Firstly, let me welcome you to St. Joseph’s Primary School, Childers. The school was established in 1926 by the Sisters of St Joseph to support the families of the Sacred Heart Parish. Over the years, it has steadily gained a central place in the Childers community.

The buildings of St. Joseph’s School have significantly changed in the last few years with the development and implementation of close to two million dollars’ worth of new classrooms and facilities. These projects are part of a long-term strategy to meet enrolment demand and to continue to develop modern first-class educational facilities to meet all the challenges that the 21st century brings.

Today, St. Joseph’s School, in strong partnership with the Parish Priest, Assistant Parish Priest and parish community, is recognised for proudly offering a quality inclusive Catholic Education. As the school has grown and changed it has continued to build on the traditions established by the Sisters of St Joseph. Their spirit of compassion and justice still flows through the total school community and is further strengthened by the traditions established by the parents, staff and children over the past eighty-four years, living the school motto of “Christian Values, Catholic Family, Individual Growth”.

This information booklet attempts to capture some of the beliefs and practices of the school, which have their origins within the school's story. While it covers key areas, it does not attempt to cover all possibilities. Rather it is meant as a guide to allow you, to gain a sense of what St. Joseph’s Primary School is about. The handbook also complements our official school website; www.stjosephschilders.qld.edu.au

Building on this educational story, spanning over eighty years and being the educational leader of this fine school is both a privilege and a challenge. I look forward to the opportunity of sharing some of the St. Joseph’s School story with you and inviting you to contribute to the school's ongoing development in partnership with each member of the school community.

Carey Strong
Principal
2011 -
St Joseph’s is a systemic Catholic primary school and is administered by Brisbane Catholic Education. Our tradition stems from the founders of our school; the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Specifically, the philosophy of St Joseph’s school centres on a way of life that makes Jesus real in the lives of all those who are the St Joseph’s family. The unique ethos that is St Joseph’s school finds its foundation and fulfillment in a way of life that centres on Christian values, the life of Christ.

Catholic and Josephite traditions form a strong foundation upon which our way of life and values are enhanced, we know that the VISION of this school is steeped in the valuing of relationships and all that it means to be a follower of Christ.

Values are a fundamental component of all educative processes. As a community we are conscious of the role that values play in guiding all that we undertake at St Joseph’s. We believe that values, along with our Josephite traditions underpin the vision of our school and encourage a flourishing community

Our school community has identified values that echo the Josephite tradition and enhance the ideals of Jesus. As a community we are conscious of the role that values play in guiding all that we undertake at St Joseph’s. These values are as follows:

**Our Catholic Christian tradition:** We are a pilgrim people, journeying together, our story is never fully written, so our plans are never fully realised; we are constantly drawing upon our tradition and also being called into new ways of growing and renewing ourselves through shared experiences and reflection.

**Respect:** All persons are created equal and human dignity is essential. Our educational efforts should confirm the belief that everyone is unique, that individual distinctions enrich and enliven our world and that the individual had both rights and responsibilities. Respect is the basis of any relationship. Everyone – parents, pupils, and staff have a contribution to make.

**High Quality Learning:** Education shall impart ‘a yearning for learning’ then encouragement to tackle it, and then desire to use and extend what they learn.

**Creativity:** We look for creative, flexible and future orientated responses that best address the needs and strengths of students, the local community, systems and government.

**Individuality:** We educate by what we say, and by what we do, even more by who we are, but most of all by what we love. It expresses itself in the many attempts that teachers are making to develop curriculum appropriate to the needs of their learners.

**Faith:** Our Catholic school of the future will be essentially a community of faith, based on a belief in God and a Christian way of life.

**Truth/Learning:** Our Catholic School is a Christian educational community where human knowledge and truth enlightened by faith, are valued by teachers and students. At the centre of academic teaching, at the culminating point of interest, must be the person, the work and the message
of Christ: he is our true teacher (cf. Mt 23:8-10). The priority and irreplaceable commitment, both of teachers and of pupils, is to get to know Jesus. (John Paul II).

