ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

St Michael's Cathedral Parish
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Committed to excellence in Catholic primary school education
ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cnr Johnston & Tarcutta Streets
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

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History of St Joseph's School

The original St Michael's Church was built on the river side of Church Street. In 1859, a wing was added to the western side of the church and was known as St Joseph's. Used for the education for Primary School girls, it was the beginning of St Joseph's School.

Catholic Education commenced on the Johnston Street site in 1874 when Sisters of the Presentation order opened the original 'stable school'. This school was situated in the area at the rear of the present presbytery.

By the 1880's facilities were strained. Father V G DUNNE, saw the necessity for another school to cope with the increasing number of pupils. On January 25, 1886 the St Joseph's School, also known as the St Joseph's Hall opened under the direction of Sisters Aloysius, Mary Alogue, and Mary Alphonsus of the Presentation Order. Such was the need, the building was enlarged in 1914.

The building currently in use replaced that school and was opened by Bishop F A HENSCHKE in 1942. It operated as a Catholic Primary School until 1971, with boys and girls in the Infant Grades and girls from Years 3 through to Six. The Infant Section continued a number of years before closing as well.

As in the 1800's, the need for Catholic Educational facilities in the Wagga Wagga Diocese stretched the available resources and St Joseph's Primary School re-opened in 1995 with two classes, Kindergarten and a composite Year One/Two.
The Aim of St Joseph's School

The aim of St Joseph's School is to provide the best formation and education of young people to prepare them for the challenge of living as educated Catholics in the twenty first century.

We seek to create in St Joseph's School a centre of faith and educational excellence: to develop each child to the fullness of his or her educational potential and to guide each child into membership of a Catholic community centred in Jesus.

We commit ourselves to the following:

*To acknowledge that parents, as the first educators of their children, entrust them to our school for their spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical and social development. The school's role is to complement the best of family life and values.

*To conduct the religious and general education of children as a special ministry, leading the children into a full relationship with Jesus and His Church.

*To provide the children of Saint Joseph's with the necessary knowledge and skills to grow as confident, competent individuals in a learning community which endeavours to develop them as life long learners.

*To challenge the children to strive to achieve excellence through a variety of different learning experiences, in an environment which values co-operative interaction.

How do we achieve our aims?

Educational Methods

The educational methods used in St Joseph's School are those which allow for the fullest development intellectually, spiritually and psychologically of children. This is achieved by programmes tailored to the specific learning needs of the child. The teachers of St Joseph's School are expected to develop learning programmes which foster the development of the whole child.

This process requires regular evaluation of student and teacher progress in achieving these goals, and provides ways of assisting children to meet any learning difficulties which arise and to develop the special gifts which each child possesses. Parents receive comprehensive recorded details about their child's progress, along with verbal information from the class teachers.
The Role of Parents

Parents are valued in St Joseph's School as the prime educators of their children. They are invited to assist in the school's instructional programmes, and encouraged to suggest improvements and revision of school approaches so that their children receive the very best education possible. This is achieved through the co-operation of the School Board, Parents and Friends Association, and personal approaches to the principal and teachers.

Instructional Environment

St Joseph's will eventually be a one-stream school of approximately two hundred children. In the early stages, class composition will be determined by enrolments. When completed there will be one class in each grade level.

Discipline and Behaviour

St Joseph's School aims to develop self discipline in each child. All children are encouraged to think about their actions and to accept personal responsibility for what they do. In line with the policy in Catholic schools of the Wagga Wagga Diocese corporal punishment is not permitted in the school. Parents are consulted about any exhibited behaviour which is out of the ordinary. Parents are encouraged to communicate to the school any change in their child's home behaviour which may be related to school life.
Religious Education

St Joseph's is a Christ centred community which celebrates its Catholic faith. We nurture acceptance, compassion, forgiveness, respect, justice, unity and religious practices. At St Joseph's we have a whole school Mass fortnightly, Reconciliation for the primary classes once a term and regular class visits by Mons D. George, one of our Parish Priests. We celebrate special feast days such as St Joseph's Day, St Patrick's day and The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The school is also responsible for one Sunday Parish Mass each term where we provide a choir, readers, offertory procession, collection of money and host a morning tea for the parishioners. In term Four we help the missions. During Mission week we do many fun fundraising activities. In Year Two the children are prepared for the sacrament of Reconciliation. In Year Three they are prepared for their First Holy Communion and in Year Six the children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

At St Joseph's we follow the Diocese of Wagga Wagga's syllabus "Sharing our Story". There are different units of work for each grade level but they all have common strands: God, Jesus, Church, Sacraments, Scripture, Christian Life, Prayer and Liturgy and Religion and Society.

Our mission at St Joseph's is to educate the children in the Catholic faith, to reach out to those in need through almsgiving, service and prayer and to ensure that our Catholic faith permeates all teaching and interactions with each other.

General Education

Instruction in all subjects is carried out using sound educational approaches. At all times this instruction is imbued with a Catholic spirit. Every effort is made by teachers to assist each individual child in his or her learning process. The teaching of English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and Its Environment, Creative and Performing Arts, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education is in accordance with the best of modern teaching methods. As with all Wagga Wagga Diocesan schools, the assistance of the professional staff of the Diocesan Education Offices is available. The school places a high priority on academic achievement for all children. Those with learning difficulties are given every assistance possible to help them gain the skills and knowledge which they will require for adult life.
This scale of fees grants a reduction according to the number of children enrolled in St. Joseph’s Primary School, Wagga Wagga. Every Catholic child should be able to receive a Catholic education in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. Special arrangements can be made with the Principal and Parish Priest if the family is in serious financial difficulty.

School fees may be paid weekly, monthly or each term, and are reviewed annually.

**School Uniform**

**SUMMER UNIFORM**

Boys: - Open neck blue shirt and grey shorts.
Plain grey socks. Black shoes.
Royal blue broad brim hat *(with school emblem)*
*(Dark brown, flat-soled sandals may be worn in hot weather).*

Girls: - Blue check dress *(Pattern No 295 Wilkinson)*
Blue sports pants, White socks. Black shoes.
Royal Blue broad brim hat *(with school emblem)*
*(Dark brown, flat-soled sandals may be worn in hot weather).*

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**WINTER UNIFORM**


**SPORTS UNIFORM**


A school tracksuit is usually worn in Terms 2 and 3 on sport days. This tracksuit can only be ordered through the School Office in Term 1 of each year.

The monogrammed royal blue broad brim hat is available from the school office as is a St. Joseph’s School Bag and Library Bag.

Children are permitted three items of jewellery: stud earrings, signet ring and school-type bangle. Body piercing is not permitted. Shoulder length hair is to be tied or plaited.