

St Joseph's School

PARENT HANDBOOK

2017



Mission Statement

To provide an affordable, quality Catholic education.

St Joseph's School, as an integral part of the Waroona Catholic community, is inspired by Christ's teachings. We endeavour to nurture all children to grow as confident, independent life-long learners, enabling them to contribute to society with dignity, respect and a spirit of service.

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1.0 St Joseph's School

1.1 A Catholic School

We believe that the ethos of the Catholic School is that it recognises Jesus Christ as the Head of the school, as He is the Head of the Church of which the school is a part. It is 'Catholic' to the extent that each member of its community bases their vision of education upon Him and His Gospel.

A 'Catholic' school calls all community members to be committed to the Christian vision of the student as a person. Jesus' teachings and the values of his Gospel are the educational norms that permeate the school's entire curriculum and life.

The ethos of a Catholic school community includes everything that contributes to its life as a place of evangelisation.

Catholic schools are Christian prophetic communities, always seeking to foster the 'new life in Christ' and growth in Christian values, as proclaimed by the Catholic Church.

1.2 What Is Distinctive About A Catholic School?

It:

- Promotes a particular view of the person, the community, the nation and the world, centred on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Challenges students to find meaning and value in their lives, by knowing God through the Gospels of Jesus Christ.
- Is an integral part of the Catholic Church community in which generations live, worship and grow together.
- Is a welcoming and reflective community where the most distinctive sign is the discernment of God's presence.
- Is a witness to a spirit of simplicity and Gospel poverty and calls students to develop a spirit of responsibility for all.



1.3 School Crest and Motto

The crest contains several symbols:

- The Candle symbolises Christ as the light and leader of the world.
- The Bible symbolises the Word of The Lord.
- The Lamb of God. (Latin Paschal Candle).
- The Body and Blood of Christ.

The motto of St Joseph's School is 'Striving in Faith' and as Paul Birch, the crest designer in 1985, states;

***“The students of St Joseph’s School
are striving to grow in their faith with Christ,
the Lamb of God, as their leader,
being nourished by the Word of God and the Sacraments.”***

1.4 Goals

St Joseph's School endeavours:

- To guide the development of the whole child spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically;
- To integrate all areas of learning with knowledge and experience of the Christian values of Catholicism;
- To value the dignity of the individual as a child of God and a member of God's family;
- To provide a range of experiences which allow the discovery and development of the full potential of the child;
- To provide a Curriculum where there is a coverage of the Early Years Learning Framework, the WA Curriculum and the Australian National Curriculum;
- To ensure there is an awareness of the realities of today's society and the children's need to adapt to change;
- To place Jesus as our model of the Gospel values. With His help we can grow in love, justice, freedom and forgiveness;
- To work with the family in encouraging the full development of the child; and
- To encourage an atmosphere which nurtures positive, caring relationships with God and with each other.

1.5 School Prayer

***We, the community of St Joseph's School,
who have been touched by the spirit of Mary MacKillop
ask you Lord to help us live our lives as she did.***

***We commit ourselves to you Lord as we recognise God's presence
in every person we meet and as we help the suffering and the poor.***

***St Mary MacKillop. Pray for Us.
St Joseph. Pray for Us.***

1.6 The History of St Joseph's School

The Order of Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart came to Waroona in 1943. There were strong Irish and Italian communities in the district who were keen for their children to receive a Catholic education and so St. Joseph's Catholic School was opened by the order.

Sr. Elizabeth Murphy was the foundation principal and the sisters maintained a presence in the school until the end of 1993. The first lay principal, Mr. Tim Emery, was appointed in 1988.

Classes for 25 pupils began in 1943 in a building which served as the convent for the Sisters until 1986. The first group of students ranged from infants to Year 10. By the end of the first term in 1943, classes transferred to an old wooden church situated on the site of the present car park. The old wooden church became available after the construction of the existing church in 1941.

Three brick classrooms opened in 1955 with extensions being added in 1969 and 1978. Other building projects were completed in 1981 and 1985. Recent projects were the construction in 1991 of a Kindergarten classroom on the site of the Waroona Bakery. In 1995 new toilets were constructed; in 1998 a new Administration area was built; in 2000 a new Pre-primary; and in 2011 a new Library through the Building Education Revolution.

In conjunction with the Parish Community, the Old bakery on the Kindy Site was refurbished and a Community Hall shared by School, Parish and the wider Community was completed in 1996.

The School is managed by a Board which is responsible to the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia. The Board's main functions are to assist and manage the financial affairs of the school, building and maintenance and furthering the vision of the School.

The Parents and Friends' Association was formed in 1954/55 and has traditionally made a significant contribution to the level of resources available in the School, as well as providing a social dimension to the life of the school.

1.7 The Present

St Joseph's School is a co-educational Primary School. There are 8 classrooms including a purpose built Kindergarten and Pre-Primary, and a standalone Library.

A Uniform Shop operates one day per week and the Canteen facilities are utilised by the School and Parish Communities.

In conjunction with the Parish, the School Community assisted in the refurbishment of the old Bakery building, and construction of new sections, to form the Josephite Community Centre, a large spacious hall area with a mezzanine level, kitchen facilities, toilets and store area. The Josephite Community Centre is shared with the Parish although the School has major use of it.

The School has one grass playing area, a nature playground and a hard-court area. The Shire oval, adjacent to the school, is also available for use by the School.

Many of the children are of Italian descent and enrolments are taken from within the Waroona Shire.

The school takes opportunities to be involved in the parish and plans its activities in conjunction with the various parish groups. The Parish Priest is supportive of the school programme and is available for liturgical celebrations. The students of St. Joseph's Primary school are warm and friendly and are involved in many community projects and activities.

