2004 Annual Report

ST FRANCIS DE SALES REGIONAL COLLEGE
LEETON

CONTACT DETAILS:

PRINCIPAL: MRS BRENDA KING
ADDRESS: 102 YANCO AVENUE
           LEETON NSW 2705
PHONE: (02)69533622
FAX: (02)69535087
EMAIL: office@sfc.wagga.catholic.edu.au
1. School Profile

1.1 Introduction

St Francis De Sales Regional College is a Catholic Co-educational Day and Weekly Boarding School providing a comprehensive education across Years 7-12, for students from Leeton, Narrandera and surrounding rural areas in the Riverina.

The purpose of the College is to contribute to the Church’s Mission to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and to offer to the Catholic Community and others within our Region an educational foundation for life – meaning development towards the physical, intellectual, social, emotional, psychological, spiritual and moral growth of our students.

St Francis College is registered with the New South Wales Board of Studies as a systems school within the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

1.2 Student Profile

The following information describes the student profile for 2004:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>LBOTE*</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>360</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>719</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background other than English

1.3 Enrolment Policy

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established an Enrolment Policy which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of this policy can be found at:

http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au
CSO Documents, Forms & Policies

The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

1.4 Staff Profile

The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:

a) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution
b) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution but no formal teacher education qualifications
c) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>54.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.5 Retention Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>Years 7-10</th>
<th>Years 10-12</th>
<th>Years 7-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apparent</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>725</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>719</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Catholic Life and Mission

1.6 Catholic Heritage

St Francis De Sales Regional College is a Catholic School. The school is a Community of Faith based on belief in God and a Christian way of life. The spirit and values of the Gospel determine the atmosphere of the school and underpin all that is done and said.

This Spirit should be apparent to those who enter the College and in all our dealings with students, between staff, and with parents and members of the wider community.

The religious orientation of the College as a Catholic school relies on the presence of a committed Christian Staff who understand, give witness to and accept the ethos of the school.

1.7 Liturgical Life

Mass is celebrated in the College Chapel twice a week for Boarders and others who would like to attend. Opportunities for receiving the Sacraments and worship are provided to individual class groups.

Year Group Retreats are held throughout the school year. Retreat Days provide the opportunity for students to reflect on their lives and the place of God within them. The College is strongly committed to its Retreat Program and there is an expectation that all students participate.

Students and staff uphold a vibrant prayer life by participating in an active student Prayer Group held in the Chapel every week. Staff gather every morning to begin the day with prayer.

As a college we celebrate significant occasions such as the start of the school year, the end of the school year, Year 10 and Year 12 Graduations and St Francis Day with College Masses.

1.8 The School in the Life of the Parish and Diocese

Year Groups are rostered to take regular turns to prepare Saturday Evening Liturgies in the Parishes of Leeton and Narrandera, and we encourage Boarding students to be involved in weekend liturgies in their local Parishes.

The college has the services of a chaplain who is the assistant priest at St Joseph’s Parish Leeton.

1.9 Religious Education Curriculum

The College follows “Sharing Our Story” for all students in Years 7-10. All students in Year 11 study the Board of Studies course, Studies of Religion. In Year 12 students have the choice of continuing with Studies of Religion or doing Catholic Studies as part of Sharing Our Story.

1.10 Catholic Worldview

Students are actively encouraged to support the Catholic Church’s mission in the world. Project Compassion Collections for CARITAS and contributing to Australian Pontifical Missions, Social Outreach by “Street Retreat” and opportunities for visiting the aged and disadvantaged are a major focus of Social Justice for the staff and students.

1.11 Parent Participation

Parents have the opportunity to participate in College liturgies. Families are invited to attend and participate in Saturday night Masses, Graduation Masses and other special occasions.
1.12 Professional Learning in Catholic Life and Mission

Teachers of religious Education have been involved in Professional Learning to implement Sharing Our Story for 7-10. A staff development day was also held to allow staff to unpack the Diocesan Document Today’s Children Tomorrow’s Adults.

Teachers of Religious Education are encouraged to meet the Diocesan Requirements to teach Religion.

