

St Joseph's Primary School

Alma St, PO Box 120

WEE WAA, NSW 2388

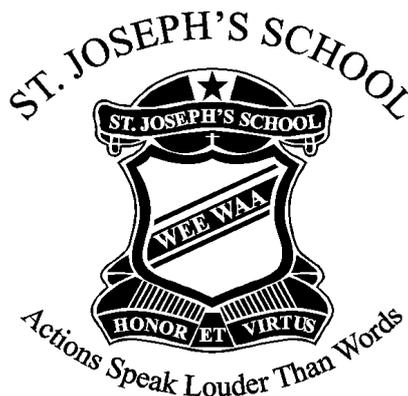
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Parish Priest: Fr Paul Anthony

Parish: St Andrew's, Wee Waa

Principal: Mr Peter Holmes



Annual School Report 2013

Mission/Vision Statement

We, the school community of St Joseph's, Wee Waa, are committed to a lifestyle that is a sign that God is truly with us. God's presence is recognised in our school where there is: Love and Peace, Justice and Truth, Compassion and Joy, Wholeness and Grace and when Human Dignity is promoted, Community is developed and Freedom is respected.

About this Report

St Joseph's Primary School is registered by the Board of Studies (NSW) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale, the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990. The annual report provides parents and the wider school community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The report describes achievement of school development priorities in 2013 and gives information about 2014 priorities. This Report complements and is supplementary to school newsletters and other regular communications. This Report is sent to the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale for validation with the requirements of the Education Act 1990 before being forwarded to the Board of Studies. Following its submission to the NSW Board of Studies the report will be presented to the parent body and be available on the CSO website by 30 June 2014. The school consultant also validates that the school has in place appropriate processes to ensure compliance with all NSW Board of Studies requirements for Registration.

Principal's Message

St Joseph's School provided quality teaching and learning during 2013.

The school was well supported in its educational mission by the parent body, members of the Wee Waa Parish, local Services and Sporting Clubs and local businesses. The members of St Joseph's School community are proud of the contribution this school makes to education in the Wee Waa Community, established by the Sisters of St Joseph in 1909.

Parental Involvement

The School Board consists of a Chairperson, Parish Priest, Principal, Secretary, Treasurer, and representatives from the parish, staff and parent body. The Board is responsible for setting the budget each year, overseeing changes in policies and continuing maintenance of the school. Many activities were organised through the Parent & Friends Association throughout the year to support the school both financially and socially. The P & F had a very successful year, running fundraising events such as the Welcome BBQ, Mother's Day Fashion Parade, Mother's Day Stall, Father's Day Breakfast and the annual School Fete. The commitment of the P & F Association provides support to the students of St Joseph's in many ways, including the purchase of resources, upgrading equipment and helping with the cost of excursions. The School Board and P & F Association are very appreciative of all the support received from school families and other members of the Wee Waa community.

Student Leadership

It was a privilege to be elected as School Captains for 2013. It was an honour to be leaders of the school and become part of the history of St Joseph's school. During the year, the students of St Joseph's School participated in many activities. Some highlights include the school swimming carnival and Grandparents' Day celebrations during Senior Citizen's Week. It was an honour to lead the school in the Anzac Day Parade along with the local community. Other highlights were the Athletics Carnival, Country Areas Program Camp and all our excursions, especially our seniors excursion to Canberra. We enjoyed being leaders of St Joseph's School for 2013 and wish the new leaders all the best for 2014. St Joseph's School Captains.

School Profile

School History

The first classes were held in the original church which was situated between the present church and presbytery. The school, with its new buildings, was opened in 1910. In 1916 there were 12 boarders, 112 pupils, 30 music pupils and 4 Sisters. In 1969, the Parish Priest initiated plans for building a new school. A committee of five was formed and was supported by the parishioners. The committee members each donated one hundred acres of wheat to begin the money raising campaign, and other parishioners then came forward with whatever support they were able to give. The new St Joseph's School and buildings were blessed and opened by the Bishop of Armidale on April 30th, 1972. In 1990 the involvement of the Sisters of St Joseph in the school ceased, ending 80 years of service. The first lay Principal was appointed in 1991, although the school had been staffed predominately by lay teachers for a good many years. In 1992, St Joseph's School was given a generous Government Grant of over \$300,000 for the construction of much needed extensions to the school. The new extensions were officially opened on the 19th March, 1994. Today, St Joseph's still occupies the same site and in 2009, celebrated its Centenary, marking 100 years of Catholic education in Wee Waa.

Location/Drawing Area

St Joseph's School, is located in Alma Street, Wee Waa in north-west New South Wales. The parish church, St Andrews is located one block away, in Rose Street, which is the main street of Wee Waa.