2.0 Religious Education

Our Catholic School's Religious Education programme is a systematic and sequenced programme of helping children to integrate our Catholic Faith with their daily lives. Religious Education units of work are issued by the Diocesan Bishop. The teachers use the guidelines to guide the students in their faith formation and develop knowledge and skills in this area.

Students are involved in the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, as well as prayer assemblies and liturgies. Please support your child's faith development by attending Sunday Eucharist regularly.

2.1 Our Parish

St Joseph's School is the school that serves the Parish of St Patrick's Waroona. We are fortunate to have a church so close as this provides the children with a real sense of belonging to the wider Catholic community. Our Parish Priest is Father Jayan Johnson and he plays a vital role in the spiritual life of our school.

Families and children are encouraged to participate in the parish in a variety ways. The most important of which is the celebration of the Eucharist together.

Mass times: Sunday at 8.30am. Every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 5:30pm. Wednesday and Friday at 9am. Each 1st Friday of the month at Pam Corker House 10.30am.

3.0 School Organisations and Services

3.1 The School Board

The School Board is responsible for the financial management of the school. Members are elected at the November Annual General Meeting. Our Board is entrusted with the duty of planning, with the Principal and school staff, to meet the present and future needs of students. In representing the Catholic School community, our Board is to actively promote and support the Catholic ethos of the school. Meetings are held monthly on the second Tuesday.

Our Board has no authority in the internal operation of the school. It is however, available as an advisory service to the Principal and staff. It is also required to be an effective liaison agent between the school and the parent community.

Its members are mostly elected parent volunteers. When a position becomes vacant nominations are called for from the school community and members are elected at the Annual General Meeting. All parents and interested community members are welcome to attend this meeting and you are encouraged to consider serving on the Board as a way of supporting the school.

Our current Board members are:

<i>Chairperson:</i> Peter LeRoy	<i>Vice Chairperson:</i> Patrick Dunne
<i>Secretary:</i> Jeanette Stampone	<i>Treasurer:</i> Rochelle Jenkinson
<i>Members:</i> Candice Look, Simone Fiorenza & Naomi Edwards	
<i>P&F Rep:</i> TBC	
<i>Principal:</i> Travis Bienkowski	<i>Parish Priest:</i> Fr Jay Johnson
<i>Observer:</i> Jennifer Gorman	

3.2 Parents and Friends' Association

The Parents and Friends' Association fosters community interest in education, promotes closer liaison between school and community and assists with school amenities. Meetings are held monthly on the second Tuesday and are advertised in the School Newsletter.

Every parent of St Joseph's school is a member of the Parents and Friends' Association (P&F). It makes an important contribution to the development of our school's community spirit, as well as providing essential morale and financial support to our school.

The objectives of the P & F Association are:

- To develop community within the school;
- To promote closer liaison between the school and community;
- To foster community interest in education
- To assist in the provision of school amenities.

Our P&F activities are organised by a core group of volunteers nominated at the school's Annual General Meeting. You do not need to be one of the elected committee to attend any meetings or assist with any of the activities held throughout the school year.

Our Current P & F Committee is:
Co-Presidents: Melissa Fuller and Brooke Hammond
Vice President: Belinda Curtis
Treasurer: Bec Lorimer
Secretary: Jen Stokes
P & F Representative to the Board: TBC

3.3 Canteen

The successful operation of the School canteen is entirely due to the parents who have volunteered to give their time in helping on a rostered basis. So that the canteen may continue to service the School, a roster is drawn up and sent home with a current menu at the beginning of each term.

The Management of the School Canteen is the responsibility of the School Board through the Principal. Heather Brown handles the day to day organisation of the Canteen.

The school canteen operates two days a week (Tuesday and Friday), for the children to order lunch. The school manages the canteen and relies heavily upon the volunteer work of parents and friends to ensure our children are offered a variety of good foods to eat. Menus for summer (Terms 1 and 4) and winter (Terms 2 and 3) are sent home. Parents and friends are asked to support the canteen by being available for roster duty.

3.4 Library

The Library serves the St Joseph's community by providing a centralised collection of books and other resources. These resources enable teachers to programme resource based learning and students to develop independent learning skills and literacy through enjoyment of real literature. The children come to the Library weekly to select reading materials and for sessions planned in cooperation with class teachers to develop their learning skills.

The Library houses touch screen computers for students to use as part of their class work and has a variety of games, including chess, for the children to play at lunchtime. By encouraging reading through a bright and enticing Library, we can assist to develop the literacy skills of the students.

Parents can help by sharing their children's library books with them - either reading with them or by discussion about them. While the responsibility for regular returning is the child's, gentle reminders from home on Library day can help.

4.0 Routines and Procedures

4.1 School Hours

School for PP to Year 6 commences at 8.35am and concludes at 3.10 each day, other than Monday when we have early close at 2.30pm.

Kindergarten children attend 8.45am to 11.35am on Monday and two full days (8.45am-3.00pm) on Tuesday and Thursday.

4.2 Before and after school

Only bus children should arrive at school before 8.15am. These children are supervised as they arrive at the school stand between 8.15-8.30am. A teacher is on duty after school to supervise bus children and escort them to their bus.

On arrival at school, students wait outside their classrooms in an orderly manner until the teacher is present to supervise them.

4.3 Children's Attendance

To ensure the children's safety and for legal reasons, parents are asked to comply with the following:

- If your child is sick or will be away from school, please contact the school office by 9am of that day.
- If a child is to be absent for part of the day or arrives after the 8.35am bell, parents are required to sign them in at the Office.
- Children who leave the School grounds for appointments during the day also need to be signed out and in at the Office.
- When a child returns to school after being absent a written explanation must be given to the teacher on a separate note, not in the school diary (although the cut-out slip in the diary can be used, if handed to the teacher).
- Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds during school hours without a parent or guardian.
- Parents who intend on taking their child/ren out of school during the term for a family holiday or for an extended period of time, must put their request in writing to the Principal.