**Love of Beauty/Sense of Wonder:** To develop a sense of wonder and awe before the mystery of God. Never lose an opportunity for seeing anything that is beautiful; for beauty is God’s handwriting – finding Jesus in all things.

We provide education that has aspects of the charism of the Josephites. It is based on the experience-reflection-action paradigm devised by Mary Mackillop & Julian Tenison Woods. The educational outcomes envisaged by the Josephites are the formation of students who are leaders in service, in imitation of Christ Jesus, people of competence, conscience and compassionate commitment.

At St Joseph’s, our whole school family understands that these values are a real foundation on which we can build for the present and in so doing cater for the future. These areas influence the decisions we make in all that is undertaken as a school family, for the welfare and benefit of all members.

- **Our UNIQUE ETHOS.** St Joseph’s has a unique ethos, which is based on the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ. Following the traditions of St Joseph, we foster a community of faith and hope where the welfare of each person is paramount.

- **EMPOWERS RELATIONSHIPS.** St Joseph’s School values relationships between all members of the community by actively promoting and fostering respect, support, openness, and care and concern for all.

- **Is LEARNER CENTRED.** St Joseph’s School recognises that each individual is a life-long learner. We strive to create a learning environment where each person is valued and encouraged to be effective contributors to our society.

- **Is DYNAMICALLY ORGANISED.** St Joseph’s is a dynamically organised school community in which effective school systems respond in a proactive, future oriented and reflective manner to a changing world.

- **Is MULTI-SKILLED.** St Joseph’s School is a multi-skilled community that provides all participants with opportunities to access and share knowledge and skills to enhance life long learning in our ever-changing world.

- **Is WELL RESOURCED.** St Joseph’s School is well resourced to provide for a range of learning styles to assist in the development of life long learning. We achieve this by utilising human and material resources from the immediate and wider community.
The way we behave at school is one of the most important considerations for all; parents, staff, administration and students. We believe that we all need to develop the skills of living and learning together in productivity and harmony and, when we run into problems, be able to *work it out together*. We believe that behaviour is taught and learned and misbehaviour, our mistaken choices, is an opportunity for us to learn a better way. Schools are to be needs-satisfying places for all of us. Hence the purposes of our behaviour development and management system are:

- to develop commitment and ownership in our community's behaviour by involving all stakeholders in the development of our expectation of how we will live and learn together
- to enable all students to extend their skills of living and learning together in productivity and harmony by being taught appropriate behaviours
- to allow mistakes to be platforms of learning for all members of the school community and not destructive failure paths

**Responsibilities of Children**
- Choose behaviours that are life giving and that show respect for self and others
- Develop with their class teacher a plan for living and learning together and live by this plan
- Work out problems in a productive and harmonious way
- Accept that mistakes are part of the learning process
- Admit and apologise when they make a mistake
- Give and accept forgiveness

**Responsibilities of Teachers**
- Encourage and model positive, life giving behaviour
- Create need satisfying environments for children
- Develop with their student a class plan for working and living together and consistently abide by this plan
- Help student to learn and master life-giving behaviour
- Accept mistakes as part of the learning process
- Work out problems in a productive, harmonious and respectful manner
- Give and accept forgiveness
- Admit and apologise when a mistake is made
Responsibilities of Parents

- Create a need satisfying environment for children
- Model and encourage positive, life giving behaviour
- Help student to learn and master appropriate behaviour
- Accept mistakes as part of the learning process
- Work out problems in a productive, harmonious and respectful manner
- Give and accept forgiveness
- Admit and apologise when they have made a mistake
- Watch for signs that their child may be experiencing behaviour concerns at school

At St Joseph’s every person has the right to feel safe. Any person who disregards the safety of another is denying them that right. The school will not tolerate any action that undermines a person’s right to feel safe, and it will take whatever steps are necessary to stop such behaviour.
ENROLMENT

Enrolment is open to Catholic children, and where possible, non-Catholic children whose parents value full participation in the religious education program of the school. If numbers exceed our capacity to cater for these children, preference will be accorded following the criteria below:

- Children who belong to the Sacred Heart Parish or outlying Parish Centres
- Brothers or sisters of present or past students
- Children of past students
- Children transferring from another Catholic school
- Close relatives of present or past students
- Non-Catholic children whose parents desire a Christian Education and will actively support the Catholic identity of the school.

