

# Annual School Report 2015 School Year



## ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL WAUCHOPE

King Street  
WAUCHOPE NSW 2446

PO Box 9  
WAUCHOPE NSW 2446

Phone: (02) 6585 1745  
Fax: (02) 6585 2867

[www.wauplism.catholic.edu.au](http://www.wauplism.catholic.edu.au)

## About this report

St Joseph's Primary School, Wauchope is registered by the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) (NSW) and managed by the Lismore Catholic Schools Office (CSO), as the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990.

The *Annual Report to the Parish School Community* for this year provides the parish school community with fair, reliable and objective information about school performance measures and policies, as determined by the Minister for Education.

The *Report* also outlines to the parish school community information about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance to the parish school community and the achievements arising from the implementation of the school's Strategic Management Plan and Annual Plan.

The *Report* demonstrates accountability to the Federal and State Government regulatory bodies, the parish and school community and the Catholic Schools Office. This *Report* has been approved by the CSO which monitors school processes to ensure compliance with all NSW BOSTES requirements for Registration.

This *Report* complements and is supplementary to school newsletters, year books and other regular communications. The *Report* must be available on the school's website by 30 June 2016 following its submission to the BOSTES.

The contents of this *Report* may be tabled for discussion at various parent forums and all information is public.

Further information about the school or this *Report* may be obtained by contacting the school on (02) 6585 1745 or by visiting the website at [www.wauplism.catholic.edu.au](http://www.wauplism.catholic.edu.au)



## 1. Messages

---

### 1.1 Principal's Message

The primary purpose of St Joseph's Primary School is to support the members of the parish community in providing a faith formation for their children. The school fosters a commitment to the individual person and provides opportunities for academic, cultural and sporting achievement. St Joseph's Primary School offers students a quality Catholic education based on the teaching of the Church and within the context of a strong faith community.

Our parish school continued to provide many opportunities for the students to excel in academic, cultural and sporting areas. All of these areas combined to ensure that our school's mission was lived out daily in the life of the school.

The students' achievements and accomplishments were showcased throughout 2015. Student work was proudly displayed in classrooms, on school noticeboards, in the school office and on class webpages. School achievement was highlighted and celebrated at many school assemblies. Our focus was to continue to build on the reputation that St Joseph's Primary School has earned as an exemplary school. The following list provides an indication of the school's academic achievements. In 2015 at the school:

- The Year 6 students participated in the Religious Education test revealing strong knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- The STAR reading program assisted with significant growth of student outcomes in reading. Overall growth had exceeded previous years' growth.
- The QuickSmart Literacy Program has allowed for students in Years 5 and 6 to achieve at Benchmark standards.
- Year 5 NAPLAN results demonstrated significant growth in Literacy.
- Two Teams of Year 5 and Year 6 students completed in the regional Tournament of Minds gaining a second place in this competition.
- Students participated in the International Competition and Assessment for Schools in English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Computers. Many participants received Distinction, Credit or Merit certificates.

There were many opportunities throughout the year for our school to be represented at community and cultural events. The following list provides an indication of the school's cultural program and community involvement. In 2015 the school:

- Planned activities for and performed at the annual 'Celebrate Jesus' festival.
- Introduced an enrichment Dance group which performed at the Port Macquarie Eisteddfod.
- Ensured the Student Representative Council members attended the Grip Leadership Conference with the view extending student leadership within our school.
- Actively participated in and raised funds through the Mini Vinnies Winter Sleep Out with 36 students sleeping out.
- Had Students in Year 5 and Year 6 attend the Diocese of Lismore Exuro and Incarnate programs thereby extending their faith development.
- Experienced significant growth and development in the School Band and Music Tuition Program.

Students performed well at various sporting events throughout the year. The following list provides some examples of sporting highlights. In 2015:

- The school achieved representation in all sports at School, Zone and Diocesan levels. A select number of individuals represented at Polding and State level.
- A team of Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 students represented the school and region in the Schubert's 7s Rugby League carnival. This team won the regional carnival and proceeded through to the semi-finals at the State Carnival.
- All students participated in School Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming Carnivals.
- All students participated in our annual FUN RUN at Bonny Hills.

There were many people who assisted in the school's quest for excellence. In particular special thanks are extended to the parent body and the school staff for all their generous efforts. St Joseph's Primary School is indeed blessed to have such dedicated and enthusiastic people supporting the school.