The Diocesan Policy on Professional Requirements for the Accreditation of Teachers of Religious Education can be found at: [http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au CSO Documents, Forms & Policies](http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au)
2. Pastoral Care

2.1 Diocesan Policies

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established Pastoral Care and Discipline Policies which are implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of these policies can be found at:

http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au CSO Documents, Forms & Policies

The implementation of these policies is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

2.2 School Implementation of Diocesan Policy

We at St Francis College believe that pastoral care is an all pervasive force that animates our School Community, and generates a safe and secure environment.

Our Pastoral Care is modelled on Jesus whose love, care and compassion for each individual, particularly the marginalised, sought to bring them to their completeness as human beings (created in the image of God). (C6 Psalm 23; Matthew 18: 12-14)

Pastoral Care at St Francis reflects the ideals, values and emphasis of the Josephite and Marist Education philosophies. These form the basis of the St Francis College Mission Statement. This statement embraces all aspects of school life, the spiritual, academic, physical, emotional and social. It values the individual gifts of each person and facilitates their growth to their fullest potential.

Pastoral care at St Francis is an integrated process of education and life skills that is based on relationship and affirmation. Pastoral Care fosters the creation of an atmosphere of trust, where the dignity and worth of each person is continually affirmed. Consequently it is supportive and celebratory, preventive and esteem building.

2.3 Pastoral Care of Families

Parents/Carers are the first and foremost pastoral Educators of their children; they have entrusted their children to our learning environment at St Francis.

Parents are given the opportunity to attend Parent Information sessions on relevant matters. Teachers keep in close contact with families and families are encouraged to work with

2.4 2004 Initiatives

- Pastoral Care of Staff
- Maintain spirit and practice of ecumenism
- Affirmation of the Catholic that is present
- Resourceful Adolescent Program (RAP)
- Implementing Relational Practices in the College Environment
2.5 Resolving Issues

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established a Complaints Handling Policy which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of this policy can be found at:

http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au CSO Documents, Forms & Policies

The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.
3. Excellence in Learning and Teaching

3.1 Curriculum Overview

St Francis College offers a diverse, balanced and challenging curriculum. Students are prepared for the award of the NSW School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate within an environment that is strongly influenced by the College’s Pastoral Care programme, and where students are encouraged to develop their own self confidence and self discipline as they further their studies.

The College is proud of its academic record.

Students study from the eight key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Human Society and Its Environment, Languages Other than English, Technology and Applied Studies, Creative Arts and Personal Development Health and Education. All students study courses of study that meet the Mandatory requirements set by the New South Wales Board of Studies.

The College endeavours to offer students the elective subjects that meet their needs, subjects offered as electives change each year based on the preferences indicated by students.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses are offered as part of the HSC course of study. These courses are accredited by industry and have clear links to students’ post school destinations. VET Courses offered by the College include: Hospitality Operations, Business Services Administration, information Technology and Metals and Engineering.

The Curriculum offered to students of all ages is meant to be enjoyable, yet challenging. Success in learning can best be gained by a partnership in Learning between students, parents and teachers working together towards the best educational outcomes for our students.

3.2 Approach to Learning and Teaching

Teachers at St Francis College are committed to providing a Community where Learning is valued. As the College becomes a member of the Catholic System of schools in the Wagga Wagga Diocese policies need to be aligned with Diocesan practice. The Teaching staff is working on the document Today's Children Tomorrow's and are in the process of devising an approach to Learning and Teaching that fits with this document.

At present we at the College are part of an Effective Learning Community where students and staff work towards building skills in: Meaningful Learning, Inquiry, Collaboration, Communication, Self Responsibility and Human Development.

3.3 Significant Initiatives

- Boys’ Education
- ICLT
- LYNKS structured workplace learning for Yr 10
- AGQTP Transition Programme Yr 6 to Yr7

3.4 Student Achievement

Literacy

Literacy continues to be a major focus of the College. During 2004 all students in Years 7 and 8 sat for ELLA (English language and Literacy Assessment). St Francis College has been involved in this testing for a number of years. There has been a positive trend of improvement for a
significant number of students between Years 7 and 8. There has also been a corresponding improvement in the School Certificate results.

School initiatives in this area have included the assistance of a literacy support teacher, targeting students with identified literacy problems, the ongoing Professional Development of staff through school based projects and targeted external Professional Development, for example ELLA marking.

