Our Vision
We believe that St Joseph’s School, Finley is a Faith community within St Mary’s Parish where:

- Christ is central and all members are encouraged in their Faith journey to empower them to be able to make a difference in the present and future world/society.
- There is a commitment to strive for excellence in Education therefore ensuring that all children will work towards their potential.
- There is respect for the dignity and uniqueness of each person in order to cater for the individual needs of all children, and foster their whole development-spiritual, moral, social, emotional and intellectual.
- The atmosphere of the school community reflects clearly that Gospel values are endorsed and witnessed by teachers, students, parents, and all of the members of the Parish community.

Our Mission
Our Mission is to provide a quality education in an environment that supports the welfare of all. Our community promotes strong Christian Values, faith development and family involvement in each aspect of our school.

Exit Outcomes
When the boys and girls at St. Joseph’s have completed their schooling with us, we the parents and staff, would like for them to:

- have experienced God and Church and have developed a knowledge of our faith and the values that our religion stands for
- be independent, flexible and cooperative workers who are capable problem solvers, risk takers and decision makers
- be active participants in life who have experienced the responsibility of leadership
- be happy and proud of themselves and be confident to share their talents and skills with others
- be respectful of others and their differences
- be willing to have a go and do their best
- be competent readers, writers and mathematicians
- be competent users of technology and have an appreciation of the arts
- have developed an understanding of the world around us
- have knowledge and understanding of good personal health
- be lovers of life and learning
- appreciate the value of family and have
- experienced good role models here at school
- be prepared for life beyond St. Joseph’s
1.2 Religious Education in Our School
Religious Education is at the core of our curriculum. This year saw the continued use of *Sharing Our Story*. Year 3 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on June 15 and First Eucharist on August 28. Regular liturgies were prepared by classes throughout the year. Graduation was a reflective and celebratory affair on December 16.

1.3 The Arts
We offered a variety of specialist arts programs (see outlines under Programs to Support Learning) to our students. This year was our lay year as far as the whole school musical was concerned. Instead we held a special art expo day as well as an assembly highlighting the musical talents of the children. The children had the opportunity to display much of their artwork in the school work section of the Finley Show and in the school display.

1.4 Sport
Sport is an important part of our social and physical education programs. We strongly encourage all our boys and girls to “Have a Go and Do Your Best”. We conducted our school swimming and Athletics carnivals and participated in the South West Deanery Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country carnivals. Many of our sports students then went onto Diocesan Level Representation and even MacKillop Level (Southern NSW Catholic P.S.) Other opportunities were provided for boys and girls to participate in football, cricket, netball, and soccer and rugby trials on the path to state teams.

1.5 General and Specific School Initiatives
We continue to strive to improve and better ourselves in serving our children. Some of the initiatives we include are:
- Student Leadership Opportunities - all year 6 children are offered captaincy positions.
- Kinder Orientation Program - following year Kinders are offered the opportunity to come to school in the November and December to experience their new environment. On the first day of Kindergarten a photo is taken of the child and family which is then presented to them at the end of year Graduation Evening.
- Kinder / Year 6 Buddies - kids are paired up so younger boys and girls are provided with direct support and care.
- Annual Book Fair that promotes a love of books and literature.
- Parent Information Evenings - each class holds an Information Evening for parents to inform them of routines and expectations of that year level.
- Visiting Performances - artists, performers and educational presenters are invited to be part of our program in delivering new and valuable experiences to our children. In 2005 they were;
  - Wurunini
  - Deadly Australians
  - Drumbeat
  - Ozopera
- Excursion Program - a progression is provided to broaden the children’s experiences: Kinders - After School BBQ, Year 1&2 - Overnight School Sleep Over, Year 3 - Local One Night Excursion and Year 4, 5&6 - Major 3 Night Excursion.
- Beginning of Year BBQ for students, parents and staff held on February 18th.

1.6 School Policies
The following policies and statements can be found in the St Joseph’s Policy Folder located in the Principal’s Office:-
- Teaching and Learning Statement
- Good Teaching Practice
- Curriculum Statement
- Reporting Statement
- Assessment Statement
- Organisation and Planning Statement
- Evaluation Statement
- Maths Policy
- Creative & Practical Arts Policy
- Personal Development, Health & P.E. Policy
- Human Society and It’s Environment Policy
- Science and Technology Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- English Policy
- Information Technology Policy
2 Our School Programs

2.1 Educational and Management Practice Evaluation - School Culture
The maintenance and development of our culture is on-going. We work to maintain high standards of student behavior, foster a sense of respect and support within our staff and parent bodies and seek to promote open and honest lines of communication between all stakeholders.

2.2 Curriculum Focus
Curriculum development is an on-going process. Our focus for in 2005 was in Creative and Practical Arts. Staff revised our policy and worked to refine our classroom practices. This Key Learning Area was audited by the Diocesan Curriculum Panel. Our 2006 focus is English.

