2025 ANNUAL REPORT

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY, JERILDERIE



Catholic Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

St Joseph's School, Jerilderie

About this Report

St Joseph's School Jerilderie (the 'School') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by Catholic Education Office Diocese of Wagga Wagga (CEDWW), (the 'Proprietor'), with Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) as the approved authority for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the Education Act 1990 (NSW).

St Joseph's School Jerilderie's Annual Report to the community provides parents and the wider community with fair, reliable and objective information about the school's performance measures and policies, as determined by the Minister for Education. The report also outlines information about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance during the year and the achievements arising from the implementation of the school's Annual Improvement Plan.

The Annual Report demonstrates accountability to regulatory bodies, the school community and Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga. This report has been approved by Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga and in so doing, acknowledges that St Joseph's School Jerilderie's has the appropriate processes in place to ensure compliance with all NSW Education Standards Authority requirements for registration and accreditation.

This report complements and is supplementary to St Joseph's School Jerilderie's newsletters and other forms of communication. Further information about St Joseph's School Jerilderie's may be obtained by contacting the school directly or by visiting the school's website.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Jerilderie is a welcoming and inclusive school community where staff, parents and our Parish work in partnership to provide children with a nurturing learning environment that caters for individual needs, ensuring each child develops holistically in God's image.

Section 1: Message from Key Groups in Our School Community

Message from the Principal - Acting Principal Reflection

Having the opportunity to serve at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Jerilderie for Terms 2 and 3 was among the many highlights of my time as a principal. One of the reasons I continue to undertake relief leadership roles in country schools is the strong sense of community and the genuine commitment of the people within them. While time away from family presents challenges, the rewards of working alongside dedicated staff and welcoming communities are significant.

The staff at St Joseph's demonstrated a high level of professionalism and competence in their delivery of teaching and learning. The school operated with well-established procedures, and both staff and students had a clear understanding of expectations and

routines. Even when faced with challenges, staff approached their work with resilience, collaboration and a strong focus on student learning.

The teaching team worked exceptionally well together. The support staff were outstanding in their dedication to both staff and students. Their commitment and teamwork created a supportive environment that greatly enhanced the daily operation of the school.

One of the great highlights of my time at St Joseph's was the *Launch into Learning Kinder Transition Program*. The Launch into Learning program was thoughtfully designed and expertly led. Ten young children enrolled in the program, which commenced on Wednesday 13 August, providing a strong foundation for future school engagement.

Parent involvement was a standout feature of the school community. The Mother's Day luncheon and Father's Day breakfast were extremely well attended and demonstrated the strong partnership between families and the school. School events extended well beyond the classroom and were truly community occasions. Highlights included the athletics carnival, preschool visits, hospital visits and the school production of *Aladdin*. The entire school community also enjoyed attending *ANNIE the Musical*, made possible through the generosity of the School Advisory Council (SAC).

Mr Terry Westblade

Message from the Student Body - 2025 School Captain

2025 was a fantastic year at St Joseph's Jerilderie. We started with an exciting week of welcoming the new Kindergarten students. We had the Swimming Carnival which is always so much fun. The pool was full of brightly decorated blue and green students. A highlight was the teachers v parents v past students relay. The PP5 relay team made it to State for swimming which was amazing for them and our school.

Term 2 included our beautiful Mother's Day high tea and netball game which we all love participating in, our Athletics Carnival, Paul Kelly Cup in Deniliquin and the Deanery Athletics Carnival in which a team of four in the PP5 relay made it to Catholic State Championships at Homebush Aquatic Centre in Sydney. We went to St Josephs in Finley for Naidoc week and had grandparents day which is very special.

In Term 3 Kindergarten celebrated 100 days of school, Year 3/4/5/6 did the Lions Club Public Speaking competition, we had golf for sport and Launch into Learning started. The highlights of the term were our Book Week parade, seeing all of the amazing costumes and getting to parade around the school, going to Melbourne to see the stage show Annie, seeing the PP5 relay team compete in Sydney and of course the Father's Day breakfast and football game which is so much fun. We also had a school disco and started play practice.