Patricia Coelho, *Principal*



## 1.2 A Parent Message

2015 was another successful year for both the Parents and Friends Association (P&F) and our school. There were a number of achievements and some changes implemented in 2015. The P&F provided:

- Ongoing support to the school to assist with library subscriptions, home readers, subsidised bus travel to zone carnivals, and subsidised purchase of Year 6 T-shirts.
- Farewell gifts for the retiring assistant principal and the welcoming our newly appointed assistant principal.
- Support for the Mini Vinnies program.
- The review and implementation of the P&F Association's Constitution was undertaken during 2015.

Following advice from the school executive, the decision was made for the P&F Association to cease the managing the uniform shop, as it had done previously with the canteen, and to hand control to the school, with the assurance that it would still provide a service to families.

Community building and fundraising events included a Welcome to 2015 pool night, the hire of the Aqua Scramble, Mother's Day morning tea following the Mother's Day Liturgy, Family BBQ prior to the dance concert, Cadbury chocolate fundraiser, BBQ at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival in Port Macquarie, Father's Day breakfast BBQ and the Op-shop challenge Trivia Night.

Parents were also actively involved in assisting with the Mini Vinnies Sleep Out, Annual FUN RUN and Kindergarten Orientation. Parent also had a number of occasions to be informed and provide feedback through Parent Teacher meetings, Education evenings were held on the Diocese of Lismore Contemporary Learning Framework and parents had the opportunity of Learning Walks through our newly renovated Flexible and Adaptive Classrooms.

Mr Christian Gibbs  
*President, St Joseph's School P & F Association*

## 2. This Catholic School

---

### 2.1 The School Community

St Joseph's Primary School is located in Wauchope and is part of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish which serves the communities of Wauchope, Beechwood and Long Flat. School families are drawn from the towns and communities of Wauchope, Beechwood, Long Flat, Pappinbarra, Byabarra, King Creek and Comboyne.

Last year the school celebrated 87 years of Catholic education.

The parish priest (administrator) Fr Dan Redhead is involved in the life of the school.

St Joseph's Primary School is a parish school with strong links to the parish family. The school aims to involve the children and their families in the life of the parish through activities such as:

- Participation in Parish Sacramental Programs.
- Involvement with and support for Bundaleer Nursing Home.
- Rosary bead making with the students from St Joseph's supported by local parishioners.
- The support of the local branch of St Vincent De Paul by the Mini Vinnies Team Implementation of the Making Jesus Real resource, and provision of faith leadership opportunities for Stage 3 students.
- Ministries such as Altar Serving, Reading and Offertory.

The parish school uses the mandated Diocesan Religious Education curriculum and the resource text "To Know, Worship & Love". Catholic life and culture permeate school life with 2.5 hours of religious education taught formally each week. The Diocesan Daily Prayer guidelines support the school's prayer life. The aims and direction of our parish school are guided by *Catholic Education in the Diocese of Lismore, the Foundational Beliefs and Practices – The Essential Framework*. This Framework underpins all policy, planning, roles and processes within the parish school. Our aim is to increasingly integrate the essence of this statement into all aspects of school life. Religious Education is given priority in our school and classroom curriculum and planning.

The parish school Mission Statement highlights the nature and calling of the school.



## 2.2 School Enrolment

St Joseph's Primary School caters for children from Kindergarten to Year 6. The following table indicates the student enrolment characteristics:

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL 2015	TOTAL 2014
<b>Male</b>	22	17	17	17	19	12	25	129	129
<b>Female</b>	19	25	23	13	21	13	14	128	116
<b>Indigenous</b> <i>count included in first two rows</i>	4	5	2	3	4	2	5	25	34
<b>LBOTE</b> <b>(Language background other than English)</b> <i>count included in first two rows</i>			1					1	1

## 2.3 Student Attendance

In order for students to reach their full potential it is important that they attend school regularly. Whilst it is the parents' legal duty to ensure their children attend school regularly, our staff as part of their duty of care monitor attendance each day. The Class Roll is marked every day and rolls are checked each fortnight by the principal. The school uses the attendance coding system adopted in all NSW schools. Unexplained absences are followed up promptly by classroom teachers. Parents are requested to provide a note to the teacher immediately the child returns to school. The principal is made aware of sustained student absences or absences reflecting a pattern. In these situations the principal or delegated staff member contacts the parent/guardian. Parents are encouraged to arrange medical and other necessary appointments outside school hours. Prolonged periods of absence occur from time-to-time for various reasons. In these cases students and their parents meet with the principal to discuss the leave request.

