communities.

Through the analysis of Data in our school and the use of the NSW tracking continuums, students have moved forward through clusters. The staff have used the Teaching and Learning Cycle to ensure the assessment of the students is clear and the direction that is required for all students to achieve is dealt with by explicit teaching at the students level of need.

St Joseph's has three staff members who have completed their course and our now "Google Experts" which has improved our use of technology in the school. We have purchased 40 Chrome Books which allows all students from Years 3 to 6 to have their own Chrome Book on which to work. All staff have had Google on site training.

### **Priority Key Improvements for 2016**

During 2016 St Joseph's Staff will develop personal goals aligned with the AITSL Professional Standards.

Continuation of the Catholic Principles and Values for the NSW Syllabus will be continued to be implemented.

We will implement the History and Geography Syllabi in HSIE.

Assessment will be a focus for our staff.

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## SECTION TEN: PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION

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The opinions and ideas of parents, students and teachers are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving improved outcomes for students. This year, the School has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, students and teachers.

### **Parent Satisfaction**

Parent survey responses were received from 27 respondents. This equates to a response rate of 51.9%. St Joseph's Primary School recorded an overall parent satisfaction score of 81% (4.06 out of 5).

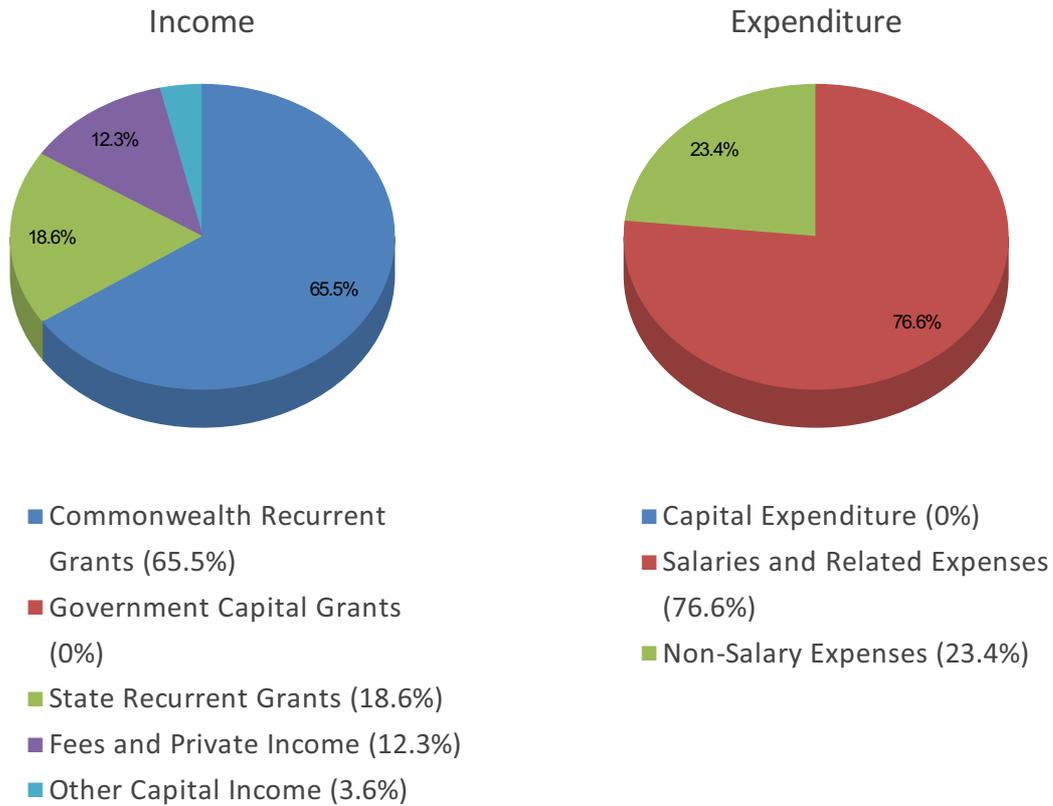
### **Student Satisfaction**

Student survey responses were received from 22 out of a total of 40 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 55%. St Joseph's Primary School recorded an overall satisfaction score of 87% (4.33 out of 5)

### **Teacher Satisfaction**

Staff survey responses were received from 8 out of a total of 9 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 88.9%. St Joseph's Primary School recorded an overall staff satisfaction score of 95% (4.76 out of 5).

**SECTION ELEVEN: FINANCIAL STATEMENT**



This School Financial Information is based on the detailed information provided to the Commonwealth Government in the Commonwealth Financial Questionnaire.

School Financial Information for the 2015 year is detailed below:

RECURRENT and CAPITAL INCOME	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants <sup>1</sup>	\$948,615
Government Capital Grants <sup>2</sup>	\$0
State Recurrent Grants <sup>3</sup>	\$268,583
Fees and Private Income <sup>4</sup>	\$177,589
Other Capital Income <sup>5</sup>	\$52,477
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,480,778</b>

RECURRENT and CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	
Capital Expenditure <sup>6</sup>	\$192
Salaries and Related Expenses <sup>7</sup>	\$1,083,016
Non-Salary Expenses <sup>8</sup>	\$330,402
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$1,413,610</b>

For the 2015 year the St Joseph's Primary received \$33,514 as Interest Subsidy.

Our school community is appreciative of the support it received from the NSW State Government under the Interest Subsidy Scheme

**Notes**

1. Commonwealth Recurrent Grants includes recurrent per capita grants and special purpose grants.
2. Government Capital Grants includes all capital grants received from the Commonwealth and State Governments.
3. State Recurrent Grants includes recurrent grants per capita, special purpose grants and interest subsidy grants.
4. Fees and Private Income include Archdiocesan and school based fees, excursions and other private income.
5. Other Capital Income includes building levy fees and capital donations used to fund Capital Expenditure.
6. Capital Expenditure includes expenditure on School Buildings, and Furniture and Equipment.
7. Salaries and Related Expenditure includes all salaries, allowances and related expenses such as superannuation and workers compensation insurance.
8. Non-Salary Expenses include all other Non-Salary Recurrent Expenditure covering resources, administration, operational expenses, utilities, repairs and maintenance.

**Enrolment Policy**

This school does not have any enrolment policies or support documents in addition to the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools 'Enrolment Policy' for schools in the Diocese of Armidale. This policy is available on the Armidale Catholic Schools Office website at; <http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au> .