Children with special needs may be enrolled after the formulation of an Ascertaintment Committee, consisting of the Principal, APRE, Support teacher: Inclusive Education and Guidance Counsellor which will support the child and family as well as the school, in such exceptional circumstances.

The Following table explains when children are eligible for Prep.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birthdate</th>
<th>Eligible for prep year in:</th>
<th>Eligible for yr 1 in:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The entry point for St. Joseph’s is Prep Year. A copy of the child’s Birth Certificate, Immunisation Certificates, and Baptismal Certificate should accompany enrolment applications.

The process for Prep and Year 1 enrolments is as follows:

1. Enrolment applications to be lodged by advertised date
2. Parents and child attend an interview with the Principal in Term Three
3. Parents are advised of successful application.
4. An Open Morning is held for parents and children in Term Four and parent and child to come along and participate in Pre-Prep Program.

Enrolment Forms are available from school office or to be downloaded from our website. Also included in an enrolment process, students will need to have a copy of their birth certificate and baptismal certificate (if applicable). Parents will also need to sign a media consent form for every student from Prep to Grade Seven. This will be completed at the time of enrolment and held on file.
The Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart Childers in association with the educational vision of the Archdiocese of Brisbane seeks to offer a Catholic education for its children. St Joseph’s school has been established to provide excellence in education that is Catholic in its goal, holistic in its scope and pastoral in its process.

It is necessary for St Joseph’s to collect school fees to cover financial costs in meeting the goals of the school and the parents who choose Catholic education for their children. School fees cover basic tuition, maintenance and development of school buildings. To sustain quality Catholic education at St Joseph’s, it is agreed by parents at enrolment, that school fees and levies are payable when the school accepts the enrolment of their child.

The St Joseph’s Finance Committee and School Board set school fees annually taking into account the Archdiocesan recommended minimum fee and the local circumstances of the community. We recognize that in particular circumstances from time to time parents may need an avenue for discussion and mutual decision with school personnel about the procedure and capacity to pay the given fees. The Parish has placed the role of fee management with the Principal of the school. The Principal will access the advice and consult with other appropriate authorities within the school, the parish and Catholic Education in determining just decisions about the level of school fees in any particular year and in discussion with any particular parent or family in regard to the payments of fees.

See the attached Fee Form for specific fee arrangements for this year.

A Direct Debit facility is available Application forms for these facilities are available from the Office.
COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

This is the most important ingredient in the establishment of the home/school partnership. It is imperative that both school and home inform each other fully of the happenings that affect both elements of the partnership.

Issues Regarding Your Child

Should parents have concerns related to their child’s education, the first step would be to contact the teacher to arrange a suitable time to meet to discuss the issue. If parents feel that it is a broader school-based related issue, then, an appointment should be made to discuss the issue with the Principal in the first instance or alternatively with one of the Assistant Principal.

Absences from School

Should your child be absent from school on any occasion, it is the school’s policy that the parent/guardian phones the school on the morning of the day in question.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures.

If children arrive late for class, the expectation is that the parent and child first report to the school office, and then the child be taken to the classroom by the parent. For early departures parents should report to the school office and notify office staff who will in turn inform the teachers of the child’s class. The child will then meet with the parent at the school office.

School Newsletter

Our main vehicle of communication is via the school’s weekly newsletter, which is distributed on Tuesdays. The newsletter is also available on our school website. Please make sure that you read, understand and attend to relevant articles in this document.

