

2024

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Pye Street, EUGOWRA 2806

Principal: Mrs Catherine Eppelstun

Web: <http://www.stjosephseugowra.catholic.edu.au>

About this report

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst (CEDB). CEDB as the 'approved authority' for the diocesan registration system formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act (1990), is responsible for monitoring the compliance of member schools in the manner that has been approved by the Minister of Education.

The Annual School Report (the 'Report') demonstrates accountability to regulatory bodies and CEDB. Additionally, the Report complements and is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the School community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the faith formation, learning and wellbeing of its students.

The Report provides parents and the wider community with fair, reliable and objective information about educational and financial performance measures as well as School and system policies. This information includes summary contextual data, an overview of student performance in state and national assessments, a description of the achievement of priorities in the previous year and areas for improvement. Detailed information about the School's improvement journey is documented in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) which is developed, implemented and evaluated in consultation with key stakeholders.

Further information about the contents of this Report may be obtained by contacting the School directly or by visiting the School's website. Information can be also be obtained from the [My School website](#).

Message from key groups in our community

Principal's Message

In 2024, St Joseph's Catholic School Eugowra began the year back on the original school site which had been destroyed by the 2022 floods.

The classrooms have all been totally refurbished, along with the student's toilets. The classrooms are bright, modern and very impressive. A wellness room was created in the old original church beside one of the classrooms. The wellness room became our staff room as we had no staff room, no staff toilets and no library. Staff used the hall toilets all year.

The children settled into their new school building very quickly.

The Parents and Friends Association financially and morally support the school by fundraising to purchase needed resources for the school and supplying food at social functions.

The Student Representative Council is very active at St Joseph's School. A student representative is elected from Years 1 - Year 5 with all Year 6 automatically on the Council. The SRC hold fundraising activities and purchase resources when needed.

Parent Body Message

St Joseph's School has an active Parents and Friends Association which meets once a month or when the committee decides a meeting is needed. We support the school by fundraising to supply additional resources needed at the school, in the classroom or on the playground. The staff are asked what new resources are needed in the Key Learning Areas and the P & F provide the funding.

During 2024, the P & F provided books for the classroom from the Book Week Book Fair and paid for buses for excursions.

We also helped with funding for the Life Education Van. The P & F held our annual Easter street staff.

The P & F is an important part of the school and provides parents with an opportunity to fund raise and get together and socialize while having our meeting.

Student Body Message

The Student Representative Council (SRC) at St Joseph's is made up of students from Year 6 and a representative from every class except Kindergarten. The children are voted for by their peers from Year 1 - Year 5. We meet monthly with the Principal to discuss needs of the students in the school. These meetings are held formally and minutes are recorded. A President, Secretary and Treasurer are voted for in the first meeting. At the end of the year

the SRC vote for a primary and infants student to receive the All Rounder Trophy at the End Of Year Prize Giving.

We organise our own fundraising within the school such as crazy hair days, movie nights, raffles, and treat days in order to raise money for resources, missions, books and sporting equipment.

The SRC is an important part of the Students voice in the school.

School Features

St Joseph's is a small Diocesan Catholic School in a remote rural community in the Central West of NSW. St Joseph's was established in 1882 by the Perthville Sisters of St Joseph to provide Catholic education for the growing community.

In 2024 the school consisted of 27 students.

The school has 3 fulltime classrooms operating. K, Years 1 are in one room. Middle primary has Years 2 & 3, in the senior room there is Years 4, 5, & 6.

The CEDB provides a support teacher two days a week and a Wellbeing officer who works half a day a week.

The school has students who have teachers aides working with them during the day due to their needs. Centacare provides a counsellor one day a fortnight to see children if referred.

On completing Year 6 the children further their education at local High schools in Canowindra and Forbes or at Red Bend Catholic College Forbes.

