



# 2023

## Annual Report to the School Community



### St Joseph's School

33 Lascelles Street, HOPETOUN 3396

Principal: Cynthia Maiden

Web: [www.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au)

Registration: 1532, E Number: E2055

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## Principal's Attestation

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I, Cynthia Maiden, attest that St Joseph's School is compliant with:

- The minimum standards and other requirements for school registration and school boarding premises (if applicable) as specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic).
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2023 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2023 (Cth).
- The Child Safe Standards as prescribed in Ministerial Order 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards, Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises.

Attested on 21 Mar 2024

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## About this report

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St Joseph's School is registered by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). The Annual Report to the School Community (ARSC), provides parents and the wider community with information about the school's activities and achievements throughout the year including information about various aspects of school performance. The Report is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the school community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the learning and wellbeing of its students. Further information about the contents of this Report may be obtained by contacting the School directly or by visiting the School's website. Information can also be obtained from the [My School website](#).

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## Governing Authority Report

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The Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) governs 52 primary schools, one F – 8 school, and five secondary Colleges, educating around 13,500 students and employing more than 2,200 teachers and staff, from Mildura in the north, Portland in the south, and west to Edenhope and Nhill.

Now in its third year of operation, DOBCEL continues to work diligently to ensure all its schools flourish fully in their mission to provide high-quality, affordable, faith-based education opportunities for students and families in safe, supportive, and secure learning environments, that value diversity and promote cooperation, care, and respect for all.

During 2023, I was fortunate to visit all of our schools as the DOBCEL Board held meetings in different venues across the diocese. The spirit of harmony and sense of community, along with cultures of care for students and staff I experienced, was extremely encouraging. These school visits were also a reminder of the calibre of young people we have in our education system.

The role of school Principal continues to grow in complexity, demanding an increasingly diverse skillset and knowledge base. I am proud and deeply grateful for the exceptional dedication and professionalism of our 58 Principals, who, along with leadership colleagues and staff, work tirelessly to deliver education services for the families and communities they serve.

Enterprise Bargaining Agreement negotiations continued this year, involving staff from schools and human resources teams giving many hours and great effort to the process. Working with the inter-Diocesan bargaining group, DOBCEL continued to support efforts to finalise the Agreement with the Independent Education Union (IEU) as expediently as possible. DOBCEL continues to recognise the extraordinary work of staff in our schools and offices, and the substantial changes to the Agreement are intended to have a positive impact on staff and their workload.

As mandated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA), the development of clear policy and procedural documents continued apace, with schools required to utilise DOBCEL foundational work, yet contextualise documents to suit the specific needs of each school. I express my gratitude to the team at Catholic Education Ballarat, who are both talented and conscientious in delivering this vital work.

During the year we saw the end of an era with the closure of St Brendan's Primary School, Dunnstown. Over 160 years of schooling was celebrated through speeches, laughter, and the sharing of many memories. Pleasingly, we also saw the refurbishment and opening of several new school buildings across the diocese this year.

I continue to be extremely grateful for the ongoing dedication, professionalism, and support of our personnel at Catholic Education Ballarat. I particularly acknowledge the commitment of our school leadership teams and their staff in nurturing and empowering the students in our care, as together we work to bring to life our vision: As partners in Catholic Education and open to God's presence, we pursue the fullness of life for all.

Tom Sexton

Executive Director DOBCELL

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## Vision and Mission

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St. Joseph's School is an inclusive community of faith and learning with Christ at its centre.

It will educate its students to be of service to society in the Catholic tradition of love, faith and hope.

As a Christ centred school we celebrate our Catholic beliefs, values, practices and traditions.

As an educational institution we:

- Will support the development of the whole person.
- Will provide a comprehensive curriculum, which challenges all students in their pursuit of success.
- Will cater for the varied learning styles and needs of our students.
- Will be a child safe school by providing a physical and online environment that is happy, safe and welcoming.
- Will respect the dignity of the individual and value the participation and contribution of all.
- Will work in partnership with parents, the parish and the wider community.
- Will encourage our students to make a difference in the local, national and global communities in which they live.

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## School Overview

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St. Joseph's Primary School is a faith community, which is committed to Catholic Education. The school presents young people a way of understanding themselves and the world in which they live, which is founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ in the gospel.