Phone Calls/ Messages

At times parents may wish to speak to the class teacher or want to give a message to their child, you can do this by phoning the school office, and then the message will be passed onto class teacher. Your child’s teacher will reply at an appropriate time if necessary. Students also all have a school diary, where written messages can be passed onto class teachers.
Our Goal for learning at St Joseph’s School is to empower learners of all ages to shape and enrich our changing world by living the Gospel of Jesus. We believe that the person of Jesus gives meaning to life and to learning. Therefore we strive to develop life-long, reflective, self directed learners who are becoming:
- community contributors,
- quality producers,
- active investigators,
- effective communicators,
- designers and creators, and
- leaders and collaborators.

We believe that every learner is in some respect, like all others, like some others, like no other. Every person can achieve success in learning and can contribute positively to their community. (Brisbane Catholic Education Learning Framework)

St Joseph’s School provides a comprehensive Religious Education Program that focuses on the religious and moral development of students within the framework of the Catholic traditions. Our aim is to provide opportunities for each child to develop a close personal relationship with God. We nurture their faith and spiritual development in a Christian environment with its own unique Samaritan spirituality. Special days and significant religious events are celebrated throughout the year within the church community. Parents are encouraged to join with the children in celebrating these special school and class liturgies.

Our overall curriculum program provides opportunities for children to engage in purposeful and real life learning, fostering the capacity within each student for lifelong learning so that they can achieve their potential and play an active role in enriching our world. In addition, in the Early Years, the five contexts for learning: are utilised:

- Play,
- Investigations,
- Real Life Situations,
- Focussed Learning and Teaching,
- Routines and Transitions.

Nine Key Learning Areas form the basis of a holistic curriculum at St Joseph’s with a clear focus on demonstrating learning outcomes that identify what students know and can do. These Key Learning Areas (KLAs) have their foundation in the Early Learning Areas of Prep. The following table shows the links between these areas of the curriculum:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Learning Areas (Prep&amp; Year 1)</th>
<th>Specific focus within the early learning areas</th>
<th>Key Learning Areas (Years 1-7)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Social & Personal Learning        | Social learning  
Personal learning                            | Studies of Society & Environment (SOSE)  
Health & Physical Education (HPE) |
| Health & Physical Learning        | Making healthy choices  
Gross-motor  
Fine-motor                                  | Health & Physical Education (HPE) |
| Language learning & communication | Oral language  
Early literacy                                  | English  
Cultural Literacy & Languages |
| Early Mathematical Understandings  | Early numeracy                                    | Mathematics |
| Active learning Processes         | Thinking  
Investigating  
Imagining & responding                           | Science  
Studies of Society & Environment (SOSE)  
Technology  
The Arts |
| Religious Education               | Connections are made to all the early learning areas | Religious Education |

Students also have the opportunity to engage in specialist programs:

- Information Skills with Teacher Librarian
- Swimming (terms 1 & 4)
- Optional Instrumental Music (Strings/ Woodwind/ Brass/ Percussion)
- Optional Tennis Lessons

A coordinated health and fitness program is in operation throughout the school. The children also experience a wide range of sporting activities suited to their level of development. Visiting sportspeople supplement the school’s sports program. We compete as part of the Isis District Small School association in athletics and swimming. In years 5/6/7 children are given the opportunity to participate in interschool sport every fortnight. We play many different games through the year with the other small schools in the district – Goodwood and Cordalba.

The aim of our program is to develop in the children an enthusiasm for physical activity and a love of sport, which will lead to a healthy and active lifestyle. The **sports uniform** is worn once a week (dependant on class sport lessons) Sports days throughout the year could vary. Parents will be notified through the school newsletter.
Reporting and assessment are vital components of the teaching and learning process at St Joseph’s. Progressive assessment of each child is made as he/she grows and develops in all areas of his/her education. Assessment of students’ achievements occurs for a variety of reasons:

- to provide information on students progress;
- to improve the learning processes by providing feedback;
- to keep parents informed;
- to guide future development.

Open communication concerning your child’s progress is encouraged throughout the school year. Interviews with teachers may be arranged at any time by appointment to discuss your child's work. We believe that true partnership can only be achieved when the communication between home and school is free flowing.

