Introduction

St Joseph’s School Leeton is nestled in the centre of Leeton. Leeton is a country town of approximately 8,000 people. St Joseph’s has 471 students. They are country children from supportive families. Our Catholic Tradition comes from the involvement of the St Joseph’s Religious Order who started the school and Catholic Education in Leeton. Our history is rich in the wonderful work of the Josephite Sisters.

St Joseph’s today is a thriving and vibrant community of 18 classes ranging from kindergarten to year 6. The staff is very committed and dedicated to the children. They care for them and support them academically but also socially, emotionally and spiritually.

The 2006 school year has seen the successful introduction of the new school report where children are graded A to E. This has involved the introduction of criteria referenced assessment. The writing project which all staff have been involved in has seen a significant improvement in the children’s writing. In 2007 the school had registration which was very successful. This process involved the careful examination of all school documentation and practices.

We concluded 2007 with a major Christmas concert, our farewell to Year 6 with Graduation and our final end of year Mass of Thanksgiving and Prize Giving Ceremony.

1. The School

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.

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 cooperation, 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 recognised 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, 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.

Religious Education
In 2006 St Joseph’s conducted the sacramental programs for Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. In each sacrament the children became very involved, prayerful and reverent. They took on the program in a very serious and sincere manner.

The Religious Education Syllabus “Sharing Our Story” was taught and knowledge of the program has been refined over the year. In term 3 our mission day was fun for the children while they knew they were raising funds for others less fortunate than themselves.

The Arts
All classes have music lessons each fortnight and beautiful singing and music from instruments can be heard. The music from the children also adds beautifully to our Masses and Liturgies.

The school concert involved the opportunity for budding actors to perform. Each stage put on a play that also involved singing and percussion.

Dance classes were included in the Physical Education Program. This allowed many to show what great rhythm they have. The whole school also learnt dances which involved all the school, including the teachers, moving together to the music. The school disco was a good opportunity for these dances to be performed.

Sport
All the children are involved in whole school sport and physical activities such as athletics and cross country as well as tabloid sport days and the primary children have their swimming carnival. All children do physical activity each week as a requirement of the government. Many opportunities arise for talented children to participate in Deanery, Diocesan and State level sports.
The Infant children participated in the Perceptual Motor Program which is a program where they interact in a planned way with specific equipment. They climb, crawl, roll over and under and balance on this equipment.

**School Initiatives**
The writing project was a diocesan initiative taken on board by St Joseph’s staff in 2006. As a result of clear assessment and focused explicit planning and teaching the children’s standard and quality of writing increased significantly.

The kindergarten orientation program commenced with a parent meeting which gives the parents the opportunity to find out about St Joseph’s. This followed by an individual family interview with the parents, child and principal. A three week program allowed the children to come in on a set day for 2 hours. This helped them to become familiar with the school and of course to meet their year 5 buddy.

A commitment to ICT in the school by the school council has seen 55 new computers purchased and installed. All classrooms have received new computers and this will be followed up with the computer room computers being replaced in 2007. These new computers will allow teachers and children to continue to access Castnet which is an Information Technology Network that links many Dioceses in N.S.W. The potential for the use of Castnet in the classroom is exciting.

The Success for Boys Program has been targeted in 2007. This is a focus in our 2007 School Renewal Plan.

**School Policies**

**Student Welfare:**
The students welfare is always of utmost priority. The following school policies which can be accessed at the school highlights the wide range of and different levels of care given to all children.

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Health Care Policy
- Discipline Policy
- Students with Addition Needs Policy
- Road Safety Policy
- Students Code of Conduct Policy
- Critical Incidence Policy
- OH&S Policy
- Chemical Safety Policy

**Discipline:**
The school’s Welfare Discipline Policy allows for students who are well behaved to be acknowledged. It also outlines clear procedure for working with children who have behaviour difficulties. It also can be accessed at the school.

**Dealing with Complaints and Grievances:**
The school has adopted an approach to resolving complaints and grievances that is based on procedural fairness. It recognises that parents/ caregivers and students must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory way.

Parents/students with a complaint are encouraged in the first instance to contact their class teacher. If the need then arises, a meeting with the Principal can be arranged.

