

St Joseph's Primary School

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Parish Priest: Fr Paul McCabe

Parish: St Joseph's, Mungindi

Principal: Lois Wilson



Annual School Report 2007

Mission/Vision Statement

Our Motto Whatever we do - we will do it well.

Our Mission The mission of St Joseph's school is to provide a Catholic Education that develops learners who have an awareness of God in their lives and who demonstrate respect, responsibility and perseverance in all that they do.

We value a school where Catholic teachings and traditions are recognised, appreciated and celebrated.

We value a school where each person shows respect for others by acting with kindness, honesty and tolerance.

We value a school where each person takes responsibility for their own learning, their own actions and accepts that everyone has to be accountable.

We value a school where each person can develop an enthusiasm for learning and persevere with all tasks.

We Value a school where partnerships between parents, students, staff and the community are encouraged and developed.

Our Vision

At the end of their primary education at St Joseph's School Mungindi, we have a vision that our students will leave us and move through life as people who:

Will have a sense of God in their lives. Will demonstrate Catholic values and express them in the way they live their lives. Will treat each person they meet with dignity. Will ensure that differences are overcome with peace and understanding Will seek the truth. Will reach out and contribute to society. Will value the gifts found in those they meet and in the creation around them.

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 2007 and gives information about 2008 priorities. This Report com-

plements 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. The validated report will be available on the CSO website early in the 2008 school year. The school's Diocesan Education 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

In presenting the annual school for 2007 I acknowledge the contribution of the staff, parents, students, Country Area Program, Catholic School's Office Armidale and the Mungindi community in assisting the school to implement a range of programs that were important to the development of the students' education.

To enhance the teaching of the key learning areas, the school was able to provide the students with access to information and communication technology workshops, music programmes, quality learning skills, Queensland Arts Council Programmes, sporting opportunities and excursions. Swimming, athletics, Life Education Van and the Mungindi Show and Music Festival were also keenly participated in.

Contributions by parents in the form of finances and working bees as well as Government Grants, were used to improve the school's environment and to provide additional shade areas for students' protection in the hot Summer months.

Much of what we teach our students today may not be relevant in the future so we need to be equipping our children to be life long learners, able to adapt quickly to changing situations. If the children we teach are going to be successful human beings throughout their lives then we need to be encouraged to work towards achieving their personal best in their dealings with each other and in their educational, cultural and sporting activities.

Principal

Parental Involvement

The 2007 school year year was another rewarding and challenging one for both the School Board and P & F. Through the efforts of all parents we were able to contribute thousands of dollars to renovations, consumables and the educational needs of our students. Due to parents' financial commitment through school fees, the school operated within its budget and met once again the financial demands of the day to day cost of running the school.

Government Grants enabled the school to install a water tank and sprinkler system to assist with the watering and beautification of the grassed playground area. In addition a garden and sports grant contributed to the environment and physical education needs of our children.

Although the town population has fallen in recent years the school has continued to maintain its numbers and the quality of education provided by the staff of school is commendable. We sincerely thank the principal and whole school staff for their

dedication and commitment to St. Joseph's and for the time and effort they have given to each child and the whole school environment.

School Board Chairmen and P&F President

Student Leadership

As the school leaders we had the opportunity during 2007 to assist the Principal and Staff with many areas of the school. We supported the younger students particularly on the playground with "self help" strategies. We were leaders of Peer Support Groups meeting regularly to deal with issues of socialising, learning and enjoyment.

As Sports Captains we assisted the teachers with "Meals On Wheels" we were able to visit the needy and supported those dedicated to this community service. We believe that by doing this we now have a better appreciation of the important contribution so many volunteers make the community on a regular basis.

During the year we worked with both Mr Lee Herden and Mrs Joan Shanahan from the Catholic School 's Office Armidale. In our workshop with Mr Herden we looked at the important issues around school and our learning. His input and our contribution, along with that of staff and parents, went towards the the renewing of our school Motto and Mission Statement. Mrs Shanahan conducted a number of workshops with us around persistence, respect and resilience, which now form values to strive for in the School's Mission Statement.

School Captains.