Accordingly we use the following reporting practices:

**Goal Setting Meetings** - held in the first weeks of Term 1 to inform parents of curriculum matters, and class procedures. Parents are encouraged to come and meet individually with your child’s teacher to set goals for your child.

**Beginning Term Letter** - sent home in the first weeks of each term: to inform parents of class curriculum for that term and any special events occurring within the term. It will also provide you with valuable information on how you can support and be involved in the classroom and at home

**Formal Reporting** procedures occur at the end of the following terms:
- Term 2 (Semester 1) - written report with parent and teacher interview
- Term 4 (Semester 2) - written report with parent and teacher interview by arrangement

Reporting in the early years describes students’ learning and development measured against a progressive series of steps. Reporting in Years 2-7 describes individual student progress against levels of the Queensland Syllabuses. In Primary school, four levels provide a progress map of what students typically know and are able to do in each Key Learning area. Reporting against these levels provides parents with an indication of the standard of their child’s achievement and whether it is within the range of what is expected for students in particular year levels.
EXCURSIONS

Teachers are encouraged to take the educative process outside the classroom whenever it is appropriate to the learning needs of the students. A yearly excursion levy caters for any special events such as excursions and guest presenters. This amount is billed at the same time as the monthly school fee account.

Class excursions are undertaken in areas relative to current curricula. As these usually involve an expense to the parents, parents are advised of all the pertinent details and their permission is sought.

Venues for camps for years 5 to 7 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year A</th>
<th>Year B</th>
<th>Year C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bush and Beach</td>
<td>Environmental/industry based</td>
<td>Brisbane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Time of Excursion- Around Week 9 Term 1 - end of Term 1

Other classes partake in excursion type activities as dictated by their curriculum.

HOMEWORK

At St Joseph’s, homework is viewed as an important part of the learning process. Homework, which is relevant to the teaching and learning that is taking place in the school and which is appropriate to the ability of the learner, assists and supports the learning process.

Homework set will vary from class to class depending on the teaching strategies of the class teacher and the maturity and learning needs of the children. It may take the form of weekly sheets focused on the classroom concepts, daily review and completion of class work or individual research and project presentation. Reading is usually an important part of daily homework. Parents can assist their children by taking an active interest in their child’s homework as well as setting a regular work time, providing encouragement and promoting a high standard of work.
MEDICAL/ HEALTH

The safety of the children in our care is our main priority. Our policies and procedures are focussed on providing a safe environment in which the children can learn and develop.

Accidents – Regardless of the policies developed and the quality of supervision provided, accidents do occur in schools. At St Joseph’s, while staff have Senior First Aid certification, no treatment is permitted except for basic First Aid. As such, it is vital that parents provide current telephone numbers and emergency contact details. In the event of an emergency or if parents are unable to be contacted, the injured child will be transported to hospital by ambulance.

Allergies – Some children in our school have life threatening allergies, particularly to dairy products. Please be aware when packing lunches or providing birthday cakes of the need to check with the class teacher about potential problems. If you wish to know more please contact the school office.

Infectious Conditions – For the safety and well-being of all members of our school family we ask that parents contact the school if they are unsure of exclusion periods for children with infectious conditions.

Sickness – Children who are unwell will be sent to the school office by the classroom teacher. Parents will be contacted to collect the child as soon as possible. Any child who is unwell should be allowed to recuperate at home until they are able to fully complete a school day.

Medicine – At times, some children may need to receive medication at school. Parents must complete with the child’s doctor a “Student administration of medication” form for each medicine including those available over-the–counter. (Forms are available from the office or on the website) All medication must be forwarded in the original packaging, dispensed by a chemist, (even over-the-counter medication) with clear instructions for administration, as well as signed off by your family doctor. The school has clear policies in this area and these must be followed to ensure the safety of all.