St. Joseph's School began in 1955 with two Josephite nuns and sixty-eight children. The school was officially blessed and opened on the 12th December 1954 by the Most Reverend J.P. O'Collins, D.D. Bishop of Ballarat. The school and area was indeed fortunate to obtain the services of the Sisters of St. Joseph an order founded by Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, which was dedicated to the education and service of the poor and underprivileged and those in remote and isolated areas. The nuns remained teaching in the school in the role of Principal / teacher until 1988 when the first lay Principal was appointed. December 1988 marked the end of the untiring dedicated service of the Josephite nuns to St. Joseph's School.

Under the spiritual leadership and guidance of our parish priest the school is serviced by a staff of dedicated lay teachers, office personnel, teacher aides, the School Advisory Council, and a supportive parent body. All involved with our school work to promote and implement the Vision and Mission of the school.

Education at St. Joseph's is a partnership which involves parents and families, staff, the local parish and town communities and government.

The basic philosophy at St. Joseph's is to develop the self esteem of all children and to provide for their individual needs. We offer a comprehensive education that will help children develop a consistent set of beliefs and values: an education that is committed to both spiritual and moral development and the provision of knowledge and skills for the future.

The nature of our school community is diverse, drawing from both the rural and town sectors of the Hopetoun district. The socio-economic makeup of the school community is likewise diverse and also fluctuating, representing a wide range of situations and circumstances. The school, in its work, strives to provide an appropriate education in faith and life for all who are entrusted to its care.

### **Enrolment Statistics:**

Boys:	20		
Girls:	23	Total: 43	No of Families: 25

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## Principal's Report

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As I reflect on the 2023 school year, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and pride for all that was accomplished. It was a year of challenges, triumphs, and moments that truly exemplified the strength and resilience of our school community.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff. Their unwavering commitment to our students' academic and personal growth is truly commendable. Day in and day out, they have gone above and beyond to create a supportive and nurturing learning environment, and for that, I am immensely grateful. Their passion, creativity, and tireless dedication are the driving force behind our school's success, and I am honoured to work alongside such an exceptional team of educators.

My sincere thanks to Mr Chris Robarts who stepped into the Principal role at the start of term 2 to allow me to focus on my health. Chris led the school community with passion and humour, bringing his love of music very much to the fore of all that he did. It was very comforting to be told by parents and other community members that school was “ticking along as usual” under Chris’s leadership.

To our students, I express my deepest appreciation for their hard work, determination, and enthusiasm throughout the year. They embraced every challenge with courage and resilience, and their achievements are a testament to their dedication. Whether in the classroom, on the sporting front, or in the community, our students consistently demonstrated the values of respect, integrity, and kindness that make our school truly special.

Last but certainly not least, I sincerely thank our parents and caregivers for their unwavering support and partnership. Your involvement in your child's education is invaluable, and your commitment to their success is truly inspiring. Your contributions have made a positive impact on the lives of our entire school community. Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children—we are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in their academic and personal growth.

I’m sure that during the 2024 school year we will face new challenges, however I am confident that with the continued support of our dedicated staff, students, and caregivers, we will overcome them with grace and resilience. Together, we will continue to uphold the values of excellence, integrity, and community that define our school and ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive.



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## Catholic Identity and Mission

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### Goals & Intended Outcomes

There was no specific goal for Catholic Identity and Mission in the school's 2023 Annual Action Plan.

### Achievements

Fr Glynn Murphy continued as our Parish Priest in 2023, with Fr Matt Restall as our Assistant Priest. Fr Matt was a constant presence in the school, spending every second Thursday afternoon visiting classrooms and meeting with the children. He also worked with families, preparing children for the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. There was a wonderful parish celebration on the ninth of September when eleven children from the Parish, including nine from St Joseph's received Communion for the first time. The Sacrament of Confirmation was also conferred on a number of children in November.

The school continued to teach the mandated Religious Education curriculum 'Awakenings', using the Shared Christian Praxis method. This begins with students' life experiences, integrates it into our faith story and then encourages students to take their own faith stories back into their own lives. Big concepts for Foundation-Grade 2 students in 2023 were Belonging, Wonder, Story and Joy. Grades 3-6 concepts were Growth, Respect, Identity and Action. These overarching concepts are then used to guide the choice of scripture and Catholic teaching that forms the basis of the weekly lessons for each class.