Numeracy

The College has also made a commitment to improving Numeracy. SNAP (Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program) testing continues to provide information that assists programs offered to improve outcomes for students at risk. SNAP also helps with identifying students who are gifted in this area. The “Counting On” program was implemented during 2004 to assist Year 7 students who were identified as experiencing numeracy problems.

School Certificate

The School Certificate results for 2004 indicated a positive trend for students at the College to achieve at the higher level. In the four Mandatory where students sat for the External tests in English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, Band 6 was achieved 14 times and Band 5, 105 times.

All students also sat for the Trial Computing Studies Examination, which has provided the College with positive feedback about the preparation of the students and the adequacy of the computing facilities required for the Mandatory Computing Exam which will commence in 2006.

Higher School Certificate

The results for 2004 were particularly pleasing with some excellent results achieved by a significant number of the 85 students.

The 2004 cohort had 17 separate entries on the Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers List, which reflects the achievement of a Band 6, or above 90%, in any one subject. There were also 103, Band 5s achieved. This was significant as it indicated an upward trend in many subjects.

There were impressive results in many individual subjects. The performance was above state average in 14 subjects and in some subjects this was by a significant amount.

Targets for 2005

- Students achieving Band 6 in HSC English
- Developing a comprehensive understanding of Critical and Visual Literacy
- Implementing Information Communication Learning Technologies into teaching programmes
- Musical production Salir to be integrated across the curriculum

3.5 Information, Communication and Learning Technologies

The College has an active Information Communication and Learning Technologies Committee which meets regularly to determine ICLT priorities, expenditure and curriculum development. Teachers have been able to access Professional Development provided by the CSO to improve their ICLT skills, teachers have also been able to access the International Computer Drivers
Licence on line and Professional Development provided by the Association of Independent Schools.

3.6 Professional Learning

Teachers were involved in professional learning to gain knowledge on the new 7-10 Syllabus changes. All teaching staff attended a Diocesan In Service Day with all other high school teachers in the Wagga Diocese on Assessment for Learning. Teachers were also able to network with other teachers from their Key Learning Area in workshop situations.

Throughout the year teachers were able to access Professional Learning by attending courses specific to the requirements of Syllabus changes and to improve classroom learning and teaching strategies.
5. Extra Curricula Program

The College participates in many and varied activities that suit a range of student interests and talents.

- Chess Club
- Science fiction Club
- Mock Trial
- Debating/Public Speaking
- Drama
- Rock Bands
- Vocal Groups
- Instrumental program
- LYNKS Structured Workplace program for Yr 10
- Eisteddfods
- Peer Support
- Artist in Residence
- Basketball
- Australian Rules Football
- Rugby League
- Soccer
- Netball
- Touch Football
- Cricket
- Swimming
- Cross Country
- Athletics
- Visiting the Aged at Assumption Villa
4. Strategic Initiatives

4.1 2004 Priorities and Achievements

- Successful move into the System of schools for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga
- Developing a School Renewal Framework
- Successful Curriculum Reviews
- New teaching programs developed for the new 7-10 Syllabuses
- Completion of the new Technology Building
- Successful audits in Policy, OHS, Chemical Safety, Finance and Building
- Farewell to religious Leadership
- Increasing Shade Areas around the school

4.2 2005 Priorities and Challenges

- The introduction of new subjects Visual Design and Physical Activity and Sports Studies
- Preparing for the registration of the Boarding School
- Development of a school based web page
- Affirming the Catholic nature of our School
- Implementing the requirements of the Institute of Teachers
- Attracting teachers to a rural community
- Implementing ICLT into the curriculum
- Increasing knowledge in the areas of Visual and Critical Literacy
- Aligning our Vision and Mission with the Diocesan Document Today’s Children Tomorrow’s Adults
- Review of Policy Documents to incorporate Values Education and the National Safe Schools Framework.
5. **Parent Participation**

Parents at St Francis College participate in the following areas:

- College Council
- Parents and Friends
- Canteen Volunteers
- Working Bees
- Coaching Sporting Teams
- Information Evenings
- Enrolment Interviews

This data shown below is a summary of Diocese of Wagga School System income and expense and includes income and expense of all system schools.

The total income and expense of the school, that is included in the above, is shown below.