Students are drawn from the town of Wee Waa and its surrounding district.

Enrolment Policy

St Joseph's Primary School follows the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools policy Enrolment of Students in Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale 2002. This document can be obtained from the school office or is available on the Catholic Schools Office web site: <http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au>.

Student Enrolment

Year	Boys	Girls	Indigenous	LBOTE
K	9	14	3	1
1	8	5	3	0
2	11	15	0	0
3	7	7	4	0
4	8	11	1	0
5	5	5	0	1
6	3	4	2	0
2011	45	43	0	0
2012	48	50	10	0
2013	59	59	13	3

Student Mobility

In 2013 11 children enrolled at the school with 10 families departing the school. School enrollments continue to grow steadily.

Student Attendance

Average daily attendance for 2013

Kindergarten	97%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	96%
All students	97%

Management of Non-Attendance

School attendance is managed in accordance with the Catholic Schools Office Guidelines for the Management of Student Attendance.

Parents are required to explain all absences with a written note. Absences which are unexplained are followed up with a phone call and/or a reminder letter home requesting parents give a reason for the absence.

Staff Profile

During 2013, St Joseph's had a total teaching staff of 5.37. Staff was deployed as class teachers, library support and school administration support. Three out of five teaching staff had five years or more teaching experience. Of these teachers, three had obtained post-graduate experience awards.

The average daily staff attendance rate for 2013 was 95.14%.

Teacher Standards

Teacher qualifications fall into 1 of 3 categories for all teaching staff responsible for delivering the curriculum.

Teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by AEI - NOOSR* 100%

Have qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia within AEI-NOOSR* guidelines but lack formal teacher qualifications 0%

Do not have qualifications as above but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context 0%

* Australian Education Institution - National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition

Percentage of teachers accredited to teach Religious Education 20

Percentage of teachers undertaking accreditation to teach Religious Education 0

Staff Professional Learning

During 2013, the teaching and support staff at St Joseph's engaged in a range of Professional Learning programs to further complement their skills. Programs accessed by teachers included New English Curriculum Modules, TSLI modules & CAP development days, and staff development days.

Catholic Identity

Religious Education Program

St Joseph's Primary School 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

The St Joseph's School community came together to celebrate a number of liturgies throughout the year. Whole school Masses were held to celebrate the beginning and end of the school year. Various feast days were celebrated such as St Joseph's Day. Holy Week activities were a significant element of the school's liturgical life as were the Sacramental Programmes, including Penance and Eucharist. As well as regular class and school prayer times, the children were involved in celebrating times of importance in the school and wider community, such as NAIDOC Week.

Staff and Student Faith Formation

During 2013, staff and students participated in a number of faith formation activities through Sacramental Programmes and retreat programmes.

Year 6 Religious Education Test

Average score	Diocesan (%)	This School (%)
2011	69.0	65.2
2012	68.4	70
2013	70.8	54

Social Justice

St Joseph's participated in the following social justice opportunities: Caritas Project Compassion, Children's Missions, NAIDOC Week activities, St Vincent de Paul winter and Christmas appeals.

Parish Links

The school had regular communication with our Parish Priest, Fr Paul Anthony Aguilar and Pastoral Associate, Sr Timothy Monaghan throughout the year. The RE Coordinator organises the Sacramental Program for the Parish. Staff are rostered for reading and as Eucharistic Ministers at Sunday Mass. One Parishioner is elected as a representative

of the Parish on the School Board. Items from the Parish Bulletin including mass times, are included in the School Newsletter. In 2013, Family Masses continued to be popular.

Respect and Responsibility

St Joseph's prides itself on promoting respect and responsibility with a high expectation for behaviour. School leadership is promoted by the school through the cultivation of Year 6 as school leaders. The school encourages the students to participate in community events. In 2013, St Joseph's students attended events such as ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, Clean Up Australia Day, Senior Citizen's luncheon, Grandparents Day, NAIDOC Week, GRIP conference and the Wee Waa Show.

School Curriculum

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.

Features of the School Curriculum

The school utilises the Board of Studies Documents for the six KLAs and implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Schools Office. The students were able to attend excursions to Canberra, and Narrabri, thanks to the support of CAP and the P & F Association. The students participated in a wide range of sporting events, including swimming and athletics carnivals, summer and winter sports trials, cross country trials, soccer and touch football carnivals. Several students were selected to participate at both Diocesan and Polding levels. Students in Years 3-6 were given the opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools. Students identified with Additional Needs were assisted by Education Assistants. Additional support was accessed through the Additional Needs Consultants. The employment of an Aboriginal Education Aide ensured further support for children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. This year the Minilit Program began at St Josephs. This program is a diocesan initiative that aims to support and improve younger students development in Literacy especially reading.