Throughout the year, we had a number of whole school liturgical celebrations. We celebrated our Start of Year Mass to offer thanks and ask for blessings on our year. We also celebrated Mass on the Feast of St Mary MacKillop, founder of the Sisters of St Joseph, the order of sisters who operated our school for a number of years. We came together as a school community for Ash Wednesday and for times of prayer to celebrate Mother's Day, Grandparents and Special Friends Day, Catholic Education Week and the Feast of the Assumption.

Catholic Education Week was an opportunity for us to celebrate and enhance the reality of our identity, to dialogue with the Catholic faith tradition and the world in which we live to interpret and proclaim the good news.

The theme for Catholic Education Week in 2023 was "Let the words you speak always be full of grace". This theme was based on scripture from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians, 4:6. It is a reminder to all of us to always be respectful of all those we work and play with each day.

In 2023, St Joseph's hosted the regional celebration for Catholic Education Week. We welcomed children and staff from St Mary's Sea Lake, St Mary's Warracknabeal, St Patrick's Nhill and Our Lady Help of Christians, Murtoa. We marked the day with a time of prayer and hospitality. We participated in the National Simultaneous Story Time, sharing the story "The Speedy Sloth" with thousands of children across Australia and New Zealand. The children worked in mixed groups with related activities and enjoyed a hearty lunch magnificently prepared and served by St Joseph's parents.

Staff took time at the end of the year to deepen their own faith and spirituality during our staff retreat. Jim Waight (Education Officer -Formation for Mission CEB) facilitated the retreat. The theme was 'Time to Rest' and included time to break down the Christmas story from Mark and Luke.

### **Value Added**

Our 2023 School Improvement Data shows our school to be in the top 25% of all Catholic Schools across Victoria in almost all areas of Catholic Culture. Of particular note are our scores for Compassion (100% from a parent perspective, 92% from a student perspective, 95% from a staff perspective) and Social Justice (97% from a parent perspective, 86% from a student perspective, 83% from a staff perspective).

Other areas that indicate value added in our school are:

Staff planning and teaching units planned in collaboration with RE Education Officer.

Staff participation in Professional Learning Team Meetings with RE Education Officer.

Improved scripture knowledge through increased focus on background information for staff and students.

Regular opportunities for prayer and liturgy across the school.

Student participation in Religious Education lessons and prayer.

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## Learning and Teaching

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### Goals & Intended Outcomes

Strengthening the positive, safe and engaging learning environment focusing on embedding a culture of continuous improvement and achievement.

Focus 2023: To engage with the DOBCEL Structured Literacy Project through staff Professional Learning and enhanced classroom practice.

### Achievements

A major Professional Learning project during 2023 was our engagement with a Catholic Education Ballarat literacy initiative - Structured Literacy. This approach to the teaching of Literacy challenges teachers to examine their understanding of the core instructional elements for reading and writing to give the children the best chance of developing a strong grasp of the foundational elements of literacy on which to build their literacy knowledge and skill. Structured literacy is an approach to teaching reading and writing that emphasizes the systematic and explicit instruction of phonology, phonics, morphology, syntax, and semantics—the fundamental components of language. It's designed to be highly structured and sequential, guiding students through the complexities of language step by step. Structured literacy instruction is systematic, meaning it follows a predetermined sequence of instruction, starting with the most basic concepts and gradually building complexity. It is also explicit, meaning that teachers directly teach students the skills and concepts they need to become proficient readers and writers, providing clear explanations and opportunities for practice. I commend both students and staff for their enthusiasm and support of Structured literacy and look forward to the achievements this will lead to in the future.

The swimming program at the start of the 2023 school year was again a great success with all students extending their confidence and skills in the pool. Our Water Fun Day was well-attended by parents and the students had a very enjoyable day.

We headed to Beulah in April to participate in the Southern Mallee Lakes Cross Country. Seven students qualified for the Little Desert Cross Country that was held in Horsham.

Year five and six students represented Southern Mallee Lakes in the Football and Netball Winter Sports that were held in Horsham.

In August, we travelled to Rainbow for the Southern Mallee Athletics Carnival. Three students were awarded Age Champion on the day. Six students qualified to represent Southern Mallee Lakes at the Little Desert Carnival that was held in Stawell.