4.3.1 Sign In and Sign Out Book

- In the case of an emergency or school evacuation it is important for the staff to have the correct information as to who is on the school grounds.
- Therefore should you need to take your child out of school during school hours, your signature is required in the "Sign in and Sign out book" at the Office. If you return your child to school, you will need to sign the student back in.
- There are always days when you will be late getting your children to school. If you are late, the office will need to be notified and the book signed. Children often feel embarrassed entering a class when it is settled and continual lateness should be avoided. If you feel your child is uncomfortable or embarrassed, please accompany them to their classroom.

4.4 Monies

School fees should be paid at the Office. All other monies (unless specifically directed) should be paid by the child to his/her teacher first thing in the morning.

All monies should be:

- ◆ the correct amount, and in a sealed envelope.
- ◆ clearly labelled with student's name, year level and the purpose for which it is intended.

Scholastic Book Club books are available during the year. Parents can pay by cheque to "Scholastic Book Club" or by credit card. If paying with cash, correct money must accompany orders in an envelope with the child's name, year level and amount clearly marked.

4.5 Bicycles

Children riding bicycles are expected to know and obey traffic regulations. All cyclists are required by law to wear helmets. Once on the school grounds, students must walk bicycles to the bicycle rack. It is recommended children be at least 10 years of age to ride to school. No bicycles, scooters, skateboards etc. to be ridden on school premises.

4.6 Visitors to the School

All visitors to the school, including parent helpers and canteen volunteers, during school hours must report to Administration to 'Sign In' and collect a visitor's badge. On completion of their visit, visitors 'Sign Out' and return the badge to the Office.

4.7 Lost Property

No responsibility is taken by the school for lost articles. Parents are most welcome to check for lost items in the lost property collection in the Office. We make every effort to have lost items claimed. Unmarked, unclaimed items left at the end of each term will be sold as second-hand garments in the uniform shop.

5.0 Children's Health

5.1 The School Nurse

The Nurse's main role is to conduct a screening programme, commencing in Kindergarten and continuing on with services throughout the school.

Routine School Health screening is carried out throughout the school with students receiving appropriate Health Services at appropriate stages throughout Primary School. Referrals are made, if necessary, to other agencies after discussion with parents.

5.2 School Psychologist

The School Psychologist is available to students at St. Joseph's as required. Parents or teachers have access to the Psychologist and may refer a student if they suspect learning difficulties, social or behavioural problems. The School Psychologist is employed by the Non-Government Schools Psychology Service. To affect such a referral, parents should contact the Principal, Assistant Principal, or class teacher.

5.3 Health and Emergency Information

It is vital that all contact details are kept up to date. If at any time your address, phone number or emergency home number is changed, please notify the school immediately.

Sick children do not enjoy school and often spread their sickness to others. Students who are too ill to remain at school will be sent home. Parents are asked to ensure that sick children have recovered before sending them back to school.

The School should be informed of any physical or emotional problem your child has that may affect his/her progress at school.

Written notes should be sent to the class teacher immediately after any absence.

5.4 Head Lice

Because of the proximity in which children play and work together at school, it is likely that Head Lice (Nits) will pass from one child to another, easily transmitting the parasites.

A student found to be infested should not return to school until he/she has been treated. All eggs must be removed. If further treatment is still required, information and assistance will be provided to enable the parents to make it effective.

5.5 Students Requiring Medication

The Staff are not permitted to give children medication. If a child needs to have medication during the day, parents must complete a Medication Form and leave the medication clearly labelled with the Office staff. In general, students must be able to self administer medication and staff can supervise their taking of the medication. Assistance for students who require administration of medication will depend upon the ability of the School staff to meet the needs of the student.

Parents of any student who has a serious medical condition must make an appointment with the Principal so arrangements can be made to create a Medical Action Plan to be used should a medical emergency arise.

5.6 Dental Clinic

Children in all grades are eligible for free dental treatment. Parents will be advised should any therapy be required.

5.7 Emergency Procedures

SICKNESS

If a student is unwell at school the first step will be to notify a parent to inform them of the situation. When parents cannot be contacted the Emergency contact number provided on the student enrolment card will be used.

INJURY

Minor injuries will be treated and the student returned to class. More serious injuries will be treated according to the School's Medical Action Policy.

5.10 Sunscreen

We encourage students to apply sunscreen before attending school, particularly on hot days. Sunscreen will be available at school for further application, students to self-apply.

If your child is allergic to sunscreen components please complete a Medical Alert Form, available from the school office, and supply your child with sunscreen suitable to his/her needs.

6.0 School Framework

6.1 Student Enrolment Policy

RATIONALE

Catholic schools exist to further the mission of the Church. In Western Australia, the Mandate of the Bishops requires the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia to make Catholic school education available to all Catholic children, as far as resources allow.

PRINCIPLES

1. Catholic schools recognise the uniqueness of each student.
2. Catholic schools have a preferential option for the poor and marginalised.
3. Catholic schools fulfill their mission in partnership with parents who are the first educators of their children.
4. Catholic schools have a responsibility to fulfil the requirements of relevant Federal, State and Local Government laws and regulations.
5. Catholic schools shall accept all applications for enrolment.
6. The acceptance of an application form does not guarantee an enrolment interview or offer of enrolment.
7. Enrolment in a Catholic school shall be offered only where the school has age appropriate accommodation and the requisite resources to respond to any identified specific needs of the student.
8. Enrolment in a Catholic school does not guarantee enrolment in any other Catholic school.