Term 4 saw Year 6 go to Finley High school for a taster day, K/1/2 performed a dance and song at the Flower Show and we all got to perform in the play Aladdin which was incredible. Year 5/6 went to Canberra on an excursion and 3/4 visited Melbourne. Year 6 had a special

last week of primary school with their graduation in Yarrawonga, a fun day in Moama at Aquatic Island and running Presentation Night.

It was a wonderful year for all the students at St Josephs Jerilderie. We are grateful to the staff for all the fantastic opportunities we were given to learn and grow.

Section 2: School Features/Context

Jerilderie is one of three towns within the Murrumbidgee Shire. The main employers within the town are the Murrumbidgee Council and local medical services. The farming community, which surrounds the town, conducts cropping and rearing of livestock. The town has a very active community that, despite several drought years and Covid, is able to support several sporting clubs and numerous other recreational activities.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Jerilderie is a proud, rural Catholic school. It is located in the Southern Riverina. The school has a rich history beginning in 1898 when a one-room school was built on the current site in Coreen Street. During its history, enrolments ranged from mid thirties to the high eighties. Students come from predominantly farming backgrounds within a 40km radius of the Jerilderie town centre.

In 2025, there were four classes: Kindergarten, 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6. The classes were supported by four classroom teachers, an Inclusion and Diverse Learning Coordinator, a Maths Focus Teacher, Literacy Instructional Coach and Teacher Assistants. The parish priest conducted masses throughout the year and supported the children through the Sacramental Program.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Jerilderie is one of 24 Primary Schools and five Secondary Schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. It is a co-educational primary school providing opportunities for children from Kindergarten to Year 6. St Joseph's is a parish school supported by the St Joseph's Parish of Jerilderie.

The school had many highlights, events and experiences throughout this year both inside and outside the classrooms. This Annual Report is an account of the many areas addressed, attainments made and the achievements of the students, staff and school community.

Section 3: Student Profile

The school caters for co-educational Kindergarten to Year 6 students. The following information describes the student profile for 2025:

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Indigenous	Total
25	21	7	3	46

*Language background other than English

1. Enrolment Policy

Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga has established an Enrolment Policy. The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga. The policy has been developed in the context of government and system requirements. Children from families who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church may be considered eligible for enrolment.

Copies of this policy and other policies in the report may be obtained from the Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga website or by contacting the Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga or by contacting the school directly.
See CEDWW policy here.

2. Student Attendance and Retention Rates

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	96%
Year 1	95%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	89%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	86%

The average student attendance rate for 2025 was 89%.

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.

St Joseph's School Jerilderie 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 the 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 Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga or designated Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga attendance officer is provided with regular information about students for whom chronic non-attendance is an issue and for whom school strategies have failed to restore regular attendance.

Section 4: Staffing Profile

There are a total of 8 teachers and 4 support staff at St Joseph's School Jerilderie. This includes 5 full-time and 3 part-time teachers.

Teacher Accreditation Status

The accreditation status of all teaching staff responsible for delivering the curriculum is:

Teacher Accreditation Status	Number of Teachers
Conditional/Provisional	1
Proficient	7

Percentage of staff who are Indigenous	8.33%

Professional Learning

The ongoing professional development of each staff member is highly valued. Professional learning can take many forms including whole school staff days, subject specific in service courses, meetings, conferences and a range of professional learning programs provided by the Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga.

2025 Staff Professional Learning Plan

Staff Professional Learning is prioritised according to the goals of the Annual Improvement Plan. In 2025, the Staff Professional Learning Program focused on the following priorities from the Annual Improvement Plan:

Faith:

- Evangelisation and Religious Education Wonder and Awe Pedagogy: Engaged in a multi-phase professional learning programme (Engaging, Enacting, and Embedding) facilitated by the CEDWW E&RE team to implement the Sharing Our Story curriculum.
- The Religious Education Co-ordinator (REC) conducted classroom modelling and peer observations to enhance K–6 pedagogical practices in RE.
- Catholic Education Charter Alignment: Staff participated in collaborative workshops to finalise the school's new Vision and Mission statements, ensuring alignment with the Diocesan Education Charter.

