

St Joseph's High School Strategic Plan 2017-2019



Our Vision is to create an education environment which matters to students and their families and which resonates deeply for them. In each classroom, learning area, or sports field, across the school, and in partnership with families, each of us discovers in the Spirit, the love of God which is revealed in Jesus Christ, proclaimed by the Church, celebrated in sacraments and lived by all.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT - SCHOOL BASED – LEARNING CENTRED AND FUTURE ORIENTED

<p>A Catholic Philosophy of education is grounded in a Theology of the human person as the “image of God”:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In the conviction that each and every person is uniquely loved into being by God and created for communion with God, and with one another in God.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This creative, unique and unifying love forms and informs our being in the world so that we “may have life and have it to the full”.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(John 10:10)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St Joseph's High School Aberdeen:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We offer students and their families the experience of a CATHOLIC COMMUNITY and EDUCATION focused on the formation of the WHOLE-PERSON and a vision of life inspired by Jesus' teaching and Gospel values, to care for justice and act with integrity.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We CARE We EDUCATE We SHOW COMPASSION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We ARE COMMITTED TO GO BEYOND THE ORDINARY We ARE COMMITTED TO THE GOSPEL</p>
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This belief inspires St Joseph's to strive to become a **COMMUNITY OF LEARNING** with the following characteristics: every person is respected and included as an integral part of the Upper Hunter Community, and local communities; all are inspired and encouraged to continue growing into the unique human being that each one is – spirit, mind and body; and where the school itself becomes a centre of personal and full-school flourishing.

St Joseph's has now a 121-year tradition of involvement in such holistic formation and education of young people – spiritually, intellectually, creatively, culturally, physically, socially and emotionally.

SCHOOL HISTORY

History of St Joseph's High School, Aberdeen

The opening of the meatworks in Aberdeen in 1892 brought an increase in population to the area and a great need for an established Catholic School. Catholic education began here in 1896, when four Sisters of St Joseph from Lochinvar, arrived at the request of Bishop James Murray.

The first convent was a small rented cottage overlooking the Hunter River. This was replaced when Father Roche succeeded in purchasing Brooderlins property at the rear of the Church grounds. The seeds of the boarding school were sown when the Sisters took in one small boy whose mother had died, then another who was lonely and eventually a few more were taken in.

It became necessary to make extensions to the convent building. In the following years the number of boarders increased rapidly many replying to the advertisement:

“St. Joseph's, Aberdeen
Boarding School for boys – under 12 years
Delightful Climate – River Bathing – five minutes' walk from station”

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It became a familiar sight to see the boys setting out each evening with the milk pail to collect milk from Wilton's dairy on Gundy Road and many stories are told of their escapades.

By 1929 plans were made to update and extend the boarding facilities, but because of the Depression and World War II these extensions were not completed till May 1951. Up until this time St Thomas' wooden church and the verandahs were used for classrooms. This consisted of a large dormitory, which later became the library, a small dormitory for junior boys, wash rooms and toilet facilities. On the ground floor, a kitchen and scullery and a large dining room.

Sister M Cyril Moylan worked unceasingly for funds to build the swimming pool which was officially opened on 4 November 1962. It wasn't until 1967 that the B Block complex was completed with the addition of a hall, classrooms and music rooms.

Many students have passed through the boarding school and are now scattered near and far in many walks of life. Because of falling enrolments and the decline in the need for boarding facilities, it was decided to close the primary school in 1971, and reopen it, as a regional High School, to serve the needs of the Catholic Community in the Parishes of Denman, Merriwa, Murrurundi, Scone and Muswellbrook. The high school opened in 1972, with Sister M Rosalie RSJ as Principal, a staff of four, and an enrolment of 53 students in Year 7. Since then, the enrolment has increased to over 600 in Years 7 to 12, with a staff of 45 in 1998. The first Year 12 class sat for the Higher School Certificate in 1977.

Subsequent Principals have been Sister Patricia Boland, RSJ, followed by Mr Column McGovern; Mr Kevin Kiem; Mr John Frize; Mr Mark Bailey Mr John Tobin in 1999, and Mr Robert Holstein 2017. One of our greatest assets is the picturesque grounds on which our school is situated. The extensive views of green fields, cattle grazing, the Hunter River and distant mountains provide a relaxed and informal atmosphere for the school, which reinforces the creation of an ordered and studious environment within the school.

In 1976, new science laboratories were opened. In 1984, an extensive building program was commenced. To date three stages have been completed including administrative area, new classrooms, staff facilities, a car parking area and specialist rooms for Home Science, Metalwork, Art and Agriculture. At the same time, as a result of our very supportive Parents and Friends Association and the success of our biennial school fetes and walkathons, considerable improvements have been made to the school grounds and sporting facilities.