School Profile

School History

St Joseph's Primary School is located in North Western NSW. It is best known as a border town that functions on two time zones between October and March. Half of the town is in NSW the other half in QLD. The Sisters of Mercy were responsible for the opening of St Joseph's (originally called St Brigid's) in 1924. For over 50 years it also functioned as a 'Boarding School' catering for the needs of the isolated children of the area. In 1980, the Sisters of Mercy left the parish and were replaced by the Little Company of Mary Sisters who ran the Boarding School until its closure in 1983. Today rural children travel to school by bus or private vehicle. The Sisters of Saint Joseph came to Mungindi in 1984 and assisted Fr Dowd run the parish. The Sisters helped out in the school with Religious education particularly with the Sacramental Program. Today the school is

administered by lay staff with a strong association with the sisters of St Joseph who manage the Parish in the absence of the Parish Priest who lives in Moree.

Staff Profile

The staffing allocation for 2007 was 4 full time teachers. Two part time teachers were also employed to work with additional needs students as well as to teach library skills and to release teachers from face to face teaching. The staffing allocation included a teaching Principal who was also the Religious Education Co-ordinator. In addition the school had a part time teacher's aide and a part time secretary/aide. All teaching staff were fully qualified, having qualifications from recognised teaching institutions. Three staff members had qualifications in Religious Education. Of the staff, 2 had over 25 years teaching experience, 2 had between 5 - 9 years experience and 2 were Institute Teachers in their first and second year of teaching. At the end of Term 2, two part time staff members were replaced by a full time teacher. The Principal, who had been in the school for 4 years, as well as the teachers aide who held the position for 27 years, left the school at the end of the 2007 school year.

The average daily staff attendance rate for 2007 was 97.85%.

Location/Drawing Area

Mungindi is a small isolated town of about 600 people and St Joseph's offers the parents of this community a faith based education in the Catholic tradition. A number of students either walk, catch the bus or are driven to school by parents who live between 3-50 Kilometres from the school. In the February census 62 students were enrolled in the school, 10 of them were new Kindergarten students.

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	Total
2005	30	25	53
2006	28	33	61
2007	30	29	59

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 %

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

* Australian Education Institution - National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition

Student Mobility

At the beginning of 2007 St Joseph's had an enrolment of 62 students. Throughout the year 4 students left the school. An additional student commenced at St Joseph's at the beginning of Term 3. At the end of the 2007 school year the enrolment of the school was 59.

Student Attendance

The average daily attendance for 2007 was 93%.

Structuring of Classes

The class structure for 2007 included a Kindergarten/Year 1 group of 23 students. Each morning 13 Year One student were withdrawn for English. The other class structures included a 2/3 composite and a 4/5/6 composite. Additional support was given to all composite classes through the use of 2 teachers aides in the morning and mid morning sessions.

Staff Professional Learning

Throughout 2007 all staff members were involved in a wide variety of professional development opportunities offered by the Government funded Country Area Program and the Catholic Schools Office. Staff Development days were devoted to sessions in Quality Learning and Quality Teaching

in a range of subject areas as well as locations. Through CAP funding staff were also assisted with the teaching of music across the stages as well as attend technology workshops with student groups.

The average expenditure per teacher on professional learning for 2007 was \$563.

Year 6 Religious Education Test

	Diocesan (%)	This School (%)
Average score 2005	58.5	68.9
Average score 2006	66.5	83.2
Average score 2007	69.6%	82.8%

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, Luc Matthys.

Liturgical Life

The school celebrated the commencement of the 2007 school year with a parish/school liturgy. Additional liturgical celebration were enhanced throughout the year by utilising the talents of the staff and students.

The sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist were celebrated in the parish with the school staff and students playing an important part in the organisation of the celebration of these sacraments.

Students were involved with World Youth Day programs as well as attending Eucharistic Adoration services and the blessing and opening of the schools refurbishments.

School leaders regularly led school prayers at morning assemblies and teaching staff at weekly staff meetings.

Staff and Student Faith Formation

During 2007 the teacher of Early Stage One was given further opportunity to attend an inservice on the story telling approach of the K-2 Religious Education program.

New CD resources were purchased for use with the K-6 teaching programs and teachers were encouraged to use them meaningfully within their teaching units of work.