Learning:

TransFORMATIVE Pedagogy and Curriculum Reform

- New Syllabus Implementation: Conducted stage-based planning sessions for the new NESA Science & Technology and PDHPE syllabi, focusing on scope and sequence development.
- High-Impact Literacy: Kindergarten and Stage 1 teachers completed specialised CEDWW Reading Professional Learning to ensure consistent, evidence-based instructional practices in early literacy.
- Feedback and Assessment: Staff engaged in professional development focused on "Feedback and Feedforward" strategies to improve the precision of student learning goals.
- Data-Informed Practice: Established regular Case Management and Data Analysis meetings to monitor student growth using NAPLAN, PAT, and MAI data.

Wellbeing: Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

- Essential Classroom Practices: Systematic professional learning on the "8 Essential Classroom Practices," with staff implementing two specific strategies per term to enhance classroom climate.
- Resilience Education: Staff training in The Resilience Project (GEM) curriculum to support student mental health and social-emotional learning at the point of need.
- Digital Wellbeing: Collaborative sessions with Centacare and CEDWW experts to address student anxiety and digital citizenship.

Service and Welcome: Community and Resource Management

- Creative Arts Capacity Building: Facilitated professional development in Music and Drama to build staff confidence and diversify the delivery of the Creative Arts curriculum.
- Family Engagement Research: Staff engaged in "Learning Walks and Talks" and data collection to evaluate and improve the efficacy of parent partnerships and school welcoming procedures.

Section 5: Catholic Life and Religious Education

Catholic Schools have a unique role in the evangelising and educating mission of the Church. St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Jerilderie follows the Wagga Wagga Diocesan Religious Education curriculum, Pedagogy of Wonder and Awe (PoWA). In the beginning of 2023, Most Reverend Bishop Mark Edwards OMI launched the Diocese of Wagga Wagga Catholic Education Charter. This charter, a foundational document, definitively expresses the purpose and priorities of our Education System. Describing our schools as Communities of Welcome, Communities of Faith, Communities of Service, and Communities of Learning, it inspires and guides the work of all those involved in Catholic education in the Diocese.

Catholic Heritage
St. Joseph's traces its origins back to 1898 when a one-room school was built on the current site. The school has a rich Catholic history, with the presence of both priests and sisters until 1977, when the Sisters of Mercy were an integral part of the school's development.

Liturgical Life of the School

During 2025, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School undertook significant work to review and refine our school vision and mission statements, ensuring alignment with the Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga (CEDWW) Education Charter. This work strengthened our shared understanding of Catholic identity and clarified our commitment to high-quality Religious Education grounded in faith, learning and service.

Staff participated in preparatory professional learning opportunities led by the CEDWW Evangelisation and Religious Education (E&R) Team, enhancing professional pedagogical practices in Religious Education. As part of this focus, Religious Education resources were given a designated and purposeful place within each classroom. Staff developed a solid understanding of the Pedagogy of Wonder and Awe (POWA), supporting the creation of learning environments that foster curiosity, reflection and spiritual growth.

The faith life of the school community was nurtured through daily prayer, liturgies, school Masses and sacramental opportunities. During Term 3, students in Years 3 and 4 received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, supported by staff, families and the Parish community. During 2025, the school farewelled Father Paul Lu, who moved to the Griffith area, and welcomed Father Prasanth as Parish Priest during Term 3. Father Prasanth has settled into the Parish community with warmth and enthusiasm, building strong connections with students, families and staff, and cherishing opportunities to celebrate Mass and baptise students within the school.

Staff and Student Faith Formation
Students are actively engaged in Religious Education lessons and various liturgical events. Prayer remains an integral part of each day, and students are encouraged to fully participate

in all offered activities. Staff prepared students for sacraments. The staff participated in a Faith Development Day run by CEDWW personnel. St. Joseph's staff have devoted considerable effort to the new RE curriculum dedicated staff meetings.

Social Justice
St. Joseph's Primary School continued its commitment to various social justice issues in the past year. Year 6, along with their classmates, actively fundraised throughout the year, supporting Caritas Australia and Catholic Missions.

Professional Learning in Catholic Life and Mission
The Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established a policy on the Professional Requirements for the Accreditation of Teachers of Religious Education, which is implemented by all systemic schools across the diocese.