In October 1992, the new multi-purpose hall was opened. This building was the result of fund raising efforts by students in walkathons, which provided the finances to pay a sizable deposit for a loan, together with the willingness of the Parents and Friends Association to accept responsibility for raising the funds to repay the loan in future years. The Moylan Hall was opened by Sister Beverly Zimmerman on behalf of the Sisters of St Joseph and the hall was named after Sister M Cyril Moylan in honour of the great work done for the school by her and all the other Sisters of St Joseph.

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The same year, 1992, saw extensions to the Industrial Arts area, with the provision of a new Woodwork Room and the creation of new classrooms and drama rooms in the area of the old school hall.

In 1993 another very successful walkathon effort by students and the whole school community raised the funds to enable improvements to canteen facilities and the creation of a specialist language laboratory. The new canteen was completed in 1995.

In 1996 the school celebrated its Centenary. A variety of programs and events ensured that year will long be remembered. On the June long weekend, we celebrated our Centenary with a dinner on the Saturday night and a Centenary Mass at the school on Sunday, followed by a family picnic.

There were displays of photos and memorabilia around the school and a wide range of souvenirs were available for purchase. Other events included a Centenary Race meeting at Scone, a family picnic day, and a special Mass celebrated by the Bishop where dozens of Sisters of St Joseph were the guests of honour.



In 2001, construction began on a new library and refurbishment of the administration area. New computer rooms were developed in the bottom of B Block and the old canteen area was refurbished. All the rooms in B Block were refurbished with paint, carpet and blinds.

In 2004 the COLA, "The Shed" was built at the front of the school, financed by the generosity of parents and students through Walkathon and Canteen funds.

In 2012 B Block, pictured above, was demolished as St Joseph's started a new building project. Replacing B Block is a new two storey building comprising of a Library, Student Coordinator Offices, Conference Room and Classrooms. Also built was another two storey building of classrooms designed for the flexibility required for 21st Century teaching and learning.

MISSION STATEMENT

St Joseph's High School, Aberdeen is a Catholic co-educational school aiming to meet the educational needs of the children of the parishes of Denman, Merriwa, Murrurundi, Muswellbrook and Scone as part of the Catholic Education System of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

As a Christian school we seek our values and inspiration in the words of the Gospels and the life of Jesus Christ. We seek to express those values through prayer, liturgy and our daily lives, both as individuals and as members of a wider community.

We at St Joseph's are committed, in partnership with families and parishes, to meeting the academic, social, physical and spiritual needs of the students in our care, by:

Creating a safe and welcoming physical and human environment;

Affirming and building the values of acceptance, responsibility and respect for all;

Recognising and developing the gifts of each person;

Educating students to achieve their individual potential, and to strive for excellence.



The Moral Purpose or Obligations underpinning Teaching & Learning at St Joseph's

1. The school will optimise students' learning
2. The school will facilitate students' transition to the next stage of learning
3. The school will create a happy and productive learning environment
4. The school will ensure that students have the necessary skills and understanding to contribute to a democratic society.
5. The school (being a Catholic school) will form the WHOLE-PERSON and promote a vision of life inspired by the GOSPELS & CHURCH Teachings.
6. The school is committed to making a difference in the lives of students.
7. The school is committed to reducing the gap between high and low performers
8. The school will build a culture where continuous improvement is natural and all staff, parents and students are committed to the improvement of teaching and learning.
9. The school community is committed to equity and inclusion
10. We are committed to the vision and mission of Christ, the Church, the Dioceses, the School

CYCLE OF ANNUAL PRIORITIES (Domain 1 – 4)

DOMAIN	OBJECTIVES	2017	2018	2019
<p>1</p> <p>Catholic Formation and Mission</p>	<p>1.1 New Evangelisation of students</p> <p>1.2 Staff and student spirituality and prayer in everyday life</p> <p>1.3 Produce High Quality teaching of Religion</p>	<p>1.1.2 Begin regular involvement of local clergy through class masses</p> <p>1.1.4 Review – revisit Spirituality Day Planning</p> <p>1.2.1 Introduction of “Make Jesus Real” Program</p> <p>1.2.4 Introduction Term 2 – Formal Prayer at midday</p> <p>1.2.5 Morning Staff Prayer. Monday before briefing – voluntary</p> <p>1.3.1 RE/Faith Formation/Accreditation provide opportunity for all RE teachers to further study/PD</p>	<p>1.1.3 Continue class masses along with masses for school celebrations</p> <p>1.1.5 Continuation of Spirituality Days – lead to staff renewal/retreat</p> <p>1.2.2 Offer further training opportunity for teachers in “Make Jesus Real” Program</p> <p>1.2.3 Develop further programs incorporating “Make Jesus Real”</p> <p>1.2.6 Moving staff towards total participation in morning prayer</p> <p>1.3.2 All staff to have opportunity PD and Faith Accreditation</p>	<p>1.3.3 Leaders in school to have completed Faith Accreditation “To Lead”</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Learning</p>	<p>2.1 Academic improvement across all years</p>	<p>2.1.1 Use of Education Perfect with Years 7/8 – across selected subjects – focus on literacy/numeracy. Provision for opportunity for PD for Staff</p> <p>2.1.5 Continued improvement in IT/School BYOSD, One Note framing for Staff and then forward to Students. Review the BYOSD program/ compare to BYOD end of 2017 – continue roll</p>	<p>2.1.2 Review/continue use of Education Perfect with expansion to other Years/Subjects. PD for Staff</p> <p>2.1.4 From review 2017 BYOSD versus BYOD further PD for Staff</p>	<p>2.1.3 Access the Education Perfect Package across all curriculum areas</p> <p>2.1.3 Create PL opportunities for staff on applying writing strategies. Teachers will all be able to demonstrate the application of 2 strategies in their programs by the end of the year.</p>