St. Joseph’s Welfare Policy outlines procedures for working with children who have behaviour difficulties. This policy can be accessed at the school and the following is a link to the Catholic School’s Office policies at their public website: [www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au)

**School Council**

**2006 St. Joseph’s Leeton School Council report**

2006 has seen another fruitful year for the St. Joseph’s School Council. We welcomed a number of new members who brought new ideas and enthusiasm to add to the current members.

The council fulfilled its main role of providing help and support to the school principal (Helen Mulholland) with the management of the budget and planning the future direction for the school.

One of the main focuses for the year has been to plan for 2 new classrooms and to update the facilities for teachers. We were unsuccessful in gaining a State Government grant to finance this and so the planning has now shifted to financing this through a combination of existing and loan funds to be offset through an interest rate subsidy.
In late November the school purchased some new computers through a grant and a wonderful contribution from the school Parents & Friends association. This was part of a longer term plan to maintain, update and service the computer network within the school for the future use of the school community.

The school council has been very diligent in maintaining the grounds so that the children have an environment that enhances their learning. The council is in the process of installing a stormwater recycling system that will collect stormwater, remove any rubbish and reuse this water in the irrigation of the grounds. This system will also make the watering of the grounds more efficient because of the new pump that will replace mains pressure. The funding was supplied from a Community Water Grant from the Commonwealth Government.

During the year the council has been conducting working bees on a regular basis to maintain the school environment and buildings. As well as this we have painted the old church building and during the next holiday break this building will have plumbing and new shelving installed as part of our refurbishment plan to keep the school buildings in a satisfactory state.

This has been my first year as chairperson and I would like to thank the other members of the council for their support and commitment to the school community.

Tim Carroll.

2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus
In 2006 the School Renewal Plan included the following Curriculum areas. All curriculum areas were revisited and updated if needed. Policies for all Key Learning Areas were put in place.

Religious Education Syllabus implementation.
English Curriculum Review. Writing Project. Programming and Assessment.

Programs to Support Learning
St Joseph’s in 2006 conducted a Language Class for children in Year 1 and Year 2 with speech difficulties. This small group met regularly in terms 2 and 3 with a trained teacher.

Reading Recovery is a program that supports children in Year 1 who are having difficulty with Reading and Writing. A specialist teacher works with each child for 30 minutes per day for 17 weeks.

Technology has been a focus and has been supported with a large financial commitment from the School Council. The Investing in Our Schools grant was put towards the purchase of new computers.

Equity Programs
St Joseph’s provides several equity programs. They are programs that support Special Needs Children and Indigenous Children. Class teachers plan programs that are implemented by teacher assistants.

Programs to Support Students
Programs to support Special Needs Students and Indigenous children operate at St Joseph’s. Special Needs Students are assessed and if funding for support is approved a teacher assistant is organised. The class teacher plans the child’s program for the teacher assistant to implement. Meetings with parents occur during the year.

Indigenous students also receive assistance from teacher assistants on a regular basis. The assistance is for Literacy and Numeracy.

The Student Representative Council is elected by the students. This group of children lead the school. They meet regularly with the Assistant Principal and together they look at how they can be of help to the school.

Respect and Responsibility
Class norms that are set at the beginning of each year show how children want to be treated. Children and staff have asked to be treated with respect. Out of this comes the responsibility therefore to treat others in this way. At times during the year when a class “rough spot” is experienced this value is revisited. The school displays the values for Australian Schooling and National Safe
Schools Framework posters to show that we value their importance. As a part of the Values for Australian Schools program in 2007 our focus will be "Building Resilience in Children." A parent forum will be part of this program.

**Student Achievement**

**Statewide Tests and Examinations**
The table below indicates the percentage of students who have achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>93.75%</td>
<td>98.75%</td>
<td>96.25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>91.31%</td>
<td>98.54%</td>
<td>97.12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Basic Skills 1998 to 2006**
Our school has participated in BST Literacy and Numeracy since 1998 and in BST Writing since 2001. The school monitors the BST Trend Data each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year.

**Staff Achievement**
The ICT teacher attended a 2 day course including all the latest technology and innovations.

The Principal was involved in a 2 day course on marketing.