Section 6: Curriculum

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 (KLA's) are English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. Each KLA is delivered as required for Registration and Accreditation under the Education Act 1990 (NSW) and schools implement the Religious Education Syllabus requirements for the Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga.

St Joseph's continued to prioritise high-quality teaching and learning practices that meet the diverse needs of students. Differentiated instruction, small group intervention and targeted enrichment opportunities ensured students were appropriately supported and challenged.

Enrichment opportunities included Maths Games for students requiring extension in numeracy, while Spelling Mastery groups provided targeted and extension-based intervention through structured small group instruction. Students engaged in a range of literacy and numeracy support programs including Centre for Effective Reading, MiniLit, MultiLit, Read3, and Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) mathematics groups.

Sessions with Royal Far West continued to provide access to Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Psychology services. In addition, the school secured the services of an external speech pathologist, wellbeing counsellor and specialist music teacher onsite, providing families with the option to access private services within the school setting.

Section 7: Student Performance in State-Wide Tests and Examinations

NAPLAN 2025 Results

NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It tests the types of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. In 2025, all CEDWW schools completed NAPLAN Online.

St Joseph's students achieved outstanding results in the 2025 NAPLAN assessments across the 26 primary schools within the Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Year 3 Results:

- 1st in the Diocese for Writing
- 5th in the Diocese for Numeracy

Year 5 Results:

- 1st in the Diocese for Writing
- 1st in the Diocese for Grammar and Punctuation
- 2nd in the Diocese for Numeracy
- 2nd in the Diocese for Spelling
- 2nd in the Diocese for Reading

These results reflect the collective efforts of students, staff and families, and highlight the impact of strong teaching practices and targeted intervention.

Summary of Means

	Number of Students	School Mean	State Mean
Year 3			
Numeracy	3	443.9	410.8
Reading	3	431.3	408.1
Writing	3	455.1	424.4
G&P	3	415.1	419
Spelling	3	413.4	416.7

Year 5			
Numeracy	6	550.6	499.1
Reading	6	555.0	496.8
Writing	6	568.1	486.7
G&P	6	591.6	506.7
Spelling	6	569.2	496.4

Section 8: Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established a Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Policy which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The implementation of this Policy is monitored by Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

See CEDWW Policy **HERE**.

Student voice continued to be prioritised through the ongoing work of the Student Representative Council (SRC). The SRC worked closely with staff and the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) team to update the school's behaviour matrix and refine the token reward system, ensuring expectations were clear, consistent and positively reinforced.

Attendance remained strong throughout 2025, with five of the seven grades achieving attendance rates above 90% and an overall school attendance average of 89%.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School continued to be a place of consistency, care and connection. Teachers worked tirelessly to ensure the school remained a stable and nurturing environment, with a strong focus on student learning and wellbeing.

Parents and families engaged enthusiastically in school life through Masses, assemblies, open classroom opportunities, Mother's Day High Tea, Father's Day Breakfast and Grandparents' Day. The school community demonstrated outstanding generosity through fundraising efforts including the Jerilderie Fun Fair, school discos, raffles, social duck races and catering opportunities. These collective efforts contributed significantly to the funding of a new playground, scheduled for installation in February 2026.

Discipline Policy

Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established a Discipline Policy which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The implementation of this Policy is monitored by Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

See CEDWW Policy **HERE**.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Jerilderie believes that every child maintains the right to learn and play in a safe and happy school environment. The school adopts a school wide Behaviour Management Program based on Positive Behaviours for Learning.
A key to this program is the five baseline expectations which should be seen each and every day. These five expectations are in place at St Joseph's, for all members of the community, in order to promote positive behaviour and include:

- Kind Words, Kind Actions
- Learn and Let Learn
- Be Brave, Be your Best
- Be Thankful
- Be Safe

St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Jerilderie believes that every member of the school community:
- Has the right to a safe and secure environment.
- Has the responsibility to create and maintain a safe and secure environment.