PROCEDURE

1. Parents need to complete an Application for Enrolment Form, normally in the year preceding enrolment.
2. Enrolments will be given on a priority basis:
 - 2.1 Catholic students from the Parish with a Parish Priest reference
 - 2.2 Catholic students from outside the Parish with a Parish Priest reference
 - 2.3 Other Catholic students
 - 2.4 Siblings of non-Catholic students
 - 2.5 Non-Catholic students from other Christian denominations
 - 2.6 Other non-Catholic students.
3. Before an offer of a place is made, prospective students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be interviewed by the Principal or a member of the school Leadership Team as appropriate.
4. Enrolment may take place at any year level, Kindergarten to Year 6. A parent of a Kindergarten student may, with the consent of the Principal, defer the taking up of an offer of enrolment until the commencement of Pre-primary.
5. Before offering enrolment in a Catholic school it is important that the capacity of the school to respond to specific educational needs of all its students is determined. Therefore:

5.1 The Principal shall ascertain whether the student has any special educational needs which will require differential resourcing if schooling is to achieve educational outcomes appropriate to the student's learning needs.

5.2 Where the student has a disabling condition, disorder or significant health care needs, the Principal shall consult with the Special Learning Needs Team at Catholic Education to ensure that the school has the capacity to make adequate provision for the student's specific educational needs.

5.3 If the Principal determines that the school, after appropriate consultation as in 5.1 and 5.2 above, does not have the resources to respond to the student's educational needs then the parent(s) or guardian(s) may be referred to one of the Special Education Support Centres located in certain Catholic schools.

6. The usual enrolment timeline is:

Applications received by the end of term two of the preceding year

Interviews for enrolment conducted in term three of the preceding year.

Offers of enrolment to be notified early term four of the preceding year.

Parents to return Confirmation of Enrolment form by the middle of term four of the preceding year.

Enrolment applications at other times of the year have a much shorter timeline for processing.

Parents should apply for enrolments as soon as possible in all situations.

7. If a parent/guardian has knowingly withheld material information relevant to the application /enrolment process then the Principal reserves the right to refuse or terminate enrolment on that ground.

8. Parents are required to read the "School Fees and Collection Policy" prior to completing the Application for Enrolment Form.

9. Parents are required to complete and sign the Confirmation of Enrolment Form prior to the student commencing at the school. This is a contractual agreement between the school and the parents and outlines the obligations of parents in return for the enrolment of their child at the school.

6.2 School Fees Policy

INTRODUCTION:

1. School Fees shall be considered to include tuition fees; amenities fees, any levies and are all payable by families who have the means to do so.
2. The School Fees are set annually by the School Board, who are responsible for the financial management of the school. The school fees reflect those of similar Catholic schools and are only increased in accordance with the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia guidelines or as approved by the Director of Catholic Education of WA.
3. The collection of school fees is approached in the spirit of Christian charity and justice. No Catholic child is to be denied a place in a Catholic school due to financial circumstances. Families with limited financial resources and means tested family concession card holders have an entitlement to claim some form of fee concession. Requests for fee concession shall be treated with dignity, compassion and confidentiality.
4. Every effort shall be made to protect the confidentiality of all information pertaining to parents and the payments of school fees.

5. In order to assist future planning of resources, **parents are required to advise the school in writing a term in advance (10 weeks) of their child's departure**, unless it is in their graduating year. Failure to do this will result in parents being charged a term's tuition fee, except in extenuating circumstances at the Principal's discretion.

PAYMENT:

1. Tuition fees are set to contribute to the cost incurred in education a child for the year and **are payable per child in advance**. The Amenities Fee is also based per child and contributes to incursion, excursion, swimming lessons, options costs, etc, (excludes camp and Sacramental costs) and the many consumable costs incurred in the process of teaching and learning.
2. The Building Levy is charged per family and is used to debt service loans for past buildings and used to raise funds for any future capital development programmes.
3. Sacramental Programs for Year 3 (Reconciliation), Year 4 (Holy Communion) and Year 6 (Confirmation) are included as an extra to the School Fees. All students (Catholic and other than Catholic) participate in the Sacramental preparation programmes.
4. The Parents and Friends' Levy is also payable per family and is used to contribute towards resources for student use, as determined by the Parents and Friends' Association.
5. The Literacy and Numeracy Levy is charged to families to assist in the maintenance and renewal of Literacy & Numeracy resources which are most needed in providing student-centred learning programs.
6. Sibling discounts apply for the second, third, fourth and subsequent children on the tuition fee only in Kindy to Year 6.
7. Fees are pro rata for any child who enrolls during the year and reimbursements will be given for any child who leaves during a term, having paid the term fees in full.
8. For convenience, families also have the option of paying school fees in advance.

COLLECTION:

1. The payment of fees is part of the contract of enrolment and is essential for the efficient financial management of the school. Where parents have the financial means to pay the fees, the payment of fees will be actively pursued.
2. School Fees will be issued once a year in February. Payment options are available including an annual payment or regular instalments on a monthly, fortnightly or weekly basis. The payment instalments that are made will need to be **paid off the full amount by no later than the end of October** of the current year. Parents who have not paid fees within that time will be issued with a reminder notice. Parents who have not made other arrangements with the Finance Officer or the Principal for payment of the fees will be considered a "bad debt" and further action, as set out below, will apply.

3. Where parents have refused reasonable attempts to negotiate a fee payment strategy and further action is required, the school will: document all attempts to resolve the problems of outstanding fees; parents will be notified that the services of a solicitor or debt collection agency will be engaged to recover outstanding fees; a summons can be issued, with the approval of the Director of Catholic Education, and judgement entered against the parent. **Any additional costs for this process will be added to the account in accordance with Catholic Education Office policy.**

6.3 School Insurance (CCI School Care)

St. Joseph's School is protecting you from some of the financial burdens of children's accidents, by making an important choice regarding students' personal accident and disability insurance for your child. Available is the CCI School Care-24 Hour Cover from Catholic Church Insurances Limited (CCI). Should you have any further enquiries please contact the School Office.

