ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL
Marquet Street
MERRIWA NSW 2329
Phone: 6548 2035

ENROLMENT INFORMATION 2011
Enrolment Policy

Enrolment is open to families of all Christian denominations and to others who are open to the possibilities offered by our school.

St Joseph’s Primary School at Merriwa is one of 56 Catholic schools educating 17,000 students in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Our small school has a wonderful close knit community of staff, students, parish, parents and friends. We are proud to provide our students an education grounded with a strong sense of community, understanding and respect through the Christian faith.

There is one intake into Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year in January/February. To be eligible for this enrolment, pupils must celebrate their fifth birthday on or before 31st May of that year.

Where parents seek to enrol children who turn five after 31st May, an exemption may be made after an assessment for school readiness.

We invite all parents interested in enrolling their children to contact the school for more information and an enrolment package.

Orientation

There will be a series of orientation visits for Preschool age children during terms three and four. Applications to enrol a child are not binding however they do assist our planning and staffing arrangements for next year.

Our Self Caring Environment

One of our most important features is the caring relationships in our school. We have formed groups which include children from each class. Students gather in these groups for special activities such as tabloid sports. Kindergarten students are also matched with a “buddy” and often maintain that relationship throughout their school lives. In the
playground, all age groups are encouraged to play together. The National Framework for Values Education is the foundation of our pastoral care and relationships with each other and staff.

Healthy Lifestyle

Fitness activities are a great way to start every school day at St Joseph’s. Students rotate through a variety of skill development, aerobic activities and games, each organised by a different teacher. Our sport day is concentrated on the sport for the season in preparation for carnivals. From Year 3, the Catholic School system provides opportunities for all students to compete at regional and diocesan levels.

Healthy eating is encouraged through our canteen and in the classroom as students eat with the teachers before going out to play. There is a ‘fruit break’ for 10 minutes at 10.00am for all students. Our school is participating in the Good for Life, Good for Kids program.
Teaching and Learning

Cooperative learning is a feature of the academic program. In early school years, careful attention is given to the distinct learning needs of young children. For example, the child’s need to be engaged in their own learning using concrete objects for the development of sound mathematical concepts; and the need to establish sound foundations for literacy through quality experiences in listening, talking, reading and writing. Our students are involved in a public speaking program from Kindergarten providing the perfect opportunity to establish these literacy skills. Auditory and visual perceptual development is an important component of this foundation as is fine and gross motor development.

Attention to the individual needs of students is characteristic of this school. The learning/teaching program is based on the Quality Learning Framework questions embedded in the NSW curriculum documents. Learning experiences are designed to cater for the needs and abilities of all students.