

St Joseph's Primary WEE WAA
Annual School Report to the Community

2015



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Principal

Mr Jamie McDowall

ABOUT THIS REPORT

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

St Joseph's Primary School provided quality teaching and learning during 2015. The school was well supported in its educational mission by the parent bodies, members of the Wee Waa Parish, local services, sporting clubs and local businesses. The members of St Joseph's Primary 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.

Parent Body Message

The School Board consists of a Chairperson, Parish Priest, Principal, Secretary, Treasurer and representatives from the parish, staff and parent body. The Board provides advice in the development of the school budget each year, reviews school policies and provides support and advice regarding 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 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 Body Message

It was a privilege to be elected as School Captains for 2015. 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, Remembrance Day celebrations along with the local community. Other highlights were the Swimming and Athletics Carnival, Country Areas Program excursions especially our seniors excursion to Sydney. We enjoyed being leaders of St Joseph's School for 2015 and wish the new leaders all the best for 2016. St Joseph's School Captains.

SECTION TWO: SCHOOL FEATURES

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

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 districts. 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 the 30th of April 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 19 th 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.

SECTION THREE: STUDENT PROFILE

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
58	62	0	120

* 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 93.24%. Attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group	
Kindergarten	95.47%
Year 1	92.26%
Year 2	94.21%
Year 3	94.15%
Year 4	94.08%
Year 5	89.76%
Year 6	92.77%

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.

SECTION FOUR: STAFFING PROFILE

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2015:

Total Teaching Staff*	Total Non-Teaching Staff	Combined Total
12	7	19

* This number includes 5 full-time teachers and 7 part-time teachers.

Percentage of staff who are Indigenous	14%
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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:

Term 1	St Joseph's Primary School as a Professional Learning Community
Term 2	Core Catholic Principles and Values
Term 3	Re-define our Core Educational Business and Child Protection Training
Term 4	Aligning the AiTSL Standards to Professional Learning Plans

During 2015, the teaching and support staff at St Joseph's Primary School engaged in a range of Professional Learning programs to further enhance and develop staff's professional capacity (Skills and Knowledge). Programs accessed by the St Joseph's Professional Learning Community included Mathematics Curriculum Modules (Anita Chin), linking the AiTSL framework to Professional Learning Plans, Google for Education workshops and improving teachers data literacy as a means of maximising student growth.

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.	9
2	Those having graduate qualifications but not a formal teaching qualification from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	0

SECTION FIVE: CATHOLIC LIFE AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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.

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 Reconciliation 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,

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

The school had regular communication with our Parish Priest 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.

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.

Our School's average result (as a mark out of 50)	
Year 6	30.90

SECTION SIX: CURRICULUM

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.

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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.

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 which helps identify individual learning needs and the review 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. The school also participated in the Pre-Literacy Program, Minilit Program and Reader Tutor Program provided by the Diocese of Armidale Catholic Education Office.

St Joseph's has under the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan (LNAP), received an proportionate allocation of teacher time to support and monitor the implementation of the K-2 Diocesan Learning Enhancement Strategy.

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

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
Year 3	Reading	55.00%	48.20%	0.00%	11.00%
	Writing	55.00%	46.80%	0.00%	7.40%
	Spelling	64.00%	41.10%	9.00%	14.50%
	Grammar	64.00%	51.80%	0.00%	10.70%
	Numeracy	18.00%	33.60%	9.00%	15.20%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2015		% of students in the top 2 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 5	Reading	27.00%	33.40%	45.00%	18.20%
	Writing	9.00%	19.10%	18.00%	17.50%
	Spelling	27.00%	32.60%	27.00%	15.30%
	Grammar	9.00%	36.20%	36.00%	16.20%
	Numeracy	18.00%	27.50%	45.00%	15.80%

Student Welfare Policy

No changes were made to the policy this year.

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.

No changes were made to the policy this year.

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

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. In 2015, St Joseph's Primary School introduced a Peer Support Leadership Program which saw our Year 6 students lead K-5 student groups on developing their knowledge and understanding of "Resilience." The school encourages the students to participate in community events. In 2015, St Joseph's students attended events such as ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, Senior Citizen's luncheon, Grandparents Day, NAIDOC Week, House Days and the Wee Waa Show.

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 learning behaviour is promoted, encouraged and celebrated via weekly Recognition of Learning assemblies. Further recognition is celebrated when children are seen demonstrating the "Spirit of Jesus" in areas of their learning, both inside and outside the learning environment.