6.4 Curriculum: Learning Areas

The Curriculum of the Catholic school aims to promote the development of students so that they can contribute to society from a Christian perspective. Guided by this vision, the curriculum contributes to the development of each student as a responsible, inner-directed Christian person - someone of Christian virtue who is capable of making genuinely free choices, as well as value judgements enlightened by a formed Christian conscience.

The Curriculum of the Catholic school is not concerned simply with the attainment of skills. It is particularly concerned with the acquisition of values and discerning of truth. In these ways, the curriculum helps students to spell out the meaning of their more basic human experiences, and to answer the human heart questions to which these experiences give rise.

6.4.1 Religious Education

Our Religious Education programme is based upon the Perth Archdiocesan Guidelines as set down by the Catholic Education Office (C.E.O). At St Joseph's School we are committed to fostering a total Faith and Life development, showing tolerance and respect, where children will grow to their full potential and recognise their self worth.

This programme:

- Is developmental.
- Is based on sharing faith through life experience.
- Is Christ-centred.
- Focuses on the unconditional love of God.
- Makes religious education living in the daily lives of the children.
- Emphasises the importance of a vital, caring and loving atmosphere where children can become the people God wants them to be.
- Stresses the place of the Eucharist and the whole sacramental life of the Church.

School mass/liturgy is celebrated every term as well as on other 'special' occasions. Children are encouraged to actively participate by singing, preparing church decorations, reading, carrying the offertory gifts or serving. All family members and the community are encouraged to attend.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered in Year 3. First Holy Communion is made in Year 4. Confirmation is made in Year 6. These are wonderful and memorable occasions for your children and you are encouraged to participate in all aspects of these celebrations.

6.4.2 English

The study of English is central to the learning and development of all young Australians. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate with and build relationships with others and with the world around them. The classroom program is based on the WA Curriculum: English.

The WA Curriculum: English aims to ensure that students:

- learn to listen to, read, view, speak, write, create and reflect on increasingly complex and sophisticated spoken, written and multimodal texts across a growing range of contexts with accuracy, fluency and purpose
- appreciate, enjoy and use the English language in all its variations and develop a sense of its richness and power to evoke feelings, convey information, form ideas, facilitate interaction with others, entertain, persuade and argue
- understand how Standard Australian English works in its spoken and written forms and in combination with nonlinguistic forms of communication to create meaning
- develop interest and skills in inquiring into the aesthetic aspects of texts, and develop an informed appreciation of literature.

Students in Years Three and Five will take part in the NAPLAN administered by the Education Department. This is designed to measure overall Literacy and Numeracy skills. Please keep in mind that this form of testing is just one of the many assessment tools used by our school to evaluate children's progress. Please make an appointment with the class teacher if you have any concerns regarding your child's progress.

6.4.3 Mathematics

The classroom program is based on the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics. The proficiency strands **Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning** are an integral part of mathematics content across the three content strands: **Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability**. The proficiencies reinforce the significance of working mathematically within the content and describe how the content is explored or developed. They provide the language to build in the developmental aspects of the learning of mathematics.

6.4.4 Physical Education

Children from Pre-Primary to Year 6 receive weekly lessons, from our specialist Physical Education teacher, which focus primarily on the development of sports skills. Each class will have a further sport session with their class teacher. This session will be based on team games. You will be notified of the day/s your child's class has sport. On these days students are required to wear the school sport uniform. The program also includes a school sports carnival and inter-school sports carnival.

HOUSE AND SPORTS CARNIVALS

Every child is a member of one of our three Houses: Elizabeth (Red), Leah (Green), and Claude (Blue). Your child will be placed in a house when they are in Kindy. All children from the same family will be placed in the same house.

Once a year we have school House Swimming (Yr 3-6) and Athletics Carnivals (K-6). Each class group takes part in team and individual events. Points are awarded for all places and the faction with the highest combined total wins the shield for the year. An Inter-School Athletics Carnival is also held every year for the schools of the local area. Our interschool teams are made up of the children who do well in the school athletics carnival and attend training sessions. On occasion our school has the task of organising these events.

Your family is invited to attend sports carnival days, many bring a picnic lunch, dress in faction colours and generally get involved in the carnival spirit. This is an event that needs a lot of people to run well. If you could spare the time to be a marshal, place judge, scorer or anything else, please volunteer. A request will be made in the newsletter prior to the day.

6.4.5 ICT

In the WA Curriculum, Information Technology is part of the general capabilities that encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that, together with curriculum content in each learning area and the cross-curriculum priorities, will assist students to live and work successfully in the twenty first century. Our school Information and Technology programs are organised by all classroom teachers and support all learning areas of the Australian Curriculum.

ICT, including computers, is used throughout the curriculum, integrated into teaching and learning programmes providing students with access to update information as well as the ability to produce work in a variety of formats. Each classroom is equipped with a Smartboard or equivalent technology, a bank of iPads and a bank of Chrome Books. Children in Years 4 - 6 are involved in a parent funded one to one device programme.

6.4.7 Grammar

Grammar is a specialist area at S Joseph's for Years 1-6. Mrs Jan Young is the Grammar teacher and will assess and report in this area.

6.5 Assessment and Reporting

The reporting mechanism for Pre-Primary to Year 6 2017 includes:

1. At the conclusion of Term 1, a parent interview will take place – includes Personal and Social checklist;
2. A checklist report will be distributed to parents at the conclusion of terms 2 & 4.
3. A work sample book will be distributed to parents at the conclusion of terms 2 & 4.
4. A "Learning Journey" where parents can view student's work occurs in term 3.

Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the class teacher at any time if they are concerned about their child's progress.

6.6 Homework

Each year level has homework set regularly. The quantity of homework varies according to individual year levels. Generally, homework will not be set for the weekend.

Your child's class teacher will issue homework guidelines at the beginning of each year. If these instructions are not received, please contact the class teacher. Parents can support the teachers by ensuring that the set homework is completed. Please contact the class teacher if any work is unclear, as the methods used these days are quite different from when we were at school. Please let teachers know if there are any difficulties with homework.

6.7 Active Learning Excursions

Students are provided maximum opportunities to be active learners in the environment in which they live. To this end, opportunities for learning outside the classroom e.g. excursions, are provided to complement learning objectives. This allows the students to develop concepts about their world in a way that connects life with school learning.

Throughout the year teachers will notify parents about forthcoming excursions, and student permission notes will be provided. Students must return a permission slip allowing them to attend excursions; students will not be permitted to leave the school grounds without consent from parents or guardians.

6.8 Camps

Camps are an integral part of the active learning programme at St Joseph's. A graduated, balanced programme of experiences outside the School is undertaken for students in Years 6.

6.9 Chaplaincy

St Joseph's has been provided Government funding for a chaplaincy program to operate within the school. If there are circumstances where families would like to access this program, please speak with your child's classroom teacher or the administration staff. Respect and confidentiality will be adhered to in relation to all chaplaincy requests.

7.0 Awards

7.1 Merit Awards

During the school year the staff award students for their efforts. Merit Awards are given to students or classes during assemblies in recognition for outstanding effort on their part in any area of their school life. Parents are most welcome to attend Wednesday assembly if they wish.

7.2 Making Jesus Real Award – MJR Award

The MJR Award will recognise an individual who has been identified by school members as 'making Jesus real' by demonstrating values and qualities representative of Jesus. Students, staff, parents and community members are invited to nominate a member of the school community for the award, providing a reason for their nomination. The nominations will be counted and the award will be presented at a ceremony where the whole school is present. The nomination box and nomination slips will be located in the school office. The person who earns the MJR Award will receive a certificate and will foster the school mascot, Joseph the Bear for two weeks. The recipient will also have his/her name inscribed on the MJR Award Signature Bear, which will be on display in the school office.

The MJR Award seeks to recognise people doing their best for themselves and for others in our community. All students, staff, parents and helpers are eligible for the MJR Award. The MJR Award will be presented at least twice a term.

7.3 Graduation Awards

Graduation Awards will be presented to some members of the Year 6 Graduating Class after the Year 6 Graduation Mass. The Mass and Graduation Ceremony will be held during the last week of school.

7.4 Other Achievements

Individual, class or group achievements are recognised throughout the year in many ways. Our school encourages all students to strive to achieve their personal best in all they participate in, both inside and outside the school.

8.0 School Uniform – Dress Code

8.1 NO HAT – NO PLAY

- The Sun Protection Policy (actively promoted at St Joseph's School) meets the requirements of students and staff with respect to skin damage, which can occur during outdoor activities.
- Students are required to wear the School hat for Physical Education and sporting activities and for recess and lunch breaks for the entire year.

It is important to note:

- Sharing of hats is not recommended due to the possibility of spreading head lice.

8.2 STUDENT DRESS CODE

It is the policy of St Joseph's School for students to wear correct school uniform unless there is a Free Dress or Theme Day. School shirts are to be tucked in. The Principal must approve any deviation from uniform.

Kindy students do not wear school uniform. A casual colourful t-shirt with the school name on it can be ordered from the kindy teacher. Pre-Primary students wear the school sports uniform throughout the year.

The uniform is not meant to establish uniformity or to deny individuality. Rather it is a symbol of the school and will help our children identify with the school and develop a sense of belonging. Wearing the uniform encourages a sense of pride in appearance. The school will insist that full uniform be worn and that parents will support the school in this matter.

As your children will soon learn, there is a **NO HAT - NO PLAY** rule; this means students without a hat will be asked to remain in the shaded area during recess and lunch.

8.2.1 St Joseph's School Uniform and Grooming Policy

Our uniform is a sign of our school community and all are expected to support it.

Boys' Uniforms	Girls' Uniforms
Summer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short sleeved blue shirt • Grey shorts • Blue ankle socks • Black lace up shoes 	Summer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue checked dress • Blue ankle socks • Black lace up shoes
Winter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long or short sleeved blue shirt, with top button • School tie • Grey trousers • Blue ankle socks • Black lace up shoes • Jumper 	Winter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long sleeved blue shirt, with top button • School tie • Blue checked skirt • Either navy tights or blue ankle socks • Black lace up shoes • Jumper
Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House coloured polo shirt • Yellow polo shirt • Blue shorts • White socks with blue and yellow trim • Predominantly white lace up sports shoes (no high-tops) • Blue tracksuit (to be worn as needed) 	Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House coloured polo shirt • Yellow polo shirt • Blue shorts • White socks with blue and yellow trim • Predominantly white lace up sports shoes (no high-tops) • Blue tracksuit (to be worn as needed)

- Children are expected to be attired in correct, complete school uniform. Children are not to wear dirty, torn or written on items. School blue shirts must be tucked in during class times.
- Sports shirts must be tucked in when the Sports Track top is worn. House shirts are to be worn for House events. Either yellow or House shirts may be worn for a Sport lesson, as specified by the class teacher. Yellow sports shirts are to be worn on excursions when sport uniform is required (not house or graduation shirts).
- Summer uniform is to be worn in Terms One and Four; Winter Uniform in Terms Two and Three – with a two week change-over period allowed at the beginning of each season.
- Hair must be neat and tidy and tied back off the face, and should be checked weekly by families to prevent lice infestation. Hair that touches the collar or can hang over the face must be tied back. Hair ribbons must be in the school colours of royal blue or gold. Head bands must be slim, plain and in school colours.
- Hair must be cut in a conventional hairstyle, not be shorter than a number 2, and must be a natural colour. What is conventional and natural is at the discretion of the Principal.
- No make-up or nail polish is permitted. Children are not to graffiti or draw on hands or any body parts.
- School Hat must be worn during breaks or when children are involved in outside activities with the flap out. "NO HAT – NO PLAY".