Training and implementation of the Mathematics Assessment Project took place.

A number of the Executive were involved in a 2 day course that covered many aspects of the School Curriculum. Two of these were ICT in the classroom and Boys Education.

A member of staff took part in the 3rd stage of the Journey Program held at Hay.

The Principal received a certificate for 25 years of commitment to Catholic Education.

Several members of staff were a part of a Curriculum Review Panel which looked at curriculum areas in other school.

Two members of staff are working hard at developing a school website for St Joseph's.

The Principal led a workshop in the Mentoring for Women program in the Diocese.

All staff were involved in the parent meetings that were held to inform parents about the new school report.

The Religion Education Coordinator was involved in the Parish Lenten program, is a member of the Parish Family Groups and attended a Cursillo weekend in July.

**3. School Renewal**

**Progress of the School Renewal Framework**

**School Improvement Targets**
The following were the main focuses for 2006.

**Vision and Mission** - revisited and endorsed

**Programs / Policies / Curriculum**
- all areas were revisited and updated for registration.
- Programming and Assessment
- Writing Project
- New Reports
- Firesticks

**Leadership and Administration**
- NSSF School Safety

**Professional Development**
- New report
- Writing Project
- ICT

**Resources and Facilities**
- Covered Outdoor Learning Area
- New Buildings
- Refurbishment of the Church Building
- Water recycling project

**4. School Overview**

**School Enrolment**

**Enrolment Policy**
St Joseph's School Leeton implements the Catholic School Office enrolment policy. www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig'</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>231</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>466</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Structure of Classes
All teaching staff at St Joseph’s have appropriate teaching qualifications, from a recognised higher education institution.

St Joseph’s school has 18 classes:- Kindergarten to Year 6. Many grades have 3 classes and the others have 2 classes. The average size is 26 children.

There is a commitment to making the infants classes as small as possible. Larger classes have teacher assistant support. Music teacher, librarian and computer teacher give specialist lessons. Reading Recovery operates for at-risk students in Reading and Writing for Year 1 children. The language class operates to support a small group of children who have language difficulties. An “English as a Second Language” program for children who struggle with English as it is not spoken at home.

Staff
Teacher Standards
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></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Learning
The following is the professional learning the staff have had the opportunity to receive in 2006:
- MIA Writing Project
- New School Reports
- Criteria Referenced Assessment

Teacher Attendance and Retention
The federal Schools Assistance Act 2005 requires that each school report on the average attendance rate of staff members in a given school. The end figure is determined by calculations including certain periods of absence due to sickness, personal carers leave, leave without pay, special leave and accident/workers compensation leave. An attendance rate of 96.1% was achieved in 2006 by staff at St Joseph’s Primary School, Leeton.

Parent Involvement and Participation
Parents and Friends Report
The Parents and Friends have worked hard all year to raise funds for the school. They met their commitment of $18,500 for the school for the year. These funds went to purchasing resources for the children especially in Key Learning Areas. English and Maths resources have been supplemented and updated due to these funds. As well as this they gave $5,000 for outdoor seating for the children and $15,000 for new computers.

The Parent and Friends concluded their year by organising a fun day for the families. The children really enjoyed the games such as the three legged race, sack race and tug-o-war. A special thankyou to the Parents and Friends executive for the great work done in 2006.

Community Use of School Facilities
The community has use of the school facilities for meetings, reunions and sport. At all times the issue of insurance needs to be considered.

Community Satisfaction
The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction our community has with St Joseph’s Leeton.

Parents
My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St Joseph’s Leeton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students
I am usually happy at St Joseph’s Leeton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff
I am usually happy at St Joseph’s Leeton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Statement Summary
See Appendix A.

About This Report
This report was written by the Principal. The School Council Report was written by the Chairperson.
APPENDIX A

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.

System Income 2006

- Capital Income: 3%
- Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants: 57%
- Other Fee Income: 5%
- School Fees: 14%
- State Government Recurrent Grants: 21%

System Expenses 2006

- Salary and Related Expenses: 73%
- Non Salary Expenses: 20%
- Capital Expenditure: 7%
The total income and expense of the school, that is included in the above, is shown below.