The Positive Behaviour for Learning Policy at St Joseph's aims to provide a safe, caring and supportive learning and teaching environment. The policy helps students to demonstrate responsible behaviour and a sense of self-worth, respect and consideration for the feelings, rights and property of others. It aims to maximise opportunities for learning and teaching. St Joseph's aims is to promote each student's religious, academic, physical and personal development. Behaviour management plays an important part in the shaping of a child and successful behaviour management needs to be supported by the school, parents and children.
We believe that positive behaviour can be developed and supported through:

- The provision of a relevant and age appropriate curriculum;
- The provision of opportunities to negotiate learning tasks;
- Encouraging students to make positive choices about how to satisfy their needs;
- High expectations for students and their learning;
- Empathy for students' out-of-school lives;
- Acknowledgement, reinforcement and feedback for appropriate behaviour;
- Norm-setting, and
- The provision brain breaks for students so students can reset and teachers can get on with teaching.

Corporal Punishment will not be used at St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Jerilderie and is not condoned by the school in or out of school hours. St Joseph's does not explicitly or implicitly sanction the use of corporal punishment by non-school persons, including parents, to enforce discipline at school.

Anti Bullying Policy

Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established an Anti Bullying Policy which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The implementation of this Policy is monitored by Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga.
See CEDWW Policy **HERE**.

Students and staff of St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Jerilderie maintain the right to expect that they will spend the school day free from the fear of bullying, harassment and intimidation. Bullying is taken seriously and is not acceptable in any form. There are structures set up within the school to reduce and prevent bullying and to equip children with appropriate social skills to counter bullying. Instances where bullying and teasing do occur, are dealt with in a way that provides support for both the victim and the bully, providing a framework to reduce and prevent further bullying. Teachers, students, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community are responsible for working together to address bullying. Any inappropriate behaviour that prevents or limits teaching and learning in school and interferes with the wellbeing of students is not accepted. St Joseph's follows the CEDWW Anti Bullying Policy.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

Respectful Behaviour and Responsibility are promoted on a daily basis. Our behavioural matrixes were co-developed by students, staff and parent community. They are referred to in general conversations and lived by all community members. Strong community involvement, respect and responsibility are encouraged through a variety of activities including:

- Year 6 Leadership Program
- Year 6 and Kindergarten Buddy Program
- Formal recognition of students each week
- Regular class visits by the Principal to affirm and encourage students
- Leadership and sharing at school assemblies
- Positive Behaviours for Learning core values are explicitly taught
- Recognition of performance in the school newsletter, SeeSaw and Facebook
- ANZAC Day March participation
- Visits to the local hospital
- Participation in parish events
- Inviting the community to school for productions
- Engaging in activities with the preschool
- Artwork displays and school performances

Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy

Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga has established a Complaints Handling Policy which is implemented by all schools in the diocese. The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga.

See CEDWW Policy **HERE** & Procedures **HERE**.

Workplace Health and Safety

Each school is required to implement and comply with the Diocesan School System Workplace Health and Safety Management System (WHSMS). This system reflects the current statutory requirements for WHS and complies with the Australian Standard for WHS Management Systems. The WHSMS adopted by the Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga Systemic Schools has been designed to address general health, safety and welfare matters and also to take account of specific issues that apply to school communities. The management system supports the provision of a safe and supportive environment for all students as well as taking into account the health, safety and welfare of staff, visitors and contractors to the school site.

Principals, in consultation with the relevant CEDWW personnel, are responsible for monitoring the school's compliance with WHS legislation and to implement the management system in keeping with the Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga Annual WHS Plan. External WHS system audits are conducted across a sample of schools each year to validate the implementation of the management system.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga are committed to a safe and supportive environment. The principles, guidelines and procedures set out in the policy documents CEDWW of Pastoral Care, Student Wellbeing, Bullying and Harassment are the framework for school leaders, students, staff, parents and the wider community to develop a safe and supportive environment. The Diocesan Complaints Handling Procedure forms an important element in the diocese's commitment to ensuring safe and supportive environments for school communities. No changes were made to these documents in 2024.

In compliance with the ***NSW Reform Act 1990***, Corporal Punishment is banned in all schools within the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Access to all policies and guidelines can be obtained by contacting the school office.

See CEDWW Policy **HERE**.

Section 9: School Review and Improvement

Each year the school develops an Annual Improvement Plan indicating the intended key improvements for student learning outcomes. The plan is drawn from the Catholic Education Diocese, Wagga Wagga Annual Improvement Plan.