- Jewellery:
 - Students are permitted to wear a chain with a religious symbol.
 - Wrist watches may be worn at owner's risk.
 - Earrings must have one simple stud or sleeper per ear lobe.
 - Both ears must have a matching stud or sleeper if earrings are being worn.
 - **NO** other jewellery is to be worn.
- School shoes:
 - Black lace up leather school shoes
 - Sports shoes must be predominantly white and must be sports shoes, (not street shoes) with properly tied white laces
 - Shoes with heels in excess of 2cm are not permitted.
 - Boots are not permitted.
- The rain jackets are an optional extra and may not be worn during class time.
- If an accident or problem prevents a child from wearing full uniform on any particular day, parents need to send a note of explanation.
- All items of clothing must have student's name.
- The school backpack is the only allowed school bag.
- A correctly knotted tie must be worn in Winter. Students in Years 1-3 may elect to use an elasticised tie. Students in Years 4-6 must use a regular tie. Once stock in elasticised ties has depleted, all students will wear a regular tie.
- Kindy children do not have to wear a uniform, but may wear their Kindy t-shirt if they wish.
- Preprimary children are to wear Sports Uniform all year.

8.3 Dress On Excursions

For the many excursions or performances that our children will attend, full standard uniform is required, unless the class teacher informs you otherwise.

8.4 Lost Property

There is a lost property basket in the office; it is usually full of various pieces of uniform. **PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM AND PERSONAL PROPERTY**, as this will make it more likely to be returned or identified in the lost property. Our children are encouraged to hand into the office anything they find. Thoroughly check the lost property before deciding lost items are gone for good. It is a good idea to check that names have not been washed off. Also remember that, even if you and your child know that there is a different name (in the case of 2nd hand items) or you've used a symbol on the tag of their jumper, nobody else will know whose it is. Correct names must be used please.

8.5 Personal Property

All personal property needs to be clearly identified. No child has the right to interfere with another's property. Children are **NOT** to bring toys and games to school. The school will take no responsibility for items that should not be at school.

9.0 Communication

Should problems arise, you are advised to make an appointment to speak with the child's teacher in the first instance and then the Principal. An appointment can be made through the school office. **Parents are asked not to take teachers' time first thing in the morning or after school without an appointment.**

9.1 Parent-Teacher Communication

Ongoing communication between parents and teachers is essential in providing the best education for our children. If there is any matter that you feel needs clarification you are strongly urged to contact the class teacher to arrange a convenient time to meet. This will allow both of you to give your full attention to the discussion. The school Principal is also available for meetings with parents to discuss any issues.

9.2 Classroom Information Nights

An information meeting for each class is held early in the first term. Class teachers explain classroom policies, practices and procedures at these meetings. Attendance at the Classroom Information Night is highly recommended and all parents are requested to attend. If you are unable to attend, please arrange an alternative meeting time, with the class teacher.

9.3 Newsletter

Our newsletter is emailed home to each family every second Friday. The newsletter will be uploaded to the school website on a fortnightly basis. Hard copies of the newsletter are available in the office for those that do not have access to the internet. It is important that we all take time to read the newsletter, as this is the main form of communication between school and home. If you would like to place a notice in the newsletter please contact staff in the office or your P&F Class Representative by Tuesday lunchtime.

9.4 Assemblies

Our formal Assemblies are held on some Wednesday mornings in the Josephite Centre at 8.40am. The assembly is facilitated by the rostered class and the presentation of Merit Awards takes place. A Monday morning briefing takes place at 8.35am which is a brief gathering to discuss activities and events taking place in the week. This is a gathering of 10mins where general information is disseminated. The morning briefing is facilitated by the Year 6 Class.

9.5 Staff Meetings

Staff meetings are held weekly on Monday afternoon immediately after school to develop policies, discuss curriculum issues, plan school activities and deal with school administrative matters. If parents need to see the class teacher, please avoid Mondays and try to make an appointment for another day.

9.6 Absentee Notes

If your child is ill or absent from school for any reason, please provide a note of explanation the day they return to school. Write the note to the class teacher. Not much detail is required; simply give the date(s) they were away and why; eg, due to chicken pox or due to specialist's appointment etc.

9.7 Skoolbag App

The school has its own Skoolbag App which parents are able to download for free through the App Store. When necessary, the school will send out information alerts and other relevant information regarding the day-to-day operation of the school to the parent community through this App.

9.8 Parent Involvement

Your input is necessary and your support is vital to be sure that our children receive the best. By being involved, we know you will learn a great deal about your children's friends and their families. We will also learn from you about the things that are important to you as the parents of our students.

Your help and interest are most welcome, particularly in the following ways:

P&F class representative. As a parent group the P&F welcome suggestions and guidance on how we can actively support and improve our school. Please add your items to our agenda early; we can then collect the necessary information, or invite the appropriate people, so you will receive the quickest response possible.

Nominate yourself to serve on the P&F Committee. Being part of the P&F is a rewarding way to support our school. These nominations will be accepted at the school's Annual General Meeting held in November. The Executive positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and P&F School Board Representative) are filled at the P & F meeting following the AGM.

From time to time, it may be necessary to call on people with specific expertise to assist in different projects. You can help us to help your children. Your involvement will enable many friendships to develop and will help all concerned to provide a better place for your children to be educated; it is a rewarding way to support your school.