All staff members participated in a staff reflection day. Three staff members also participated in reflection days offered by the Catholic Schools Office throughout the year.

All staff, students and parents were given the opportunity to be involved with the review and development of the school's mission statement.

Social Justice

Throughout the year students from St Joseph's were involved in fund raising activities for Children's Mission and Caritas. Students from Year 6 supported the local 'Meals on Wheels' teams by assisting the parish groups on a regular basis. At various stages throughout the year students' attention was drawn to social issues throughout the world, this was particularly evident during Mission Week. All students, parents, and staff supported the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas hamper appeal.

Parish Links

The Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist were celebrated in the parish with the school staff and students playing an important part in the organisation of the celebration of these sacraments.

The school leaders developed a link with the parish through visiting the St Vincent de Paul Centre and collecting food hampers on their behalf as well as working with the parish team in the distribution of Meals on Wheels.

The school staff worked with the parish team in preparation for World Youth Day and the pending visit in 2008 of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon.

Respect and Responsibility

Throughout the year students were constantly exposed to specific values that promoted respect and responsibility for all. This was enhanced during the values forum sessions conducted. Students, staff and parents worked to renew the school's Mission Statement that includes specific respect and responsibility statements. The opportunity is now present for staff, students and parents to work together to enhance the Schools Mission Statement, Motto and School Vision on a daily basis.

Throughout the year a number of community based services were attended by the staff and students. The school took a leading role in the community Anzac Day service by marching and leading the parade through the town. As well the school was involved in the local Mungindi Show and the Mungindi Music Festival.

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 Educational Audit process from 2006 has enabled the school over the past two years the opportunity to review all curriculum policies and processes. Changes have been made and, in 2007, programming formats were adjusted and changed to reflect good teaching practices and to ensure all curricula requirements, including aboriginal and other cultural perspective were catered for.

Various testing procedures have been used to identify students' literacy learning needs: * Early Literacy screening (pre kindergarten) * PM benchmark assessments * Waddington Diagnostic tests. * Basic Skills tests.

Completion of BST papers and consultation with classroom teachers identified those student in Stage 2 and 3 requiring assistance with numeracy. Targeted students received small group instructions throughout the year.

After consultation with teachers and the addition needs consultant, students presenting with learning difficulties were identified and additional support given throughout the year. Staff continued with professional development opportunities with gifted students especially in the area of ICT.

Sporting opportunities existed in a range of sports throughout the 2007 school year. Each term the school was involved in either an athletics or swimming carnival. Opportunities were also made available for students to represent the school at local and diocesan levels.

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 state-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.

Basic Skills Test

There were 9 Year 3 and 8 Year 5 students who sat for the 2007 Basic Skills Test. Year 3 is reported in Bands 1-5; Year 5 in Bands 1-6, with Bands 5 and 6 respectively being the highest.

Year 3

Literacy: 0% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 62.5% of students in Band 5. The best performance was in *Reading*, followed by *Overall Literacy* and *Writing*.

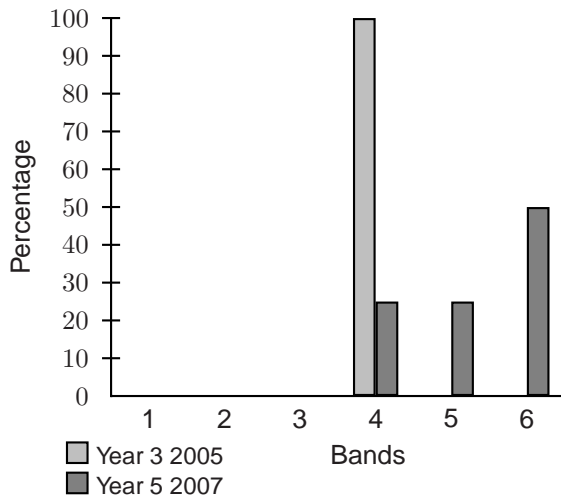
Numeracy: 0% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 0% of students in Band 5. The best performance was in *Number, Patterns and Algebra*, followed by *Measurement and Data, Space and Geometry*.

