St. Joseph’s School, Barmera

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2010

Name: St. Joseph’s School, Barmera

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Principal: Ms. Kathy Horan

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Contextual Information:

St. Joseph’s School, Barmera, is a Catholic co-educational primary school catering for students from Reception to year 7. The school is located on the Sturt Highway in the Riverland region of South Australia. Barmera is a town of 3000 people, centred around the wine industry and the citrus fruit-growing industry, both of which have been severely affected in recent years by the drought conditions.

St. Joseph’s School, Barmera, was established in 1954 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and continues to provide educational opportunities that reflect high standards of contemporary practice in education. 21st century learning principals and philosophy underpin all of the teaching and learning, and the use of emerging technologies and ICTs is a priority at the school to ensure that all students learn effective ways of engaging with and making sense of a rapidly changing and complex world. The school is situated in and closely linked with the local parish community; school/parish relationships and networks continue to add to the life of the community experience.

School Information Statement:

St. Joseph’s School is an inclusive environment that promotes the well-being of students in all aspects of life. Children are given opportunities to develop the skills, attitudes and dispositions required for them to engage in life-long learning and to take an active role in sharing responsibility for their learning. Throughout the year, all students have benefited from learning in specialist areas such as Spanish, Drama, PE and Science. In addition to this, the school was a pilot school for the new curriculum in Australian History, part of a trial for the new Catholic Education curriculum software tool (CELT). Each of these involvements reflects outstanding commitment on the part of the staff as curriculum innovators.
Students from St. Joseph’s, Barmera, are well represented in local sporting clubs as well as in sporting fixtures organised through SAPSASA. Our children take part in the local Riverland Music Festival Choir, and in Drama productions at the local Bonney Theatre.

Children at St. Joseph’s, Barmera benefit from a range of intervention programs such as Reading Recovery, Quicksmart Maths, Bluearth, Writing and Sensory Processing (WASP), and Writing Reading Approach to Phonics (WRAP).

Student well-being programs include Bounce Back, Peer Mediation and Kidsmatter. Student welfare is supported by the presence of a school counsellor and a pastoral worker, both of whom visit the school on a regular basis. Students are also involved in leadership programs, including Sports Captains, SRC and Mini Vinnies, a social justice outreach program.

In 2010, St. Joseph’s, Barmera, benefited from the Federal Government BER project, enabling the development of new Administration and resource centres for the school.

**Student enrolment information:**

In 2010, there were 99 students enrolled full time at St. Joseph’s School.

**Total enrolments R-7**

Girls 46  
Boys 53  
Indigenous Students: 6  
Students with a disability: 7  

**Professional Engagement:**

**Staff Attendance:**

Teaching Staff Attendance for the 2010 year was 97.92% and absences of teachers included sick leave, carer’s leave and bereavement leave, as per their industrial agreement.
**Workforce Composition:**

In Term 4, 2010, there were 8 teachers and one Principal on Staff, equating to 6.9 FTE. Non-teaching Staff consisted of:

School Counsellor: 0.1

Chaplain: 0.2

Bursar, library coordinator and office staff: 3.0

In addition to this, in the latter part of 2010, 2 trainees were taken on, one as Groundsperson and one in a Business Administration role.

**Teacher Qualifications:**

In 2010:

Master of Education: 1

Bachelor of Education: 5

Bachelor of Early Childhood: 1

Bachelor of Arts: 1

In addition to these formal qualifications, all staff were involved in professional learning in the areas of Kidsmart, Graduate Certificate in Catholic Education, National curriculum and CELT.

**Key Student Outcomes:**

**Student Attendance:**

The average Student attendance rate for St. Joseph’s School in 2010 was 93.6%.

Reception: 94.33% Year 1: 94.89% Year 2: 94.13% Year 3: 95.35% Year 4: 92.36% Year 5: 91.67% Year 6: 94.94% Year 7: 91.45%. Attendance rates for 2010 represent a 1% improvement on 2009.
Benchmark Results:

Student Outcomes in National Literacy and Numeracy Testing:

Percentage of students who achieved at or above the minimum standard in NAPLAN tests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation &amp; Grammar</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Students and Staff are to be congratulated for their preparation and efforts in the 2010 NAPLAN test results.

Parent Satisfaction:

During 2010 parents were invited to respond to a survey about school performance, school leadership, teacher commitment and effectiveness, high standards of behaviour and the development of personal responsibility in students, along with the provision of a safe and positive learning environment.

Approximately 21% of the school community responded, and most agreed or strongly agreed about the performance of the school in the above-mentioned areas. 2 respondents disagreed about school expectations of student behaviour. Parent involvement in the school via the School Board and Parents and Friends Committee continues to enhance the life of the school community.

Kathy Horan

Principal