The average student attendance rate for the school during 2015 was 93.9%. School attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

	Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<b>Attendance rates by Year group</b>	91.8%	94.4%	94.6%	94.4%	94.2%	94.9%	93.2%

## 2.4 Teacher Standards and Professional Learning

Teacher Qualifications / Staff Profile		Number of Teachers
1.	Those having formal qualifications from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	16
2.	Those having graduate qualifications but not a formal teaching qualification from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	0
3.	Those not having qualifications described in 1 or 2 above but having relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate relevant knowledge.	0
4.	Teachers with recognised qualifications to teach Religious Education.	15
5.	Number of staff identifying as indigenous employed at the school.	2
6.	Total number of non-teaching staff employed at the school.	12

## 2.5 Teacher Attendance and Retention

The average teacher attendance figure is 94%. This figure is provided to the school by the CSO.

After 31 years of teaching within the St Joseph's School community the Assistant Principal chose to retire. He leaves a legacy that is deeply valued and has continued to form connections with new staff and parishioners.

## 2.6 Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

The school ensures that at every available formal and informal opportunity the values of respect and responsibility are promoted. We want every student to understand and appreciate that they are part of both the school and the local community.

The school models and teaches students about respect and responsibility in a number of ways:

- Throughout 2015 key stakeholders were educated in the Making Jesus Real program, which complements the current school philosophy of Restorative Justice. This process involved Stage 3 students working closely with teachers in forming Peer Support Sessions to guide younger students. The values of respect and responsibility lie at the heart of Catholic schools and underpin all policies and procedures.
- In working with the wider community the students were actively involved in the ANZAC Day march within the town and this was followed by an invitation for a community member to address the school on the theme of service for our country. Students from Stage 3 were involved in the 100 year Commemoration of ANZAC Day through the War Veterans Remembrance Drive Wingham to Wauchope, illustrating respect for our community and those who served to protect our country.

## 2.7 Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

The school uses a variety of methods to gauge parental, student and teacher satisfaction with school operations. The school understands the importance of regularly reviewing approval and satisfaction levels. Last year the following formal and informal opportunities allowed the school to test reaction to decisions, policy and school procedures.

- Staff were given the opportunity to complete a number of online surveys on the work of the Professional Learning Communities, which resulted in the development of a systematic approach to improving student learning.
- Student Leadership surveys lead to the election of School Captains and Sports Leaders.
- Staff opinion was canvassed and considered in the plan for future developments in relation to school structure and student personalised learning.
- All key stakeholders were invited to contribute to the school's Insight SRC survey data in assessing the emerging needs of our school, students and families.



### **3. Teaching and Learning**

---

#### **3.1 School Curriculum**

The school provides a comprehensive educational program based on and taught in accordance with the Board of Studies and Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) syllabuses for Primary Education. The Key Learning Areas (KLAs) are English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. Students also study Religious Education.

The school curriculum provides programs, strategies and initiatives that cater for a diverse range of student interests, talents and abilities. St Joseph's Primary School delivers targeted intervention to students requiring learning support, including STAR, Support a Talker and Individual Education Plans/ Indigenous Personalised Learning Plans. The school also extends gifted and talented students across the curriculum and through a range of programs and activities including Tournament of the Minds, sporting representation, Visual Arts, Dance and Music tutoring and performances.

The school continues to develop curriculum adjustments, differentiation and goal setting to personalise and enhance the learning for each child. The assessment procedures of the school are informing quality teaching and learning experiences to promote high standards in learning for each child. The introduction of a Leader of Pedagogy in 2013 has been instrumental in embedding the practices of a Professional Learning Community and 21st Century learning through the lens of the Contemporary Learning Framework (CLF). The staff is engaged in continuous, job-embedded professional development through their participation in Professional Learning Teams, which focus on changing pedagogy and responding to assessment data to support all children learning at high levels. Teachers undertook professional development in Mathematics instruction and the school invested in exceptional hands-on and online mathematics resources to support students. Students have embraced the changes in their classrooms and showed excellent academic growth.

Technology as a tool for teaching and learning is a priority for ongoing staff development. Technology helps promote increased student motivation, engagement and learning. Over 150 new technology devices were purchased for use in 2015 including mini laptops/tablets, iPads and document cameras. Students eagerly accessed online tools and programs that complemented their learning in all KLAs.