Head Lice - Head lice are an ongoing problem in all schools. St Joseph’s has established a policy where if head lice are present, even if you have treated your child, could you please let the office know of head lice, so we can alert parents in your child’s class of a head lice problem.
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We encourage parents to be involved in the school life of St Joseph’s. Some of the ways parents can support the education of their children is through:

• Classroom Support in all Key Learning Areas
• School Liturgies & Celebrations
• Sports Carnivals
• Parent Meetings – parent teacher interviews
• Working Bees
• Tuckshop
• Parents & Friends Association

If you would like to help out in your child’s classroom you will need to sign the ‘Volunteers Code of Conduct’. This ensures that all helpers at our school have a good understanding of requirements set by Government Legislation. Please see the school office for more information.

Parents are also encouraged to be involved in the St Joseph’s Parents & Friends Association (P&F). This association works to provide additional funds for the school as well as providing a great opportunity to meet other parents through the organisation of social functions. They meet regularly on the first Tuesday evening of each month during the school term. These meetings are held in the new meeting room near the tuckshop.

TUCKSHOP

At the present time our “healthy choices” tuckshop caters for the children on Wednesdays this includes Morning Tea and Lunch. On Fridays we access Subway for school lunches this is a lunch only is service. The ordering process with St Joseph’s Tuckshop is via a brown paper bag system. This process will be explained to the children in the first week of school.

Parents are encouraged to support the tuckshop whenever possible. Mrs Robyn Rayner, the Convenor, runs a fantastic tuckshop with the help of parent volunteers. We would love to have your support in the tuckshop on a rostered basis during the course of the year also.
PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

In accordance with the Archdiocesan Sacramental Policy the Parish is "responsible for and ultimately involved in the Sacramental preparation and presentation of students". The students are properly instructed for sacramental reception through the use of the Religious Education Guidelines here at school. It is the parents' responsibility to enrol their students in the appropriate Parish Sacramental Program. The Sacred Heart parish sacramental team can be contacted through the Parish or through the APRE Carla Durnan here at school.

Our Religious Education program in the school supports parents in this role and catechises the children in the sacraments from Years 1-7. Children are eligible for First Reconciliation in Year 2 and First Eucharist and Confirmation in Year 3.
St Joseph’s school family takes pride in its school uniform. It is a highly visible symbol of who we are and students are expected to wear the full school uniform neatly and with pride. Parents are asked to ensure their child is wearing the correct school uniform at all times. Substitutes are not acceptable. If there is a genuine reason why a student cannot wear the uniform at any time, it would be appreciated if you would sent a note to the class teacher. Uniform shop opening times are Wednesday mornings, from 8.30am onwards. Uniforms can also be ordered through the office. All money raised from the Uniform shop is to cover uniform costs. There are also second hand uniforms available.

Uniform Requirements:

**GIRLS**

**SUMMER:**

**Day Uniform:**

Blue check dress with badge on left chest or blue check blouse (with badge on left chest, navy buttons) and navy culottes.

**Sports Uniform:**

Red and navy spliced polo shirt with embroidered logo on left chest with either navy pleated netball skirt, navy sport shorts, navy culottes or navy skort

**WINTER:**

Blue check dress (as above) with navy tracksuit top or spray jacket OR check blouse (as above) with spray jacket or navy tracksuit and/or culottes.

**PREP UNIFORM:** Same as Sports Uniform for both boys and girls, everyday.

**All students wear navy socks, black shoes and navy blue hat.**
BOYS

SUMMER:

Day Uniform:
Mid-blue shirt with navy cotton blend shorts

Sports Uniform:
Red and navy spliced polo shirt with embroidered logo on left chest with either navy cotton-blend shorts or #navy sport shorts.

WINTER:
Summer uniform with either spray jacket or navy tracksuit.

PREP UNIFORM: Same as Sports Uniform for both boys and girls, everyday.

**All students wear navy socks, black shoes and navy blue hat.**

St. Joseph’s is a registered Sunsmart School. We follow the rule of ‘No Hat No Play’ Children are required to wear the school hat at all times when outside. If they do not have the school hat then they must sit in the shade.