Student Performance

St Joseph's Primary School uses a variety of assessment strategies at key points in the learning framework. These include teacher observation, portfolios, projects and presentations. The school also participates in the nation-wide literacy and numeracy testing program for the purposes of diagnosing individual learning needs and reviewing whole class teaching programs. Information on student progress is communicated on a regular basis and opportunities exist for external assessment results to be discussed with parents on an individual basis annually.

Literacy and Numeracy

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was introduced for students in Years 3 and 5 in May 2008. NAPLAN replaces the previous State-based Basic Skills Test and the results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. Analysis of the results is used at school level to support the enhancement of Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all students. Year 3 results are reported in Bands 1 to 6 with Band 6 representing the highest achievement and Year 5 results are reported in Bands 3 to 8 with Band 8 representing the highest achievement. **Please note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number where necessary.**

Year 3 % in Bands		1&2	3&4	5&6
Reading	School	29	50	21
	National	11	41	46
Writing	School	36	43	21
	National	8	43	47
Spelling	School	50	29	21
	National	13	42	43
Grammar & Punctuation	School	43	36	21
	National	10	37	51
Numeracy	School	29	64	7
	National	12	54	32
Year 5 % in Bands		3&4	5&6	7&8
Reading	School	10	60	30
	National	12	54	33
Writing	School	10	70	20
	National	18	60	20
Spelling	School	10	80	10
	National	16	51	30
Grammar & Punctuation	School	10	70	20
	National	14	51	33
Numeracy	School	20	60	20
	National	20	53	25

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National Minimum Standards

The lowest Band for each year (Band 1 in Year 3 and Band 3 in Year 5) represents students who are achieving BELOW the National Minimum Standard (NMS) in each aspect of NAPLAN. Students in the second Band for each year (Band 2 in Year 3 and Band 4 in Year 5) represent students who are achieving at the NMS. Students in all other Bands are achieving ABOVE the NMS.

The percentages of students in this school achieving the national minimum standard are reported below.

		Year 3	Year 5
Reading	School	85.7	100
	National	95.3	96.1
Writing	School	78.6	100
	National	95	91.7
Spelling	School	85.7	90
	National	93.8	93.1
Grammar & Punctuation	School	85.7	90
	National	95.3	94.8
Numeracy	School	85.7	90
	National	95.7	93.4

The lower national percentages in Year 3 were impacted upon by the large number of students who have special learning needs in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

School Policy Summary

Student Welfare

St Joseph's Primary School seeks to provide a safe and supportive environment which:

- minimises risk of harm and ensures students feel secure
- supports the physical, social, academic, spiritual and emotional development of students

- provided student welfare policies and programs that develop a sense of self-worth and foster personal development

The school's Pastoral Care Policy is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese.

St Joseph's prides itself on being a welcoming community. Social competency is developed through the Buddy Program which ensures a safe and enjoyable transition for Kindergarten students and helps build relationships between the older and younger students. Positive behaviour is encouraged via weekly merit awards This year class teachers have begun trailing Class Dojo a rewards system that encourages and rewards social emotional and academic skills in the classroom.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available www.arm.catholic.edu.au.

Discipline Policy

St Joseph's Primary School bases its Discipline Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policies Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese, Policy On Suspension, Expulsion Or Exclusion Of Students In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale 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. In compliance with the NSW Education Reform Act 1990, corporal punishment is banned in ALL Armidale Diocesan schools.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available www.arm.catholic.edu.au.

Anti-Bullying Policy

St Joseph's Primary School bases its Anti-Bullying policy and procedures on the Catholic Schools Office operational policy "Student Anti-Bullying Policy". The full text of this policy is available on www.arm.catholic.edu.au.

Enrolment Policy

St Joseph's Primary School bases its Enrolment Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policy Enrolment of Students In Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available www.arm.catholic.edu.au.

Complaints and Grievance Resolution Policy

St Joseph's Primary School procedures for resolving concerns and complaints is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Complaints & Suggestions Policy for the Diocese of Armidale. This policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that members of the school community must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive, conciliatory environment. The full text of school and diocesan policies are available www.arm.catholic.edu.au.

Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

What I like about St Josephs: • Friendly and caring atmosphere • Local, Catholic, small school • The way the school encourages all students, the sense of community, the compassion and ethics of the students • A welcoming and listening principal • Good feedback • Equality between staff and parents • Children feel safe and happy to show their own personality • Behaviour expectations of the students are high • Approachable staff • Staff follow up on issues and are honest

What could improve: • Playground upgrade • Staffing allocation for classes • Use of technology in the classroom

School Review and Development

Annual School Priorities 2013

St Joseph's School priorities for 2013 include: • The continued development of the School Improvement Plan for 2012-2014 and the development of an Annual Plan. • The continued upgrading of the school's IT equipment and resources • Analysis of NAPLAN results, focusing on using data to inform teaching and learning • Continued encouragement of families to become involved in the spiritual life of the school with the introduction of Parish Family Masses. • Replacement of school play equipment.

