ST. JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEETON

VISION STATEMENT

We believe that St. Joseph’s Leeton is a place where:

1. Catholic beliefs are taught and the Catholic faith is experienced, witnessed and shared.

2. The values of the Gospel are evident in the daily routines of school life.

3. All children are given every opportunity to develop their full potential in all curriculum areas.

4. The individual talents and needs of each child are recognized and nurtured.

5. All members of the community experience respect, dignity and justice.

6. All children will be provided with a valuable foundation for their future life enabling them to be happy and fulfilled members of our society.
ST. JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEETON

MISSION STATEMENT

1 Our school is a place where, Catholic beliefs are taught and the Catholic faith is experienced, witnessed and shared. Therefore we are committed to:

➢ Planning and implementing a comprehensive Religious Education programme.

➢ Providing regular and varied experiences of prayer, celebration and liturgy.

2 Our School is a place where, the values of the Gospel are evident in the daily routines of school life. Therefore we are committed to:

➢ Integrating the values of the Gospel, as manifested by the person of Jesus Christ, into all aspects of our teaching, learning and our interpersonal relationships.

➢ Focusing our community on the needs and aspirations of children, staff and families.

➢ Building relationships among people who have as their foundation co-operation, honesty, justice and integrity.

3 Our School is a place where all children are given every opportunity to develop their full potential in all curriculum areas. Therefore we are committed to:

➢ Providing relevant, meaningful and appropriate learning experiences for each child.

➢ Providing all members of staff with opportunities for professional and spiritual development so they may respond to the current needs of the children.
4 Our School is a place where the individual needs of each child are recognized and nurtured. Therefore we are committed to:

- Considering the needs, talents and gifts of the children when planning and implementing teaching, learning and extra curricula activities.

5 Our School is a place where all members of our community experience respect, dignity and justice. Therefore we are committed to:

- Developing and maintaining communication based on mutual respect between children, staff, families and the wider community.

- Establishing opportunities and structures for consultation and collaboration with children, staff and families in the preparation of policies, programmes and the development and implementation of school change.

6 Our School is a place where all children will be provided with a valuable foundation for their future life enabling them to be happy and fulfilled members of our society. Therefore we are committed to:

- Providing opportunities for academic growth where children develop important attitudes, skills and knowledge to handle situations in the wider world.

- Establishing and maintaining a secure and positive school environment that enables our children to be co-operative, confident and happy people.

- Providing opportunities for the children to work with staff, families, the parish and our local community so they can develop responsibility and leadership.
Principal’s Report
This year has been a great year for St. Joseph’s. The standard of teaching and learning in the classroom has been high. Our Literacy Block of two hours each morning has been a showpiece for others in the Diocese and outside the Diocese. Many children achieve at high standards at all times and their commitment to their education is quite inspiring. The level of good behaviour can be seen by the huge number of silver and gold awards given out each term and at the end of the year. Many of our children behave so well all the time. Well done children.

I would like to comment too on the high level of commitment and dedication from all our staff. They work so hard and always for the children. Such commitment can bring with it heartache and sadness if a child is not doing well whether it be academic or in life in general, but also of course it brings great joy and a sense of fulfilment.

We pray each day for everyone in our school community including our families who give so much of their time and so much of their support to our school community.

Thank you to the staff and parents for making 2005 a great year at St Joseph’s. Finally thank you to the children who make St. Joseph’s a happy place to come to each day.

Mrs Helen Mulholland

1) THE SCHOOL

1.2 Religious Education
St. Joseph’s is a Christ-centred school. We have religion lessons daily in every classroom Kindergarten to Year 6 but there are many other times during the day and week where our faith is talked about and lived. In Year 2 the children make their First Reconciliation, in Year 3 they receive the Eucharist for the first time and in Year 6 the children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our Catholic School is a vital part of the parish community and we support the parish priest, Fr. George, in his work.

1.3 The Arts
At St. Joseph’s we have a specialist music teacher, Mrs. Irene Arnold who teaches all the children music. She has a School Choir and gives so much of her time to our school liturgies and Masses as well as at Eisteddfod time.

1.4 Sport
Our sports co-ordinator has done a terrific job this year. The school swimming and athletics carnivals were a great opportunity for children to show their talents. Sports clinics were run throughout the year and a new primary sports program was introduced where all primary classes were involved in a sports cycle. The introduction of golf has proven to be very successful.
Several of our children reached outstanding levels both state and nation wide in their sports. These children will be again acknowledged at the end of year awards.

The primary children participated in a sports program in terms 3 and 4 which involved participating in Tennis, Volleyball, Touch football and Golf on a rotational base.

1.5 General and specific School Initiatives

The Kindergarten Orientation program is an extensive one commencing with a general meeting of prospective parents, parent information nights, individual interviews with the Principal and three weeks of coming to school with a small group of pre-kindners as well as being involved in many exciting activities. The program is for 2 hours per week for three weeks.

The student council is to be commended on their effort in leadership this year under the guidance of the Assistant Principal, Mr. Chris Walker.

The transition program for Year 6 children going to Year 7 concluded in March. The purpose of the program is to set up a smooth transition for these students into secondary school and the Year 6 children will reap the benefits well into the future.