Student well-being and pastoral care scaffolds the curriculum at St Joseph's. The Religious Education curriculum and other initiatives such as Making Jesus Real, Peer Support, clubs and the School's Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy are significant components of our total effort to improve student's social and emotional well-being and their ability to access the curriculum.

#### **3.2 Student Performance in National Testing Programs**

The school participated in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) with students in Years 3 and 5 tested. In Year 3, 30 students presented for the tests while in Year 5 there were 25 students.

In Literacy there were four elements tested. These were reading, writing, spelling and grammar and punctuation. In Numeracy, students were tested in number, patterns and algebra, measurement, data and space and geometry.

In both Year 3 and Year 5 there are six achievement bands with Band 6 being the highest level of attainment in Year 3 and Band 8 the highest in Year 5.

The Commonwealth Government has set minimum acceptable standards for reading, writing and numeracy at particular ages.

In Year 3, students who achieve Band 3 or higher have achieved above the minimum standard. In Year 5 those students who achieve at Band 5 and higher have achieved above the minimum standard set by government.

At St Joseph's Primary School, school and student performance is closely monitored. These tests are one means of gathering data on individual student and school achievement. School staff have participated in Catholic Schools Office information sessions on NAPLAN and SMART 2 Data Analysis workshops.

The following data indicates the percentage of St Joseph's Primary School students in each band compared to the State percentage.



**Year 3 NAPLAN Results in Literacy and Numeracy**  
Percentage of students in Bands 1 to 6

BAND	6		5		4		3		2		1	
	State	School										
Reading	30.5	16.7	19.5	16.7	21.0	30	19.0	30	5.7	3.3	4.3	3.3
Writing	15.9	00	38.5	10	23.0	23.3	16.4	50	4.3	13.3	1.8	3.3
Spelling	27.1	6.7	20.1	13.3	20.8	33.3	18.4	26.7	9.6	16.7	4.0	3.3
Grammar and Punctuation	32.1	20	20.4	13.3	23.6	45	12.6	16.7	7.3	6.7	4.1	3.3
Numeracy	18.8	6.7	19.3	10	23.8	30	21.1	36.7	12.6	13.3	4.4	3.3

**Year 5 NAPLAN Results in Literacy and Numeracy**  
Percentage of students in Bands 3 to 8

BAND	8		7		6		5		4		3	
	State	School										
Reading	17.5	16	20.5	8	21.8	28	20.7	32	15.0	12	4.6	4
Writing	6.2	8	15.2	8	31.5	24	32.6	48	8.7	12	5.8	0
Spelling	12.9	8	27.0	32	25.2	16	20.0	36	10.4	8	4.5	0
Grammar and Punctuation	18.1	8	20.6	24	21.5	24	22.5	28	10.7	16	6.6	0
Numeracy	14.1	12.5	16.6	12.5	25.6	33.3	25.3	12.5	15.3	29.2	3.0	0

The data in the table above shows a range of scores, including pleasing results for our Year 5 students, particularly in Writing. The use of strategic spelling programs contributed to growth in Spelling. The data for our Year 3 students show there has been movement in Bands 3 & 4 for Grammar & Punctuation. This is largely due to the effective structures of the school providing support for students' learning. Reading intervention programs continue to contribute to the overall success of our students.

### 3.3 Teacher Professional Learning

All teachers have been involved in professional learning activities during the year. These activities are designed to develop the professional skills and understandings of staff so as to improve student outcomes. Professional development can take many forms including whole-staff development days, subject specific in-services, meetings and conferences.

Whole staff development day professional learning activities in 2015 were:

Staff Professional Learning Activity	Date	Presenter
Australian Mathematics Curriculum for NSW	March 2015	Anita Chinn
Staff Spiritual Retreat	June 2015	School Leadership Team
Australian History and Geography Curriculum for NSW	July 2015	School Leadership Team
Australian Mathematics Curriculum for NSW	October 2015	School Leadership Team

Additionally staff attended either singly or in groups a range of professional development opportunities including:

Activity	Staff numbers	Presenter
Anita Chinn Mathematics Modules	15	Maria Wilson - LOP
Autism Spectrum Disorder	3	CSO Lismore
Peer 2 Peer	2	CSO Lismore
Australian Science and Technology Curriculum for NSW	6	CSO Lismore
Australian English Curriculum for NSW	7	CSO Lismore

The professional learning expenditure has been calculated at \$7965 per staff member. This figure has been calculated by the CSO and reflects expenditure on casual release days and professional development activities in particular categories.