CYCLE OF ANNUAL PRIORITIES (Domain 1 – 4)

DOMAIN	OBJECTIVES	2017	2018	2019
	<p>2.2 Gifted and Talented Education</p> <p>2.3 Improve Student Staff Well-Being</p>	<p>out/ replacement of Staff devices</p> <p>2.2.1 Application for GEL with our 4 feeder Schools – Whole school approach to identification of gifted students – programs developed to extend students talents. Provide PD opportunity</p> <p>2.3.1 Planning Stage 2017 Adopting “Pos-Ed” along with other 24 Upper Hunter Schools (in support of “Where There’s A Will”))</p> <p>2.3.2 Students sent to PESA Annual Conference (St Peters Adelaide) with “Where There’s A Will”. Teachers to attend PESA Conference Ravenswood.</p> <p>2.3.3 Teachers .sent on Retreat Programs (CSO) Also PD for Well-Being/Student and Staff</p>	<p>2.2.2 Re-apply if needed – whole school proved opportunity with staffing for a G&T load – PD for Staff. – how to further provide for students</p> <p>2.3.4 Pos-Ed with Years 7-10 Lead by Year 11 alongside develop Mentor program for Teachers/Students. Continued Student/Teacher attendance Conference</p> <p>2.3.5 Further support for Staff attending PD in progress for Staff/Student Well-Being</p>	<p>2.2.3 Create PL opportunities with differentiation of assessment. The intention is to support and extend all of our students.</p> <p>2.2.3 G&T teachers continue leading Staff in curriculum design to enhance</p> <p>2.3.3 Provide PL opportunities for staff on how to build their toolkit of strategies, Learning how create well-sequenced and engaging lesson.</p> <p>2.3.6 Pos-Ed across all Years lead by Year 11</p> <p>Attend Conference</p>
<p>3 Leadership</p>	<p>3.1 Executive / Leadership Team</p> <p>3.2 Encourage Staff to self-reflect on their role as leaders in pedagogy</p>	<p>3.1.2 Consolidate new Leadership in School ID roles and expectations Introduction of Professional Reading focussed on Leadership meetings</p> <p>3.2.1 Encourage Staff to further personal</p>	<p>3.1.3 Growth of Changing Leadership</p> <p>3.2.2 Provision from school and in faculty for PD in Quality</p>	

CYCLE OF ANNUAL PRIORITIES (Domain 1 – 4)

DOMAIN	OBJECTIVES	2017	2018	2019
	<p>as well as leaders of the school now/or in the future</p> <p>3.3 Teacher and Leader Accreditation</p> <p>3.4 Student Leadership</p>	<p>education – courses on offer identified</p> <p>3.3.1 Appointed Facilitator of Staff PP&D for accreditation process and Development Process. Eg Staff PP&D action plans Maintenance Accreditation.</p> <p>3.4.1 Review of 7-11 Leadership roles. Develop policies for students that are visible/plain</p> <p>3.4.2 Student involvement in School events and lead assemblies</p> <p>3.4.2 Develop Leaders from Year 11 of PosEd</p> <p>3.4.3 Year 12 roles begin Term 4 of each Year 11</p>	<p>Teaching/Classroom management</p> <p>3.3.2 Continue Facilitation All teachers on NESA – Build up on / tighten 2017 processes</p> <p>3.4.4 Review of leadership roles in Year 12</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>Service and Governance</p>	<p>4.1 Family and Community</p>	<p>4.1.1 Provide opportunity for parent Well-Being through B&F activity</p> <p>4.1.2 Provide social gathering at each formal occasion</p> <p>4.1.3 Develop transparent processes for communication of student information</p>	<p>4.1.3 Develop programs of parent information night – special speakers</p>	

CYCLE OF ANNUAL PRIORITIES (Domain 1 – 4)

DOMAIN	OBJECTIVES	2017	2018	2019
	4.2 School Management practices/ Legislative practices	4.2.1 Planning and action on COSI 4.2.2 WH&S review of current school policy/ committee 4.2.3 Compliance with NESA requirements and CSO Financial requirements	4.2.4 Continuance of WH&S	
	4.3 Continued upgrading of School environment	4.3.1 Planning of Stage 2 of Building Project. Stage 1 completion 2014. Meeting with Architects and School Executive.	4.3.2 Commence/continue Building	4.3.3 Occupy building