1.6 School Policies

The following policies are available at St Joseph’s and/or on the Wagga Wagga Diocesan Website.

- Enrolment Policy
- Student Welfare / Discipline Policy
- Grievance and Complaints Procedure

http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au/policies.htm

2.  Information on Key School Programs

2.1 Educational and Management Practice Evaluation:

- School Culture

St Joseph’s school is a caring, learning community. We have 34 staff members who have the children’s best interest at heart, who know the children individually and strive to meet their needs academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. The whole child is cared for and nurtured.

It is a school community where the staff looks out for and cares for each other. We come together as a spiritual community each day at morning tea to pray. The children are happy, country children who come from supportive and caring families. These two aspects combine to make the culture of our school.

Coming from this culture, relationships are positive and staff are supported.

St. Joseph’s has five Executive Members; Principal, Assistant Principal, Religious Education Co-ordinator, Curriculum Co-ordinator and In School Co-ordinator. As a team the Executive work to nurture all aspects of school life. Decision making is done at several levels, Staff, Executive and Principal. Input from staff is invaluable and essential as they have a wealth of knowledge, experience, skills and they work daily with the children.

In 2004 a team of teachers initiated and took on the role of devising a new Welfare Policy, where through continual contact with staff has had a positive effect in the school. This program continued in 2005.
The educational progression of children is the responsibility of each teacher and ultimately the Principal’s responsibility. For teachers to be the most effective in the classroom they need to be happy to be at St. Joseph’s, they need to be supported and valued, they need to have the opportunity to continue to learn, they need to have sufficient appropriate resources and facilities and specialist assistance when needed.

2.2 Curriculum Focus
In 2005 the curriculum focus was Technology – My Classes, Continuing Mathematics, Creative Arts and Religious Education, English Policy, ‘Today’s Children Tomorrows Adults’, Student Health, Welfare Policy and Writing Project.

2.3 Programs to Support Learning
St. Joseph’s runs a computer program taught by a computer teacher in the primary school. In this program sequential skills are taught to Year 3 to Year 6. Infant children are taught computer skills by their teachers and have access to the computer lab.
Reading Recovery is available for Year 1 children who are at risk and daily lessons of 30 minutes are given to these children on a one to one basis for approximately 17 weeks. Special Needs Children who are identified receive support by a teacher assistant and each teacher writes an Individual Education Program for each child.
Enrichment classes cater for Gifted-Talented children.
Many teachers are trained in “Numeracy for All” or “Count Me In” to support children in the area of numeracy.

2.4 Equity Programs
Indigenous children receive extra support through I.S.E.P. and / or ATAS funding. Children from non English speaking backgrounds get support from a teacher through LBOTE and ESL Funding.

2.5 Programs to Support Students
Students with disabilities qualify after assessment and receive support by a teacher assistant implementing an Individual Education Program.

2.6 Student Achievement
Students are monitored according to school guidelines all year. They are tracked year to year through a detailed recording system. This is reported to parents twice a year through reports, portfolios and interviews. Parents are welcome at any time during the year to meet with teachers, through an appointment process. An assessment plan details the process teachers take for assessment and the recording of the assessment.
Our students in Year 3 and 5 completed the Basic Skills Tests in Literacy and Numeracy, Writing and Computers as set by the N.S.W. Department of Education and Training.
Detailed reports were sent to parents in October. In 2005 we were pleased with the improvement of our students from Year 3 to Year 5. As a result of this it was evident that the children had progressed well, particularly in Reading and Numeracy. Lower achieving students had a marked improvement in their results in Year 5 from their Year 3 results. St. Joseph’s School have been invited to be a part of a Diocesan initiative in 2006. This will be a writing project that will involve all teachers Kindergarten to Year 6 over 12 months. All children in the school will benefit from this focused program. Students also
participated in The Australians Schools Competition in Literacy, Numeracy and Science. Many students received above average results. The Leeton Eisteddfod saw many of our children perform in music, dance, drama and verse speaking with many first place results.

2.7 Staff Achievement

All teaching staff at St. Joseph’s are qualified teachers. Many staff have taken on extra study in the following areas.

- Reading Recovery
- Numeracy For All
- LLTC (we have an LLTC facilitator in our school)
- Learning Institute involving work with Joan Dalton and David Anderson
- English as a Second Language
- Special Needs
- Music
- Computer Skills – (including My Internet) Compliance Qualifications e.g. First Aid, CPR, Chemicals, Child Protection, Harassment and Occupation Health and Safety.

3 School Renewal

3.1 Progress of the School Renewal Framework

The School Renewal Framework was collaboratively planned by all staff at the end of 2004.

The major areas of focus for 2005 were;

1) Religious Education – The desired outcome was the successful implementation of the “Sharing Our Story” syllabus.
   Result – All teachers by the end of 2005 were using “Sharing Our Story” effectively in the classroom.

2) Technology – The desired outcome was that all staff are skilled in accessing and using technology networked throughout the school.
   Result – All classrooms were networked and My Internet available. All staff were in-serviced in the use of the technology. Every child had access to computer lessons on a regular basis.