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

St Joseph's Primary School's priorities for 2015 include:

- The continued development of the School Improvement Plan for 2012 - 2015 and the development of an Annual Improvement Plan.
- The introduction of a 1:1 Chromebook IT Program for students in Year 3 to Year 6.
- Intensive Google for Education training with all Leaders of Learning (K-6).
- Development and implementation of a Whole School Agreed Practice for the teaching and learning of English.
- Staff participation in Core Catholic Principles and Values staff development day conducted by Bishop Michael Kennedy.
- Implementation of a Student Leadership Program "Peer Support" with Year 6 students.
- Evaluation and refinement of St Joseph's Vision and Mission Statements aligned to work around developing a Professional Learning Community
- Implementation of weekly Professional Learning Team meetings (K-6) focusing on student data as a means of maximising student growth.
- Implementation of Professional Learning Plans for all Leaders of Learning aligned to the AiTSL Standards.
- Implementation of "Sporting House" Days to promote positive school spirit.
- Refurbishment of three student learning spaces aligned to current "Contemporary Learning" research.

Priority Key Improvements for 2016

Priorities for 2016:

- Implementation of a Whole School Agreed Practice for the teaching and learning of Mathematics
- Implementation of the new Australian Curriculum History Syllabus across years K-6
- Implementation of the spelling tool, "Words Their Way" across all years K-6 as a means of improving student writing.
- Continued embedding of Catholic Principles and Values across additional key learning areas (History, Geography and Science)

- Align and embed AITSL Framework and National School Improvement Tool to the School Improvement Plan, School Action Plan and Professional Learning Plans.

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

An independent organisation was engaged to survey parents with regards to their level of satisfaction within the key areas of Catholic Ethos, Leadership, General, Teaching and Learning, Resources and the Improvement Process. All areas received good feedback.

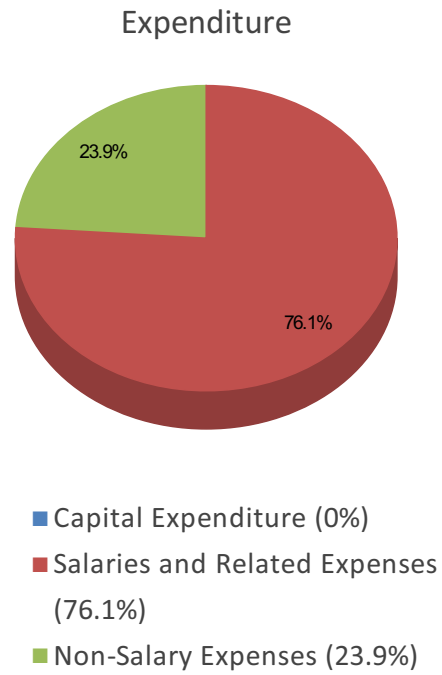
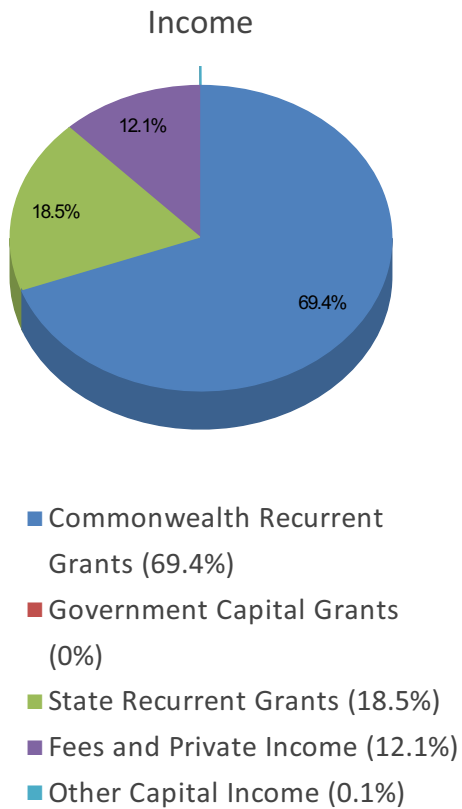
Student Satisfaction

An independent organisation was engaged to survey students with regards to their level of satisfaction within the key areas of Catholic Ethos, Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Resources and the Improvement Process. All areas received good feedback.

Teacher Satisfaction

An independent organisation was engaged to survey teachers with regards to their level of satisfaction within the key areas of Catholic Ethos, Leadership, Staff Engagement, Resources and the Improvement Process. The areas of Leadership, Staff Engagement, Resources and the Improvement Process all received excellent feedback, while the area of Catholic Ethos received good feedback.

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 ¹	\$1,219,958
Government Capital Grants ²	\$0
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$325,547
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$212,169
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$1,190
Total Income	\$1,758,864

RECURRENT and CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$190
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$1,244,495
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$390,788
Total Expenditure	\$1,635,473

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> .