Student Profile

Student Enrolment

The School caters for students in Years K-6. Students attending this School come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities. The following information describes the student profile for 2024:

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
14	14	0	28

* Language Background Other than English

Enrolment Policy

Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst has an Enrolment Policy for Systemic Catholic Schools in the diocese. The policy has been developed in the context of government and system and parish requirements. Children from families who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church may be considered eligible for enrolment. Total fees are made up of a Single School Fee (which incorporates local costs), the Capital Works Levy and Subject Specific Costs. A pastoral approach is adopted for parents experiencing genuine difficulty with the payment of fees. Information about enrolling may be accessed through the [Diocesan website](#) under the About Us drop down menu - see Policies tab or by contacting your local Catholic School.

Student Attendance Rates

The average student attendance rate for the School in 2024 was 89.59%. Attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group						
Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
89.79	91.21	94.28	90.05	91.54	93.28	77.00

Managing Student Non-Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. The School, in partnership with parents, is responsible for promoting the regular attendance of

students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, School staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

School staff, under the Principal's leadership, support the regular attendance of students by:

- providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the School community
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance
- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise.

The Principal is responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by ensuring that:

- parents and students are regularly informed of attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance
- all cases of unsatisfactory attendance and part or full day absences from school are investigated promptly and that appropriate intervention strategies are implemented
- documented plans are developed to address the needs of students whose attendance is identified as being of concern
- the Executive Director of Schools and designated CEDB Safeguarding Officer are provided with regular information about students for whom chronic non-attendance is an issue and for whom the School's strategies have failed to restore regular attendance.

Staffing Profile

Staffing Profile

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2024:

Total number of staff	12
Number of full time teaching staff	3
Number of part time teaching staff	3
Number of non-teaching staff	6

Total number of teaching staff by NESA category

Teachers at this School are accredited as conditional, provisional or proficient as defined by the NSW Teacher Accreditation Act 2004. Accreditation at the levels of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher are voluntary. The number of teachers within the Diocesan Schools System at these levels is as follows:

- 39 Conditional teachers
- 28 Provisional teachers
- 920 Proficient teachers
- 1 Highly Accomplished and Lead (HALT) Teacher
- 1 Lead Teacher
- 8 HALT Candidates

Additionally, there are 14 teachers who are currently actively engaged in the submission process at the higher levels of accreditation. Teacher status at individual schools can be sourced directly from the School.

Catholic Identity and Mission

Catholic Schools have a unique role in the evangelising and educating mission of the Church. Catholic Schools encourage and support parents in their responsibility for the faith formation of their children. This formation is supported by prayer and opportunities to participate in the life, mission and liturgy of the broader Catholic community.

The School follows the Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student resources *To Know, Worship and Love*, and *Understanding Faith*, as authorised by the Bishop of Bathurst.

Students in Years 6 and 8 in Catholic schools in the Bathurst Diocese undertake the Diocesan Religious Education Test annually. The test consists of multiple-choice questions with the results analysed by CEDB to inform diocesan teaching and learning in Religious Education.

St Joseph's Catholic School Eugowra is a Catholic school which forms a very important part of the Eugowra Parish. It is a place of quality learning and teaching where young people are supported in developing their awareness and acceptance of their personal strengths in the Catholic tradition.

St Joseph's has a rich tradition of prayer and liturgy. Faith formations for students and staff include: school Masses, retreats, school prayer, Sacramental preparation, Christian Living Camp, and events that encompass our whole school living Mission Statement. These include assembly, singing for senior citizens, Mission appeals, St Joseph's Day and ANZAC Day. Pastoral care is the responsibility of everyone in the school community. Teachers, parents, support and ancillary staff and especially students are just some of the groups who contribute to Pastoral Care. They are continually encouraged to act in accordance with Christian Values and be sensitive to the dignity of each person. An Opening School Mass is held at the beginning of each school year where our student leaders are inducted and new kindergarten children and their families are welcomed. Liturgies are held regularly to celebrate Sacramental Celebrations and the Liturgical Year of the Church. The Graduation Mass concludes the year and allows us to celebrate as a School Community.

Students in Years 6 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Bathurst undertake the Diocesan Religious Test annually. The test consists of fifty multiple choice questions. Results of the test are analysed by teachers and are used to inform teaching and learning in Religious Education.

Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

The School provides an educational program based on, and taught in accordance with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) syllabuses for primary education. The Key Learning Areas (KLAs) are English, Mathematics, Science and Technology (S&T), Human Society and its Environment (HSIE), Creative Arts (CA) and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). In addition to this, the School implements the Diocesan Religious Education syllabus. Staff members are committed to continuous improvement of teaching and learning in all facets of the curriculum.

Support is provided for the delivery of high quality education, with all staff knowledgeable about the new Curriculums and National Statements of Learning through Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst, in-services and learning programmes.

The school is supported by the Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst and NESA with innovative and proactive approaches to curriculum provision, which responds to the diverse needs of learners. We strive to ensure the programs are effective, efficient and accountable. Learning Support Programs include Multilit, Macqlit, Prelit, Minilit Sage, Spellex and Quicksmart.

Community service activities such as Nursing Home visits, Senior Citizens Week and ANZAC Day. Mothers day, Father's day and Senior citizens days are held for the community to attend.

Student Performance in Tests and Examinations

NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia participated in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The purpose of NAPLAN is to provide information to parents and teachers about the achievements of students in literacy and numeracy. The test provides a measure of the student's performance against established standards and against other students in Australia. Each year the results are analysed by the school to inform teaching with a view to improving student performance.

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards with 4 levels of achievement to give teachers, parents and carers clearer information on how students are performing:

- Exceeding: The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- Strong: The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- Developing: The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- Needs additional support: The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

The percentage of student achieving at Exceeding and Strong proficiency standards in NAPLAN at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School for 2024 is reported in the table below.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2024		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 3	Grammar and Punctuation	20%	54%
	Reading	20%	66%
	Writing	80%	77%
	Spelling	20%	61%
	Numeracy	40%	64%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2024		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	67%	65%
	Reading	67%	71%
	Writing	67%	67%
	Spelling	67%	68%
	Numeracy	67%	68%

Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

Pastoral Care Policy

The School's Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing policies, guidelines and procedures are underpinned by the guiding principles from The Australian Student Wellbeing Framework (ASWF) that represent fundamental beliefs about safe, supportive and respectful school communities. These guiding principles emphasise the importance of student safety and wellbeing as a pre-requisite for effective learning in all Catholic school settings.

Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework provides a vision and guiding principles that assist school communities to develop positive school cultures that promote student wellbeing and develop respectful relationships. It assists schools to identify priority areas and measure progress in the development of safe school communities. The diocesan Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework assists schools in:

- planning, implementing and maintaining a safe, supportive and protective learning community that promotes student safety, pastoral care and wellbeing
- creating teaching and learning communities where all members of the School community are safe from harassment, aggression, violence and bullying
- responding to new and emerging pastoral care and student wellbeing challenges.

The Diocese of Bathurst Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework was revised in 2024 and is now titled Student Wellbeing Framework. The Framework can be accessed at [Student Wellbeing Framework](#).

The full text of the School's Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Policy and procedures may be accessed on the School's website. Changes made to the policy are notified to the community via the School's newsletter.

Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy

The School's Behaviour Management and Student Discipline policies and procedures are aligned to the diocesan Student Wellbeing Framework. The School's policy operates within a context that all members of the school community share responsibility to foster, encourage and promote positive behaviour and respectful relationships. The policy aims to promote a safe and supportive learning environment to maximise teaching and learning for all students. It supports the development of positive social behaviour based on respectful relationships and clear behavioural expectations. The dignity and responsibility of each person is

promoted at all times along with positive student behaviours while ensuring respect for the rights of all students and staff.

The full text of the School's Behaviour Management and Discipline policies and procedures may be accessed on the School's website. Changes made to the policy are notified to the community via the School's newsletter.

Anti-Bullying Policy

The School's Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures are based on and informed by Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst policies for Diocesan Schools and are aligned to the Student Wellbeing Framework. All students, their families and employees within Catholic education have a right to a learning and work environment free from intimidation, humiliation and hurt. Anti-Bullying policies support school communities to prevent, reduce and respond to bullying.

The full text of the School's Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures may be accessed on the School's website. Changes made to the policy are notified to the community via the School's newsletter.