3) Creative Arts – The desired outcome was to implement the new Creative Arts syllabus.
   Result- By the end of 2005 all teachers were using the syllabus. This curriculum area was successfully reviewed in 2005.

Future Direction

The focus for 2006 will be Registration and the new School Report.

4. School Overview

4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 School Enrolment and Attendance Profile

In 2005 we have 18 classes ranging from Kindergarten to Year 6. The average class size was 25. There are 34 staff with 25 staff being teachers. Ancillary staff and teacher assistants are an important part of our community. We have 480 students.

Staffing was allocated to run 18 classes and several specialist teaching areas.

4.4 Parent Involvement

The St. Joseph’s School Parents and Friends Association is made up of families associated with the school. Many parents and friends have been active in all our activities and supported the meetings throughout the year and we, as a committee, have appreciated the input of great ideas.
The Committee is active in fundraising for St. Joseph’s School and provides a great opportunity for parents and others associated with the school to meet with each other and provide an ongoing contribution to the school community.

Each year the P & F commit to a monetary amount to assist in purchasing goods and/or services for the comfort of our children within the school. This year it was decided that the $17,500 commitment for the year was to be held in a separate account that could have additional funds added to it for the Covered Outdoor Learning Area manufacture and installation.

This year we have purchased school badges for the Year Six students as a commemoration of their years at St. Joseph’s. This will be an ongoing presentation each year to the senior students to proudly display on their uniforms.

The P & F are also responsible for the Canteen and Uniform Shop. In Term 3 we farewelled our uniform shop co-ordinator. This instigated a full review of the operations of the uniform shop and it was decided to scale down on stock held in the shop. A great clothing sale was held and the uniform shop is now only stocking school logo specific items. The transition and review could not have taken place without the enormous amount of hours given freely by the previous co-ordinator. The Committee are very appreciative of her quiet commitment to our school.

2005 also brought huge changes to the operations of the Canteen, with the healthy menu options commencing in May. These changes posed many challenges of which a sub-committee was formed to manage and this worked very well. The taste testing and sampling of new food suggestions was very successful at the shared lunch days. The children have now settled into the variety of healthy options and we are thankful to the mothers and volunteers who supported the Canteen and committee throughout these challenges. Change of this volume is often difficult for children but also can be challenging to the canteen staff. I appreciate the input from our Canteen Manager and all the volunteers. I feel that as a committee we have been positive in the nutrition wellness of our school children. Thank you again to the sub-committee for all your hard work. A canteen committee will continue to operate to ensure the variety and nutrition for the children.

The 2005 fundraising ideas have contributed to a very successful year and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate not only the committee but also each family who has been so generous in supporting all our functions, ideas and our major event, the annual school twilight fete and raffle.

With the profit of the year of hard work, it is anticipated that the Covered Outdoor Learning Area begin installation early 2006. Once again thank you for the assistance as a school community and good luck to our Year Six students and families leaving us this year.

Meg Leeson
P & F President
4.5 Community Use of School Facilities
The community has access to St Joseph’s facilities with approval by the principal.

Community Involvement

- **Anzac Day** - St. Joseph’s students and teachers participated in the 2005 Anzac March. It was with pride that the children marched down the main street and were involved in the celebration.

- **The School Choir** - were involved in the Parish liturgies in particular the Mass where the children received the sacraments.

- **Tournament of the Mind** – students again in 2005 travelled to Wagga to participate in the tournament of the minds. Under the guidance of Mrs Michelle Naimo the children are set a problem to solve and given only a short period of time to solve the issue. The creative solution is marked by judges.

- **Tidy Towns** competition participants and first place recipient.

- **Clean up Australia** – Student Representative Council cleaned up a section of Leeton.

- **Carols by Candlelight** – this was led by Mrs Irene Arnold and her enthusiastic group of choir children.

- **Light up Leeton** – school involvement
  - **Leeton Show** – school display of children’s work

4.6 Summary Financial Information

The school’s income comes from school fees and Parents and Friends funds. The school is managed on this income only, so it is important that all families contribute by paying school fees. Our school fees policy states that if families are facing difficulty then they must meet with the Principal for an arrangement to be made.

Unpaid school fees go to the debt collector and this is followed by legal action. Many families have chosen to pay by having direct debits from Centrepay and this can be arranged through the school.

1 child family               $305 per term
2 children family   $499 per term
3 or more children family  $625 per term

The 2005 financial challenges were the following;
  - Need for 3 new classrooms
  - Covered outdoor learning area
  - Refurbishment of Church building
  - Maintenance and addressing the maintenance audit and OH & S items

The School Council is well aware of the financial pressures on all parents and this is always on the agenda when decisions are made. We also know that parents would like us to maintain our school at the standard that it is, or to always see scope for improvement to adequately cater for the children.
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.

### Income

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<th>Source</th>
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<td>State Government Recurrent Grants</td>
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### Expense

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<td>Non Salary Expenses</td>
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#### 4.7 About this Report

This report was written by the Principal, Mrs Helen Mulholland. Information for specialist areas was accessed from specialist teachers and/or personnel.