2.3 Programs to Support Learning
Our school curriculum is based on the NSW Syllabus Documents and has Religious Education included. At St Joseph’s we run K-6 specialist rotations on Friday to deliver quality programs that utilise individual teacher strengths and areas of interest. The Programs are:

- **Library**-children are taught the basics of the Dewey System of Classification and become familiar with returning, borrowing and locating books using a computerised library system.
- **Computers**-lessons develop children’s technological skills continually. Children become independent users who are able to access computers daily to enhance their learning in all KLA areas.
- **Indonesian**-students are introduced to the island country of Indonesia and provided with opportunities to discover and appreciate the differences and similarities between Indonesia and Australia.
- **P.E.**-sessions develop fitness and game skills. These are then applied to a variety of games and sports.
- **Parents assistance** is an important aspect in delivering this program.
- **Art**-through formal skill sessions, our boys and girls learn a variety of artistic techniques and grow to appreciate different visual art forms.
- **Music**-through learning the musical concepts the children participate in singing, playing, moving, organising, sound and listening activities.
- **Dance & Drama**-the children are involved in formal and informal role play and are directed in composing and performing their own drama and dance pieces.

Other programs offered are:
- **Reading Recovery**: a one-on-one reading program offered to year 1 children.
- **Maths Support**: a small group program offered to children through the school who require focused assistance in this area.
- **Technology**: St Joseph’s aims to have banks of 5 networked computers in every classroom. This was completed in all classrooms this year. The school library also has a bank of computers.

2.4 Equity Programs
Teacher aid time is allocated to classes where there are children who have English as a Second Language and a special program is developed for them. We include LOTE as part of our cultural awareness program and provide support for our English as a Second Language Student.
Indigenous Australian awareness days and units of work are a part of our school program.

2.5 Programs to Support Students
Special needs program take place with the ongoing support of Teacher’s Assistants. They work with the classroom teacher to provide support and assistance to particular students who have specific learning or social needs.

The CSO policies on enrolment, discipline, grievance and student welfare are available at: [http://cso.wagga.catholic.au/policies.htm](http://cso.wagga.catholic.au/policies.htm)
Continuing contact in Reading Recovery was maintained this year with two children from Year 1 on the program every day to bring them up to the class average. Half a day a week of staffing was set aside to work with children with needs in Maths at the Year 2 level. A program was developed for each of the children to work on at home during the week with the parental assistance. They also had a small group or one-to-one lesson with the Maths Support Teacher.

2.6 Student Achievement
Students are openly and regularly recognised for their achievements in all areas of their schooling, namely behaviour and attitude, academia, sport and leadership. Personal School Diaries are used as a regular method of communication of achievement while Weekly Awards are presented at assembly and recognised in our newsletter. Academic achievement is measured in part by ensuring all students in years 3 and 5 sit the Basic Skills Tests and the Primary Writing Assessment. Results were most pleasing in seeing our students achieve above average results in all areas. Many children from Years 3 to 6 sat the Australasian Mathematics, Spelling, Writing and English competitions conducted by the University of New South Wales, several students attained distinctions.

2.7 Staff Achievement
Growth and development of staff learning and teaching method is paramount to the on-going success of our school. We openly recognise the efforts of staff and provide a structured program that fosters a wide range of Professional Development. During 2005 the Staff at St Joseph’s were involved in a wide range of Professional Development. All attended curriculum days focusing on Creative and Practical Arts; policy development and implementation in the classroom, English policy development. All staff also updated their Emergency Care and CPR, and were inserviced on Child Protection legislation.

3 School Renewal
3.1 The School Renewal Framework
During 2005 the school executive, staff and parent body were involved in and achieved the following aspect of SRF:

Programs, Policy and Curriculum
Curriculum Foci for 2005 were
Creative and Practical Arts and English
- Continued in-servicing and professional development
- Developed programs to specially meet the needs of student outside the mainstream
- Revised Policy in line with any Changes to Programs and Practice
- Continued to Organise and Develop Resources
- Continued to Review Practises K-6 and Further Improve Whole School Teaching Approach
- Implemented Quality Learning and Teaching Project via CAP.

Professional Development
The following was achieved;
- Reading Recovery Training continuing contact
- Teacher Assistant Training
- Secretarial Professional Development
- New R.E. Syllabus P.D. (Teaching Staff)
- Technology P.D. - My Internet Training (Teaching Staff)
- Gifted and Talented Workshop (Executive)
- Numeracy testing Training, SENA 1 & 2 (Yrs 1 & 3 teachers)
- Resilience (Teaching Staff)

Facilities and Resources
Continued Grounds Roster
Paint and tile Toilets
Continued Development of Computer / Technology Hardware
Support development of Liturgy Area/Ampitheatre and Southern Playground

4 School Overview
4.1 School Enrolment and Attendance Profile
During 2005, St Joseph's enrolment 160 students with 25 graduates going out at the end of the year. Almost half of our children come in from
the farming district surrounding Finley.

4.2 Structure of Classes
At St Joseph’s we cater for students K-6 in a single stream class structure. Class sizes average 24 students.

4.3 Staffing
We have 15 staff members who work to serve the needs of our community. Experience and background is wide ranging and adds to the quality of what we can offer.

4.4 Parent Involvement and Participation
Our school’s strength is sourced in our community. We rely upon parental involvement in practically all aspects of school life. From the Beginning of Year Community BBQ through to our End of Year Family Bush Dance, we work as one to create the best possible living and learning situation for our boys and girls. Opportunity for involvement include:
- Classroom Activities
- School Council
- Parents & Friends Association and the Social and Fundraising Activities offered
- School Canteen
- Uniform Shop
- Grounds Roster
- Sport & Art

4.5 Community Use of School Facilities
Our Hall is used for private and public functions as well as being utilised for Music Lessons. Our grounds are used for Soccer Training.

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

![Financial Statement Diagram]

4.7 About This Report
This report was generated by Paul Arnel (Principal) & Helene Cahill (Assistant Principal) in conjunction with the relevant school stakeholders.