## 4. School Policies

### 4.1 Policy Review

School policies are reviewed regularly. The table below lists the school policies and notes any additions, changes or upgrades made during 2015.

Policy name	Status in 2015 (No change, new policy, changes made)	Access this policy at:
Assessment and Reporting	Changes made	School network
Student Engagement and Wellbeing	Changes made	School network, website, App
Emergency Evacuation	Changes made	School network, website, all rooms
Lockdown Procedures	Changes made	School network, website, all rooms
Anaphylaxis	New Policy	School network, website
Student Attendance	Changes made	School network, website

### 4.2 Enrolment Policy

Every new enrolment at St Joseph's Wauchope requires parents to attend an enrolment interview. The interview provides an opportunity to learn more about the educational experience provided by the school, specific school procedural policies and current school expectations.

Preference for enrolment is given to children of baptised Catholics. It is a condition of enrolment that all children will participate in class religion lessons and activities, as well as prayer celebrations, school and class Masses.

Children who turn five by 30 June are eligible to apply for enrolment in Kindergarten. Enrolments for Kindergarten children are called for in the year before commencement. Other enrolments are accepted throughout the year if there are vacancies in the classes concerned.

A copy of the enrolment policy is located in the school office or it can be accessed on the school's website. The School Enrolment Policy explains the Parish enrolment guidelines.



### 4.3 Student Welfare Policy, Pastoral Care Policy

The school's Pastoral Care Policy is based on the principles of restorative justice and procedural fairness. The formulated policy reflects the vision and mission of the Catholic Church and is characterised by safety, trust and mutual respect. To assist with the implementation of this policy a new Guiding Behaviour Statement was created and has replaced the existing school rules. To live out this policy, the school has adopted various programs aimed at helping students value themselves and experience positive well-being. These include programs focussing on self-esteem, social relationships and moral development. The school's pastoral care program has been developed in consultation with staff, parents and students. Programs available within the school that support this policy are the Chaplaincy Program and the engagement of a Sand Play therapist.

### 4.4 Discipline Policy

The principles of restorative justice are embedded in the school's Behaviour Management Policy. These principles include acknowledging the inevitability of conflict and hurt in relationships, working towards healing by repairing relationships, learning and growing from experience. The policy is regularly communicated to all members of the school community. Students, staff and parents have a clear understanding of the expectations articulated through this policy and are supportive of the need to provide a safe and caring learning environment. The policy acknowledges teacher and student rights and responsibilities, and is based on the Gospel teachings of love for self and others. This policy is readily available to all and was developed in consultation with all key stake holders.

The school does not sanction corporal punishment or allow parents to administer corporal punishment in the school.

### 4.5 Complaints and Grievance Policy

The school policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that parents and caregivers must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory environment. Any concerns raised are responded to promptly and fairly, and confidentiality is always maintained. The policy is available from the school's website and is in correlation with the Diocese of Lismore Policy.

## 5. School Determined Improvement Targets

---

Each year the school develops an Annual Plan drawn from the five-year Strategic Plan. 2015 was a very rewarding year. Listed below are a number of goals and priorities that the school focused on during the year. The parish school's main goals and priorities were to:

---

#### **Catholic Faith and Culture**

---

Begin implementation of *Make Jesus Real*

---

Promote and implement *Proclaim Students*

---

#### **Teaching and Learning**

---

Implement the Australian Curriculum in preparation for 2016.

---

Develop agreed practice around personalised learning

---

#### **Organisation and Administration**

---

Continue to create flexible and adaptive environments for Stage 2 students in 2016

---

Redesign garden areas to improve aesthetic environment

---

#### **Relationships**

---

Review P & F constitution

---

Continue to explore opportunities for the development of local and regional partnerships with associated preschools and high schools.

---

## 6. Financial Information

Catholic schools are accountable for all monies received. Each year, the Lismore Catholic Schools Office submits to the Commonwealth Government a financial statement on behalf of the parish primary schools and secondary colleges. This statement details the income and expenditure of each school. In addition, the financial accounts for each school and for the Catholic Schools Office are audited annually.

A visual summary of the income and expenditure reported to the Commonwealth Government for 2015 is presented below:

