

St Joseph's School Stanthorpe



Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023



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Vision & Mission Statement



Vision

Our vision is to create a supportive, faith-filled environment that will inspire and nurture the full potential of each member of the St Joseph's School community.

Values

Catherine McAuley, Founder of the Sisters of Mercy, believed that serving others using our God given talents would ensure all "have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

Catherine chose certain Gospel values that were important to her in making decisions and living her life.

These Mercy values are the lived experience of St Joseph's School as we acknowledge that all individuals are created in the image of God.

Mission

St Joseph's School aims to:

- Develop the faith and spirituality of our school community within a contemporary and distinctive Catholic identity
- Foster, through quality teaching and learning, the spiritual, academic, social, emotional, cultural and physical potential of each child to be the best they can be
- Promote positive partnerships with parents, caregivers, the parish and wider community in developing life-long learners
- Promote an integrity and faith that respects the uniqueness of God's creation empowering individuals to live the Mercy values in word and action



“The simplest and most practical lesson
I know is to resolve to be good today,
but better tomorrow.”

Catherine McAuley



Principal's Message

St Joseph's School is an inclusive Catholic co-educational school catering for students from Prep to Year 12. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1875, the school offers a seamless Prep to Senior education for families in the Granite Belt region of Southeast Queensland and Northern New South Wales.



At St Joseph's School we have two key goals:

1. All students have the opportunity to achieve excellence (to be the best they can be); and
2. Through living our Mercy Charism students' understanding of Jesus will continually grow and deepen

We aim to provide all students with the teaching, environment, culture and resources to enable them to excel academically, spiritually, physically, culturally, emotionally and socially.

At St Joseph's School, no matter what one's faith and beliefs, all are welcome. Just as importantly, all members of St Joseph's School have the opportunity to walk with Jesus and live out our Mercy Values.

We strive to ensure students have access to expert teachers- teachers who understand the differing needs of their students; who provide high quality teaching in the classroom; use data to inform practice and effective feedback to improve learning.

The school's Visible Learning Program is at the heart of our teaching and learning. Visible Learning occurs when teachers see learning through the eyes of the student and students see themselves as their own teachers. Through this program we set high expectations for all students and strive to inspire and develop lifelong learners equipped for the 21st Century.

The wellbeing of our students is central to our caring school environment in which all students are accepted and valued. Our teachers develop positive relationships with their students and provide meaningful co-curricular learning opportunities for them. Our students lead and support each other.

The success of the school over many years is evident in our students' exceptional NAPLAN and OP results and, guided by our Mercy Values, their service to, and connection with, our local community and parish.

God bless

Andrew Kendall



“Visible learning occurs when teachers see learning through the eyes of the student, and students see themselves as their own teachers.”

Commitment Statement

The Realisation of our Strategic Plan

Focus Area 1: Catholic Identity and Mercy Charism

Focus Area 2: Teaching and Learning

Focus Area 3: Well Being and Capacity Building

Focus Area 4: Community Engagement

Focus Area 5: Resources and Facilities

Strategies for Focus Area 1: Catholic Identity & Mercy Charism

St Joseph's School will:

- Establish an organising committee for the school's 150th Anniversary in 2025
- Continue to develop and extend the Faith in Action program
- Provide students with a greater opportunity to explore and develop their spirituality
- Further develop and engage the Mercy Charism by
 - joining the Mercy Schools Association
 - participating in Mercy Days
 - linking with other Mercy schools
- Strengthen the visibility of the Mercy Charism in the School
- Increase the number of religious icons throughout the school
- Continue the review of the "motherhood documents" with a review of the values statements
- Develop a new school song

Strategies for Focus Area 2: Teaching & Learning

St Joseph's School will:

- Ensure consistency of pedagogical practice throughout the P-12 curriculum
- In relation to senior schooling:
 - Successfully implement the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system
 - Ensure all students who apply gain a QTAC offer (University or TAFE entrance)
- Further develop the diversity of the curriculum, particularly in the Secondary
- Aim for the following academic targets:
 - Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank 65 and above (OP 1-15) - 100%
 - ATAR 90 and above (OP1-6) - >20%
 - Queensland Certificate of Education QCE or Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) – 100%
- In relation to the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN):
 - Strive to be above National Mean in all domains from Year 3 to Year 9
 - Work towards continuous growth in each domain from Year 5 to Year 9
- Continue to implement a range of academic initiatives including:
 - the Visible Learning Program
 - the Reading Improvement Strategy
 - the Inspire Maths (Numeracy) Program
 - the Data Improvement Plan
- Promote a culture of academic growth for every student
- Develop and implement academic opportunities for high performing students

Strategies for Focus Area 3: Wellbeing and Capacity Building

St Joseph's School will:

- Develop and implement a P-12 Wellbeing Plan
- Continue to develop students leadership programs
- Continue to provide career advice and counselling for students
- Implement further programs for staff wellbeing
- Grow staff capacity to deliver new and existing subjects
- Further develop staff leadership capabilities
- Continue to foster collaborative learning practices amongst staff

Commitment Statement cont.

Strategies for Focus Area 4: Community Engagement

St Joseph's School will:

- Continue to build relationships with other schools, the Parish and the wider community
- Increase the school's media profile
- Grow our co-curricular offerings
- Strengthen connections with, and celebrate the successes of, past students
- Work collaboratively with the Parish, particularly in celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2024

Strategies for Focus Area 5: Resources and Facilities

St Joseph's School will:

- Increase student enrolment across P-12 to 400 students
- Continue to review and implement the current Master Plan
- Continue to implement the current Maintenance Plan
- Review current staff composition and structure





St Joseph's School aims to develop the faith and spirituality of our school community within a contemporary and distinctive Catholic identity



ST. JOSEPH'S

Living Mercy since 1875



The Realisation of our Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan, drawing on the school Renewal and Improvement Plan 2018, has been developed to inform the direction of St Joseph's School between 2020 and 2023. The School Board, in collaboration with the School Leadership Team, have reviewed each focus area and created defined and measurable actions and outcomes. This plan will provide a basis in shaping the School's Annual Action Plan in each of the five focus areas.

The plan will be monitored by the School Board through an annual cycle of reporting for each five areas. The Principal will also report annually to the wider community.

Our school has a rich history and significant tradition. This Strategic Plan is designed to honour the past while embracing the realities of a changing world in which we will remain grounded in our Mercy Charism.

We commit to regularly evaluating the success of the plan's implementation and reaffirm our commitment to being a Mercy community guided by the Gospel values. Through current and evolving channels of communication, we will regularly update the St Joseph's School community on our pursuit and achievements of each strategy within this plan.



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