Complaints Handling Policy

Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst has a Complaints Management Policy which is implemented across the diocese. The policy recognises that at times misunderstandings, differences of opinion, and complaints and grievances will occur, and that these need to be resolved. Addressing such matters within a framework of dignity, respect and truth can provide powerful opportunities to model the love of Christ in the reality of our contemporary world.

The Policy and procedures reflect the legislative responsibilities and demonstrate our diocesan commitment to protect the safety and wellbeing of students while supporting our employees and volunteers working with children and young people in our educational context.

The full text of the Complaints Management Policy may be accessed on the school website or by contacting Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst.

The full text of the Complaints Management Policy may be accessed on the school website also.

In addition to this policy, there are also policies and procedures related to Child Protection, Code of Conduct and Whistle Blowers. All of these are available through the CEDB website and the school website.

Community Satisfaction

The opinions and ideas of parents, students and teachers are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving improved outcomes for students. This year 2024, the School has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, students and teachers.

Additionally CEDB undertakes extensive surveying of all stakeholder groups through annual School Improvement Surveys. This data is used to further inform school improvement.

Both Data and Comments from these School Improvement Surveys are summarised here.

Parent satisfaction

Parent Response Samples:

- There is a very big advantage in this school that all the children from all the various grades interact together. Learning a broad range of skills with all ages not just same grade peers
- Teachers & support staff work very closely with each child to accommodate all aspects of their learning abilities with great encouragement & understanding
- Great school community, staff that all drive for all students to learn and improve
- My daughter is special needs and the improvement in her learning since coming to this school is outstanding. She has progressed so much and is supported by all the staff
- The school has changed my daughter's life . When she first started she wouldn't talk to anyone and she struggled with all aspects of her schooling. The improvement in her is amazing and I tell everyone how amazing the school is
- We have been more than happy with St Joseph's. Our kids couldn't be happier
- Great school and staff, well resourced, healthy culture. Very happy with the school and would recommend to anyone.

Student satisfaction

Samples of Student Satisfaction:

- help all students have a try in each class.
teaching is good
- we do lots of things
- we have lots of sport stuff to play with.

Teacher satisfaction

Samples of Teacher Satisfaction:

- We have a beautiful school, beautiful students and staff and we are very blessed here at St Joseph's Eugowra
- A tight-knit school community that will bend over backwards to help those in need. The child is always the highest priority
- The school is like a big family making everyone feel included, respected and valued. The staff always go above and beyond to cater for the learning of the children. The children's assessment data is analysed and teachers programs are based on the children's needs to improve. Children who need extra assistance in learning areas are catered for and continually monitored
- Wellbeing is a priority in the school after the 2022 floods. Staff have attended workshops to assist in the children's, parents and staff wellbeing. Staff in 2024 are attending Numeracy, literacy, religious and STEM professional workshops.

Financial Statement

School Financial Information is based on the detailed information provided to the Commonwealth Government in the Commonwealth Financial Questionnaire.

School Financial Information for the 2024 year is detailed here:

Recurrent and Capital Income 2024	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants ¹	\$964,454
Government Capital Grants ²	\$0
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$263,023
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$388,469
Interest Subsidy Grants	\$0
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$12,796
Total Income	\$1,628,742

Recurrent and Capital Expenditure 2024	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$46,179
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$1,033,882
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$503,111
Total Expenditure	\$1,583,172

Notes

1. Commonwealth Recurrent Grants includes recurrent per capita grants and special purpose grants.
2. Government Capital Grants includes all capital grants received from the Commonwealth and State Governments.
3. State Recurrent Grants includes recurrent grants per capita, special purpose grants and interest subsidy grants.
4. Fees and Private Income include Archdiocesan and school based fees, excursions and other private income.
5. Other Capital Income includes building levy fees and capital donations used to fund Capital Expenditure.
6. Capital Expenditure includes expenditure on School Buildings, and Furniture and Equipment.
7. Salaries and Related Expenditure includes all salaries, allowances and related expenses such as superannuation and workers compensation insurance.
8. Non-Salary Expenses include all other Non-Salary Recurrent Expenditure covering resources, administration, operational expenses, utilities, repairs and maintenance.

END OF 2024 REPORT