Year 5

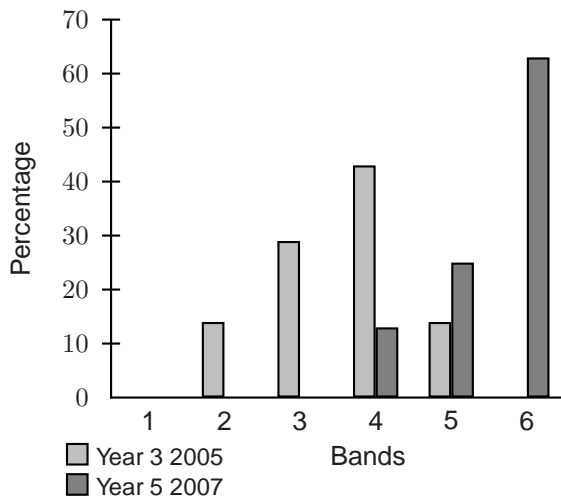
Literacy: 0% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 82.8% of students in Bands 5 and 6. The best performance was in *Reading*, followed by *Overall Literacy* and *Language*. The percentage of students with learning growth for *Overall Literacy* greater than the expected one skill band was 16%.

Numeracy: 0% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 62.5% of students in Bands 5 and 6. The best performance was in *Measurement and Data*, followed by *Overall Numeracy* and *Space and Geometry*. The percentage of students with learning growth for *Numeracy* greater than the expected one skill band was 66%.

Literacy



Numeracy



National Benchmarks

The table below indicates as a percentage the Year 3 and Year 5 of students achieving the national benchmarks.

	Year 3 (%)		Year 5 (%)	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Reading	100%	100%	100%	100%
Writing	100%	100%	100%	100%
Numeracy	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: National Benchmarks not included as they have not yet been published

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.

Various pastoral care initiatives were put in place in 2007 to further build positive relationships within the school community and to enhance staff and student learning and well being. These initiatives included workshops around school values and goals, specific programs offered by CAP to enhance students talented in IT and music, a Peer Support Program, staff members undertaking PART training and resilience workshops focusing on anti-bullying and behaviour management for students, staff and parents. Parents and staff supported individuals and families undergoing hardships and severe illness. Counsellors were brought into the school to provided professional assistance to both students and parents. The networking of the school Buddy System was continued this year by the P.&F. who supported parents new to the school.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available Principal's Office.

No changes were made to the Pastoral Care Policies during 2007.

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 from the school office.

During the 2007 school year staff and students reviewed the Discipline Policy to ensure clear and appropriate guidelines were understood and followed. This policy, along with other major school policies, were presented to new parent at their induction day in preparation for the 2008 school year. No changes were made to the Discipline Policy in 2007.

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 YES.

Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

St Joseph's school has continued to strive to develop a friendly and caring learning environment that inspires and encourages children to achieve their personal best. Work towards these goals has been recognised by parents, staff and students with the results of the Satisfaction Survey showing a high level of approval in what the school is striving to achieve. Issues around bullying, mentioned by all members of the school community suggest that stronger and more specific programs needs to be a major focus in the school in 2008.

School Review and Development

Annual School Priorities 2007

During 2007 the school continued its commitment to improving learning outcomes through involvement in Quality Teaching and Learning Programs. Both the Catholic Schools Office Armidale and the Country Area Program (CAP) provided opportunities for staff to develop further their skills in these areas. Through CAP funding staff attended technology workshop, Learning Opportunities For Teachers (LOFT), music workshops and a number of additional professional learning opportunities were

made available. Throughout 2007 priority was given to enhancing and assisting student with learning needs. Additional support was offered to students in Stage 1 with concentrated efforts given to English. Stage 2 students were given assistance through the use of a teacher's aide in the classroom and by working with small groups of students. Teaching and Learning practices were enhanced through the purchases of new lap top computers by the P.&F. and an interactive Smart Board purchased through CAP funding. Parents continued to be involved with the education of their children though assistance with sport, gross motor programs, reading groups and a variety of other areas. In 2007 the staff attended a spiritual development day and were also given the opportunity to attend further spirituality days offered by the Catholic Schools Office throughout the year . The provision of authentic feedback to the students about their learning was addressed. Staff development in CMIT was on going. A values forum was held with the result of a renewing of the schools Missions Statement and Motto. Workshops were held with students, parents and staff who all contributed to the launching of a new school Motto and Mission Statement. Many school policies were reviewed and further embedded into the daily life of the school. On going professional development in Quality Learning and Teaching continued in 2007 to enable staff and students to further development their skills in these areas.