**HAIR:** Hair must be kept neat and tidy at all times, and it is at the discretion of the Principal to decide on the suitability of any student’s haircut. Long hair must be tied back from the face. Hair ties must be red, white, blue, or black. Headbands are not adequate for tying back long hair.

**JEWELLERY:** Long dangling earrings are dangerous to the wearer during periods of play and are not acceptable at St Joseph’s. Studs are the safest earrings. Sleepers may also be worn. There must be no more than one earring per ear, and not worn in any part of the body. Due to safety reasons the wearing of jewellery other than earrings and wristwatches is not permitted.

**MAKE-UP:** Students must not wear make-up of any description at school, especially nail polish.

**LOST PROPERTY:** Lost property will be retained in the school office. If items are clearly named, they will be returned to the children. Unmarked clothing not collected, will be sent to St Vincent de Paul or sold through the uniform shop.
SCHOOL HOURS

School commences with parade at 8.35 a.m. and the children are dismissed at 2.45 p.m. Early bus children are dismissed when required. No child is allowed to leave the school grounds during school hours, except with parents and authorised persons. Parents/caregiver to contact the school office with arrangements.

Teachers are rostered for before school duty for supervision at 8.20 a.m. Children who arrive before 8.20 a.m. must sit in the assembly area, as it is still unsupervised until that time as staff are planning for the day.

Children who are waiting for their bus, line up in the assembly area and move to the Taylor Street exit under the direction of the teacher on duty.

LUNCH TIMES:

Morning Tea 10.40 – 11.00 a.m.
Lunch 1.00 – 1. p.m.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

St Joseph’s currently has six classrooms in use, with building work commencing in 2009 building 3 more classrooms, refurbishing playground areas, creating more user friendly wheelchair access ramps, and improving the overall facilities of our learning spaces.

All of the classrooms once building work is completed will have interactive whiteboards, and thanks to our P&F; air-conditioning and fridges for student lunches.

All students are encouraged to utilise the well-equipped school library facilities as much as possible also. The main aim of the library is to encourage resource based, research orientated teaching and learning experiences for the students, as well as to encourage a life-long love of literature and its appreciation. The school library is a resource centre for the use of all members of the school community.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones should not be brought to school, however circumstances may arise when parents require their child to have a mobile phone with them before or after school. If this is the case, the school principal must be informed and the phone will be kept in the office during school hours.
HISTORY OF ST JOSEPH’S

In 1926, the Sisters of St Joseph accepted an invitation from the Parish Priest of Childers, and founded St Joseph’s School to cater for the primary and religious education of the children of the Isis District.

The first sisters were Sisters Sylvia, Cassin and Teresa. They were joined in May 1926 by Sister Victor, who also attended the Farewell Mass to the Sisters of St Joseph on December 4, 1988.

The first convent was in Ridgeway Street, to which additions were made for suitable classroom space. During 1944, the Fitzgerald home in Taylor Street became the school and the Sisters moved to the newly acquired convent adjacent to the Church.

In 1948 the present school building was erected in Churchill Street, due largely to the generosity of the late Mr J. J. Butler. In 1956 an additional classroom was added to cater for the increased number of students attending the school.

A new administration block, covered area and tuckshop were added in 1985. During 1994 a new classroom block was constructed, the administration block extended and the original building refurbished. In 2000 a new Resource Centre was opened on the site of the old convent.

Preschool Education was introduced at St. Joseph’s in 2003. A purpose built “Early Education Centre” caters to the needs of our younger students.

The present day facilities are being enjoyed by many of the second and third generation pupils of the Isis District.

HAVE WE COVERED EVERYTHING?

If we have not covered everything in this booklet, there are a lot more policies and information on our Website, listed below are some of those available:

- Grievance Policy (Moving Forward together)
- Volunteer Code of Conduct
- Internet Usage Policy
- Literacy Policy
- Assessment & Reporting
- Current Newsletter
- Sunsmart Policy