School Board The School Board consists of the Parish Priest, the Principal, a Parents and Friends' Association representative and representatives elected from the school community.

Canteen If you are able to help on a Tuesday, or Friday, please contact Mrs Heather Brown in the administration office. If sufficient helpers are gathered you will only have to help at most twice a term. The work is not demanding, it involves working with another volunteer to prepare recess and lunches and serve at recess and lunchtime. This is a great way to get to know the children and put faces to names, especially for those in classes different to your children.

9.10 Classroom Help

There are many opportunities for parents to assist in classrooms – through art and craft activities, writing, helpers in the Library, Kindergarten and Pre-Primary rosters, hearing children read, assisting with excursions or other class activities. Please see your child's classroom teacher if you can assist, and fill out any help rosters that may come home.

10.0 Transport and Parking

The majority of students are dropped off and picked up by car. It's understandable that potentially we can experience congestion and child/car conflicts. St Joseph's School is committed to the safety of our children.

10.1 Parking

- Please do not park within 5m of a corner, particularly on Hesse Street.
- Please do not park on the fire hydrant marking in front of the school office.
- Parent parking is available in the town oval carpark on Millar Street, across the road from the school.
- Please do not park in the staff carpark, including around the rear of the Church.

10.2 Buses

1. Students travelling on school buses must obey the bus rules and instructions of the driver. As bad behaviour on the bus may distract the driver and endanger all bus travellers, this offence will be viewed seriously.
2. Students who travel to school by bus, but do not intend to travel home by bus must notify the driver on the way to school, and inform the class teacher.
3. Non-bus travellers who wish to ride on the bus for the odd special reason must bring a note to the office and have permission granted prior to the day travel is requested. As some buses have full loads, it is not possible for more than one or two children at a time to be granted this privilege. Approval is important for Insurance purposes.
4. School bus travel is only available to students who live more than 4.5kms from the School.

11.0 Common St Joseph's Expressions

1. **RE** – Religious Education
2. **AGM** – Annual General Meeting
3. **C.E.W.A** – Catholic Education of Western Australia (formerly the CEO)
4. **P & F** – Parents and Friends Association
5. **NO HAT NO PLAY** – Being aware of the need for sun protection for our children, the school insists that all children must wear their school hat while playing during recess and lunch, and also while participating in outdoor Physical Education classes.
6. **PUPIL FREE DAYS** – There pupil free days each year set aside for teacher development. On these days children do not attend school. Dates are advised in the newsletter well in advance.
7. **THE MISSIONS** – Missions are project run to assist communities in need both in Australia and overseas. At St Joseph's School we support several different Catholic missions. This is a commitment to Social Justice in our community, country and the world.
8. **A MISSIONS APPEAL** – Throughout the year the students will be asked to make donations to the missions. This could be in the way of a gold coin donation for the privilege of wearing casual clothes (free dress or theme). Details will be placed in the newsletter.
9. **FREE DRESS** - When the school has a free dress day this means that our children do not have to wear their uniforms. Neat and tidy appearance is still expected, and be sure that your children have suitable footwear for playing.
10. **MJR – Making Jesus Real** - A values programme within our school. We are encouraged to recognise the presence of Jesus in everyone we meet. Names must be used when speaking to someone. Everyone is encouraged to great each other, rather than passing by without acknowledgement. Different greetings are encouraged.
Manners Monday
Thanking Tuesday
Winking Wednesday
Thumbs Up Thursday
High Five Friday

12.0 School Hours

Class Times

PP to Year 6 Monday	8.35am –2.30pm
PP to Year 6 Tuesday to Friday	8.35am-3.10pm
Morning recess	10.35am - 10.55am
Lunch	1.00pm - 1.40pm
Kindergarten Hours	Monday 8.45am – 11.35am Tuesday 8.45am – 3.00pm Thursday 8.45am – 3.00pm
Pre-Kindy Hours	Wednesday 8.45am-10.45am
Aboriginal Playgroup	Wednesday 12:00pm-2:00pm Friday 9:00am-11:00am

13.0 Staff for 2017

Principal	Mr Travis Bienkowski
Assistant Principal	Mrs Jennifer Gorman
Administration	Mrs Lyn Della Franca Mrs Heather Brown
Pre Kindergarten	Miss Samantha Baggetta and Mrs Silvana Vitale
Aboriginal Playgroup	Mrs Jennifer Turner
Kindergarten	Mrs Melissa Fuller
Pre-Primary	Miss Brigitte Gaillard
Year One	Mrs Maxine Mulholland
Year Two	Mrs Mary-Ann Landwehr
Year Three	Miss Amy Rimmer
Year Four	Mrs Vicki Hodgson and Mrs Jan Young
Year Five	Ms Kate Vidulich
Year Six	Miss Sophie Figueiredo
Library	Mrs Jan Young
Physical Education	Mrs Yvonne Langan
Music	Mrs Yvonne Langan
Grammar	Mrs Jan Young
Chaplaincy	Mrs Jan Young
Art	Mrs Melissa Fuller
Education Assistants	Miss Mia Catalano Mrs Silvana Vitale Miss Sam Baggetta Mrs Michelle Ward Mrs Karen Gear
Cleaner	Mrs Lucy Birch
Maintenance/Grounds	Mr Leigh Hodgson

14.0 School Contact and School Address

PRINCIPAL	Mr Travis Bienkowski
SCHOOL ADDRESS	14 Millar Street Waroona WA 6215
SCHOOL PHONE	(08) 9782 6500
EMAIL ADDRESS	admin@stjoeswaroona.wa.edu.au
WEB PAGE ADDRESS	www.stjoeswaroona.wa.edu.au