Projected School Priorities 2014

Evaluate and review the diversity of opportunities for members of its community to participate in the life of the parish and the wider Church

Review of school's assessment policy Review the school awards system

Implement an enrichment program through the library

Implement Best Start program in Kindergarten

Staff develop units of work based on the new English and Science curricular

Staff complete the Safe school survey

Review pastoral care policy

Participate in Non Violent Staff Development Program

Implement a social skills program with a focus on resilience building and self-esteem with the senior students

Explore AITSL standards

Staff to complete self-assessment tool on AITSL website with a focus to developing a personal professional development plan for 2014

Major Achievements from the 2013 Annual Plan

During 2013 the following were achieved from our school's Annual Plan:

There was an increase in the number of parents/families involved in faith events

Staff participated in faith formation retreats

Prayer life of the school was enriched through newsletter inserts, prayer at staff meetings and community meetings

Staff used assessment data to inform their teaching and learning programs

Minilit was introduced to the school as a support to improving outcomes for younger struggling readers.

Staff work through Australian Curriculum English Modules 1 & 2

Staff participate in TLSI program with a focus on 21st Century Pedagogy

Resources were purchased to support 21st Century Pedagogy

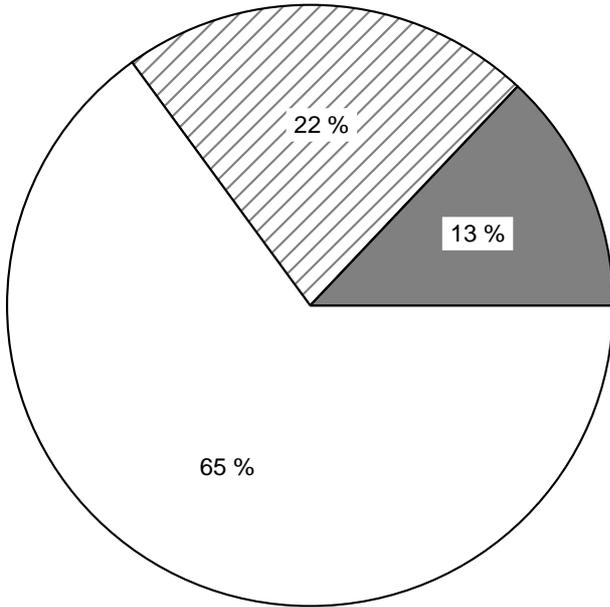
Staff familiarise themselves with the Australian Curriculum website & Australian Institute of Teachers Website

Staff use the Community of Learners (CoL) website developed by the CSO Armidale

An upgrade of the school play equipment is actioned during 2013

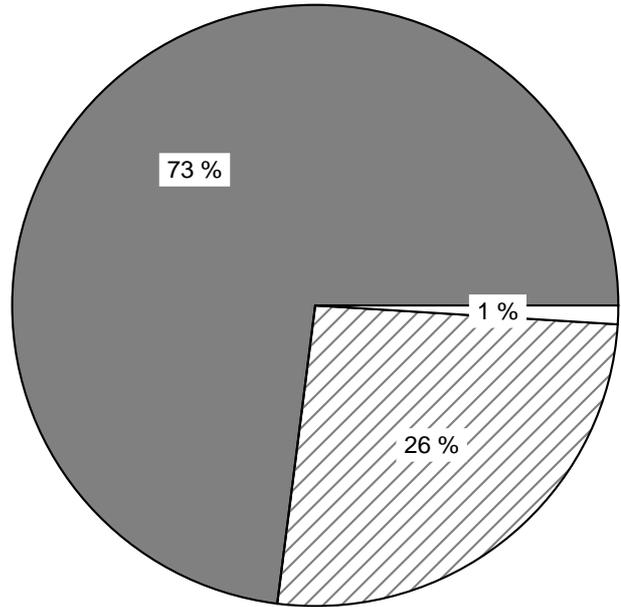
Financial Statement

Income



- fees and private income
- ▨ state recurrent grants
- commonwealth recurrent grants
- government capital grants
- ▨ other capital income

Expenditure



- salaries, allowances and related expenses
- ▨ non-salary expenses
- capital expenditure

The information in this report has been verified and the priorities endorsed by the Director of Catholic Schools and the school consultant.