There were a number of camps and excursions this year. Years 3-6 students had an overnight visit to Halls Gap. Camp activities included visits to Blue Moon Alpaca Farm, Halls Gap Zoo, Silverband Falls and Grampians Adventure Golf. Our Foundation and years one and two students also headed to Halls Gap for their day excursion. This day included a visit to Halls Gap Zoo and Grampians Adventure Golf. Grade 5/6 students also participated in the Southern Mallee Lakes cluster camp to Melbourne. They visited Melbourne Zoo, the Aquarium, the Shrine of Remembrance and the Victoria Markets, as well as composing music at The Channel and experiencing the planetarium at Scienceworks. My thanks to the staff for their support of these extra events.

Additional learning opportunities were provided through the following activities:

- Mary Poppins (Melbourne)
- The AI Science Academy (senior students online.)
- Book Week activities
- The Hip Hop Dance Workshop (Free Style Dance Ministry)
- Matthew Webster talk and demonstration about keeping bees and harvesting honey
- RACV sponsored workshop about solar energy (Robyn Kerdel)
- Sorry Day and NAIDOC Week activities
- The Resilience Project
- Author Debra Abela visit and talk

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

### **NAPLAN**

Students in Grades 3 & 5 completed NAPLAN tests during 2023.

Where there are small cohorts of students, the examination of percentages alone can lead to quite misleading interpretation as the performance of just one or two individuals can impact significantly on overall percentages. As a result, the teaching staff has engaged in analysis of individual student results to make better informed judgments of student capabilities and educational need.

### **Spelling**

In a fabulous achievement, 100% of Grade 3-6 students improved at least 1 whole Spelling Mastery level throughout 2023. The success of this program was also evident in student work samples, including dictation assessments.

Teachers provided students with regular feedback in order to focus on continuous student improvement. Teachers implemented a number of formal and informal assessments, particularly at the start and end of each learning cycle. The pre-assessment was analysed and used to determine a students' starting point in the learning cycle. The post-assessment showed the growth in student achievement at the end of the learning cycle. Regular collection of data through Mathematics assessment, Writing moderation and Literacy assessments were used to monitor student progress at school. Intervention processes and practices were used to create individualised programs when needed in order to best support and enhance the students' learning outcomes.

<b>NAPLAN - Proportion of students meeting the proficient standards</b>			
<b>Domain</b>	<b>Year level</b>	<b>Mean Scale score</b>	<b>Proficient</b>
Grammar & Punctuation	Year 3	*	*
	Year 5	*	*
Numeracy	Year 3	*	*
	Year 5	*	*
Reading	Year 3	*	*
	Year 5	*	*
Spelling	Year 3	*	*
	Year 5	*	*
Writing	Year 3	*	*
	Year 5	*	*

\*A school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants and 80% participation rate. Data not reported for 2023 due to participation not meeting these criteria or no students were assessed. Participants include students who were assessed, including non-attempt, or those exempted from the test.

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## Student Wellbeing

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### Goals & Intended Outcomes

Improving family/school partnership in the wellbeing and learning needs of all members of the school community.

Focus 2023: Participation in the Resilience Project: working with the students to help them understand the importance of practising and implementing key strategies to build resilience . Using the GEM (Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness) approach to build Emotional Literacy.

### Achievements

St Joseph's School is a Child Safe School, committed to the safety of all students within the school and wider community. The school has continued its focus on ensuring the children were aware of their right to feel and be safe. The school improvement action around introducing the Resilience Project is a clear response to this priority.

In September, the students participated in Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson (ABCSSL) through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. This year the lesson focused on the concept of 'My body, my choice', and the strategies children can then use when they need to seek, give or deny consent. The Rights of a Child recognises that all children have the right to stay comfortable and enforce their right to stay safe.

Regular information has been provided to parents and families throughout the year from a range of Mental Health, eSmart and Parenting resources.

Information sheets in the weekly Newsletter included the following topics:

- Helping kids settle back into school
- Learning to take on challenges
- Yarriambiack Shire's Municipal Early Years Plan
- Child Safe Standards
- Why Create Rites of Passage
- The Resilience Project
- NCCD Data collection
- Celebrating Harmony Week
- My Child Is A Bully
- Why Ruin My Kid's Life By Working Too Much?
- The Parenting Revolution

Five Things Your Tween Wants To Know  
Three Tips To Make our Mother's Day  
Consent Conversations with Kids  
Mindfulness  
Grades Do Not Define Our Worth  
Are You A Good Listener?  
Threats and Rewards – Or Something Better?  
Teaching Kids To Be Kind  
Raising Kids Without Bribes  
Our Words Matter  
Book Week  
We Need To Talk About Parent Wellbeing  
The How-To's Of Healthy Parenting  
Fatherhood Redefined  
RU OK?

Our school has continued its membership of School TV which includes many videos and information on a variety of topics to assist parents with positive wellbeing for their children. Topics covered by School TV so far this year have been:

School Transitions  
Friendship and belonging  
Positive Parenting  
Raising Girls  
Raising Boys  
The State Of Your Mental Health  
Mobile Phone Separation Anxiety  
Cyberbullying

Celebrating NAIDOC Week

Sleep  
Neurodiversity

Happiness & Gratitude  
Respectful Relationships  
Understanding Adolescence

Students' achievements were celebrated at Friday assemblies and awards given to recognise the efforts and achievements of students. Every Monday morning a student is randomly selected as 'Star of the Week'. This is an opportunity for our school community to celebrate the chosen student. The student is interviewed and a display is created outside the

classrooms and included in the newsletter as a special way to celebrate the uniqueness of each child.

### Value Added

Student participation in Wellbeing experiences including The Resilience Project, Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson, eSmart, Wellbeing activities and Big Buddy Day.

Individual Learning Plans for students with diverse learning needs.

Intervention programs for students with diverse learning needs.

Buddy support in the playground and through timetabled Buddy times.

Continued emphasis on a 'Healthy Community' and making healthy choices

### Student Satisfaction

#### Insight SRC Grade 5/6 Student Data:

Student experience	2021	2023
Student Morale	74%	67%
Connectedness to School	82%	77%
Purposeful Teaching	88%	89%
Stimulating Learning	82%	85%
Learning Confidence	77%	73%
Student Motivation	93%	90%
Connectedness to Peers	77%	79%

#### Insight SRC Grade 3/4 Student Data:

Student experience	2021	2023
Student Morale	86%	94%
Connectedness to School	93%	85%



Purposeful Teaching	100%	89%
Stimulating Learning	89%	83%
Learning Confidence	78%	77%
Student Motivation	99%	92%
Connectedness to Peers	92%	83%

## Student Attendance

Parents are required to notify the school in advance of any absence, where practicable. Where a student is absent and the students' parent has not informed the school by 10am on the morning of the absence, prompt communication occurs with the parents/guardians.

Parents of absent students are required to provide a written note, email or notification on PAM, detailing the reason/s for absence on their child's return to school. If this does not occur an Absence note reminder is sent home from the principal, requesting a written explanation from parents.

Staff members are to bring to the attention of the Principal any student/s whose attendance is irregular, any students who do not provide written notes adequately explaining absences, or whose absences appear unwarranted.

The Principal will, after consulting with the class teacher, attendance records and the student and their parent/guardian, decide upon a strategy to be employed. As truancy is often indicative of other problems including engagement and family issues, the support strategies employed by the Principal will be determined on a case-by-case basis. However, they may include:

Initial telephone contact with parents

Counselling sessions for parents and/or students

Home visits

Formation of a support group

School attendance as a prerequisite to extra-curricular activities

Attendance rewards

Ongoing truancy issues will be reported by the Principal to the appropriate welfare and government agencies.

<b>Average Student Attendance Rate by Year Level</b>	
Y01	89.5%
Y02	90.7%
Y03	89.6%
Y04	92.6%
Y05	91.1%
Y06	87.3%
Overall average attendance	90.1%

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## Leadership

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### Goals & Intended Outcomes

There was no specific goal for Leadership in the school's 2023 Annual Action Plan.

### Achievements

#### School Improvement

The major focus of School Improvement in 2023 was:

**Priority One:** Strengthening the positive, safe and engaging learning environment focusing on embedding a culture of continuous improvement and achievement.

*Focus 2023:* To engage with the DOBCEL Structured Literacy Project through staff Professional Learning and enhanced classroom practice

**Priority Two:** Improving family/school partnership in the wellbeing and learning needs of all members of the school community.

*Focus 2023:* Participation in the Resilience Project: working with the students to help them understand the importance of practising and implementing key strategies to build resilience . Using the GEM (Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness) approach to build Emotional Literacy

All staff participated in professional learning in relation to these two key school improvement actions to build their understanding of the required knowledge and skills in relation to both priorities.

#### Capital Improvement

A major project in 2023 was re-surfacing the basketball court. This project was funded jointly by local contribution and a State Government Grant. The improvement is there for all to see. The space is now a much safer and more enticing area of the school.