2025 Annual Improvement Plan

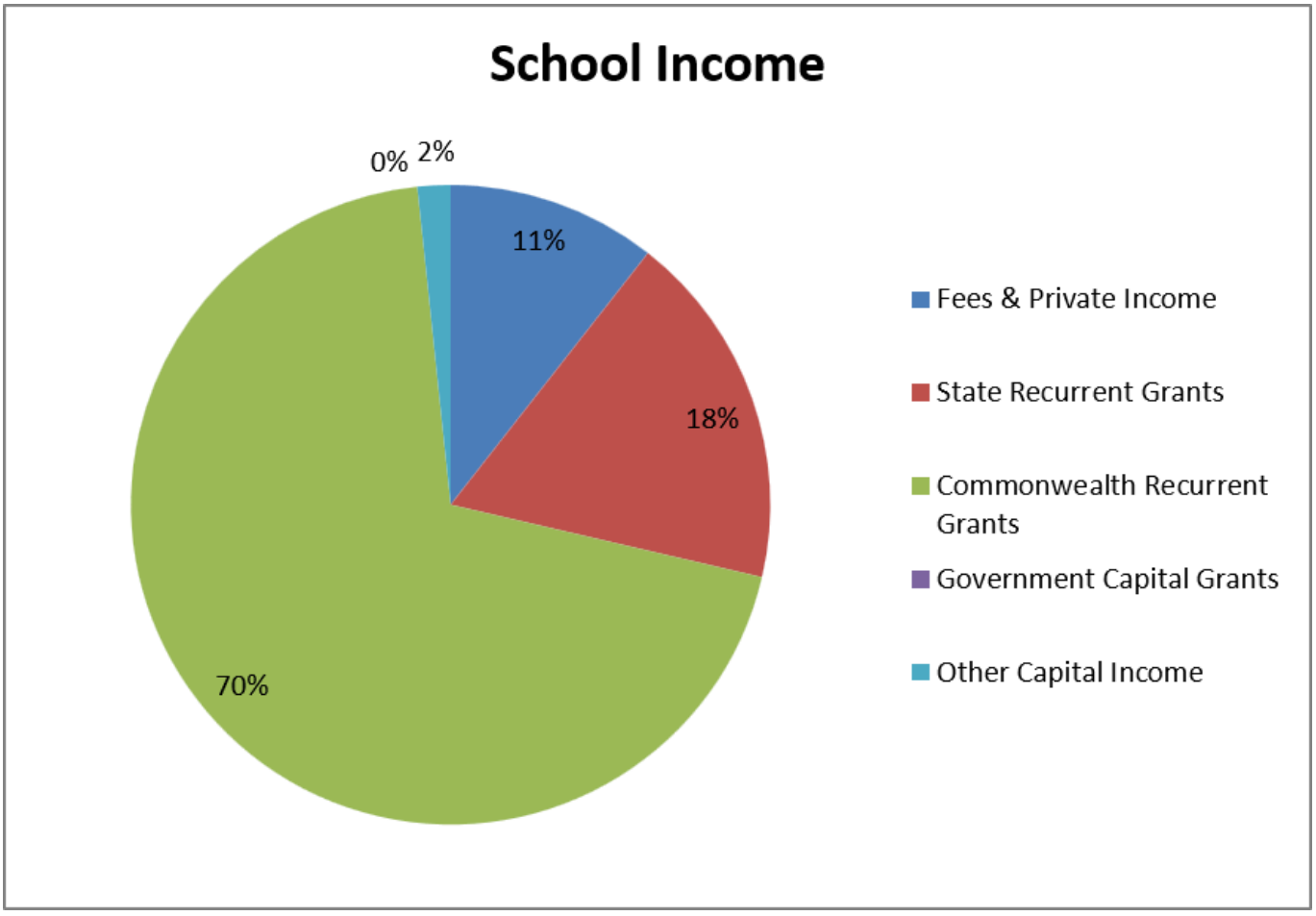
Priority Key Improvements for 2026

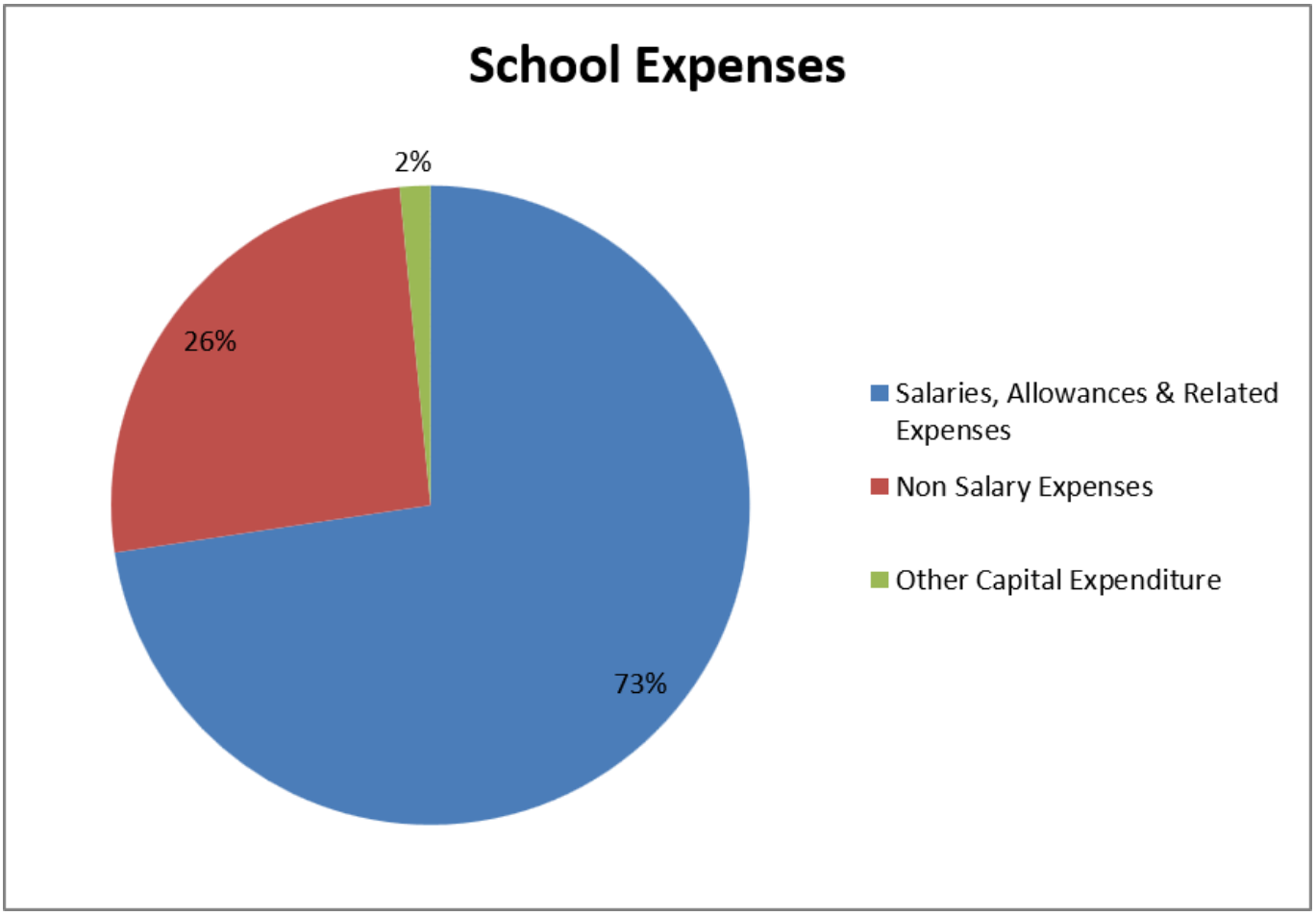
[The 2026 Annual Improvement Plan is here.]

Section 10: Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction Parent Participation

Parents are the primary educators of their children and are always welcome at St Joseph's School Jerilderie. 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.

Financial Report




School Expenses
2%
26%
73%
Salaries, Allowances & Related Expenses
Non Salary Expenses
Other Capital Expenditure