Projected School Priorities 2008

In 2008 staff will work towards: developing more effective resilience and anti-bullying programs making them a more specific and stronger focus within the school. Defining and implementing, with both parents and students, the schools Discipline Policy that clearly outlines the Codes of Conduct for the school community. A continuation of quality learning and teaching strategies that will focus on the individual learning needs of each student that will ultimately lead to IEP's. A whole school approach to literacy with a stronger focus on phonetic awareness, guided reading and spelling strategies. As well the staff will work at enhancing the teaching of numeracy with more real life experiences and learning situations included in their programs. The development of a more detailed ICT Scope and Sequence which can be implemented more successfully across the grades. Continuing social justice programs ie 'Meals on Wheels', St. Vincent de Paul, and Caritas and World Missions.

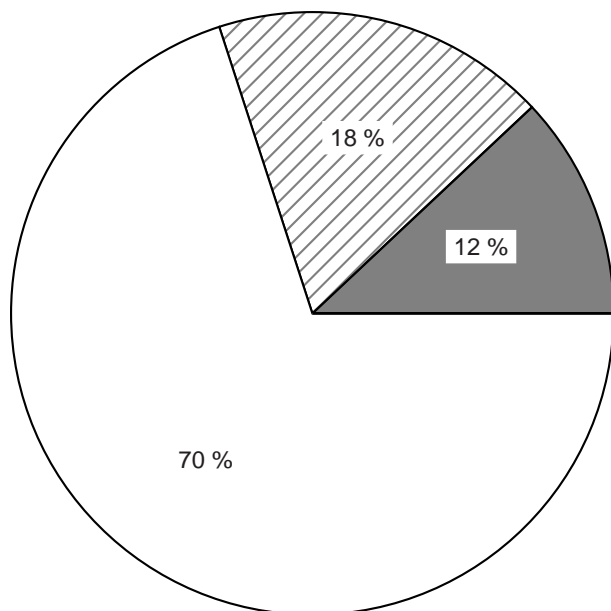
Major Achievements from the 2007 Annual Plan

Throughout 2007 priority was given to enhancing and assisting student with learning needs. Additional support was offered to students in Stage 1 with intensive time given to English. Stage 2 students were given assistance through the use of teacher aides in the classroom and by working with small groups. The school launched its new Motto and

Mission Statement as well as determining its vision for the future educational needs of the students. The Country Area Programme financed a wide variety of staff development opportunities particularly in the area of quality teaching and learning. Two teachers attended the Learning Opportunities For Teachers workshops and enrichment days. Teaching and Learning practices were enhanced through the purchases of new lap top computers by the P.&F. and a Smart Board through CAP funding.

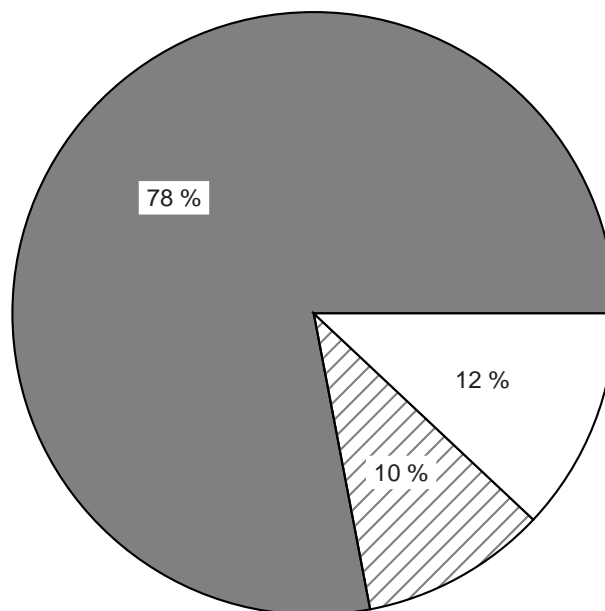
Financial Statement

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's Diocesan Education Consultant.