Plans and an application was submitted for Capital Funding to upgrade and extend the school toilet facilities and to provide additional classroom space to allow the school to reclaim the shared multi-purpose gathering space that was formally provided by the St Mary MacKillop Multi-purpose Room.

Additional outdoor tables and seating has also been secured through State Government Funding to be utilised as an outdoor learning space.

**Major spending throughout 2023**

Basketball Court	\$55 644
Carpet: Library and Office Building	\$9 307
Front Fence	\$19 424
Flag Pole	\$1 984
Office Blinds	\$540
Computer Technology	\$14 750
Furniture & Equipment	\$2 995
Library	\$1 135
Teacher Resources	\$6 847
Camps and Excursions	\$33 821
Incursion Expenses	\$1 719
Sport	\$1 515
Pest Control	\$ 770
Religious Education	\$ 840
Literacy Resources	\$19 516
Maths Resources	\$3 739
Wellbeing	\$4 377
Performing Arts	\$2 750

<b>Expenditure And Teacher Participation in Professional Learning</b>	
List Professional Learning undertaken in 2023	
Structured Literacy, including Science of Reading short-course through La Trobe University	
Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (Students with additional learning needs)	
Disability Standards for Education	
Religious Education	
Child Safe Standards	
O H & S	
First Aid/CPR	
Anaphylaxis training	
Number of teachers who participated in PL in 2023	6
Average expenditure per teacher for PL	\$561.00

### **Teacher Satisfaction**

The following scores from our school's 2023 School Improvement surveys (Organisational Climate component) indicate teacher satisfaction:

Supportive Leadership 80% (94% in 2021)

Role Clarity 89% (89% 2021)

Teamwork 84% (91% in 2021)

Empowerment 73% (87% in 2021)

Ownership 88% (91% in 2021)

Appraisal and Recognition 78% (90% in 2021)

<b>Teacher Qualifications</b>	
Doctorate	0.0%
Masters	16.7%
Graduate	0.0%
Graduate Certificate	16.7%
Bachelor Degree	66.7%
Advanced Diploma	0.0%
No Qualifications Listed	0.0%

<b>Staff Composition</b>	
Principal Class (Headcount)	2
Teaching Staff (Headcount)	7
Teaching Staff (FTE)	3.7
Non-Teaching Staff (Headcount)	6
Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	4.4
Indigenous Teaching Staff (Headcount)	0

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## Community Engagement

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### Goals & Intended Outcomes

There was no specific goal for Community in the school's 2023 Annual Action Plan.

### Achievements

This year St Joseph's has continued to support Junior Red Cross and Catholic Mission. A Walk-a-thon held on 15th September raised over \$1,800.

During the year students participated in Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Planting Day. As a Catholic school community we are called to care for our environment and ensure its sustainability for future generations. Participating in Clean Up Australia Day and National Schools Tree Planting Day are two important ways we can do this.

In May we again joined with schools across the nation to celebrate National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS), which is held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). This year's book was 'The Speedy Sloth' by Rebecca Young and Heath McKenzie. We combined this event with our Catholic Education Week gathering here at St Joseph's School.

The students also engaged in activities in relation to the following:

- National Reconciliation Week
- Harmony Day
- NAIDOC Week
- Cluster Day (Hopetoun P-12 College)
- Andrew Chinn Concert (with St Mary's Sea Lake)
- Refugee Week
- Kindergarten Visits
- Year Six Transition
- Christmas Concert

## Parent Satisfaction

The following scores from our school's 2023 School Improvement surveys indicate high levels of parent satisfaction:

Parent Partnerships 97%

Approachability 99%

Parent Input 94%

Learning Focus 98%

Behaviour Management 97%

Stimulating Learning 100%

The following activities would also strongly suggest there is a high level of satisfaction among parents on the operation of the school:

Attendance at school Masses and Liturgies.

Regular productive School Advisory Council meetings.

Enthusiastic parental support for School Working Parties.

Positive feedback regarding the student mid-year and annual reports.

Excellent attendance and engagement in parent teacher meetings.

Regular parent attendance and support of school special activities.

Willingness of parents to openly discuss issues with the principal and staff



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## Financial Performance

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The school's financial performance information and a report of the financial activities of the school's boarding premises (if applicable) have been provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available for the community to access from their website at [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au).

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at [www.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au)