St Joseph’s Primary School,
26C Bulahdelah Way, Bulahdelah.
P.O. Box 2, Bulahdelah NSW 2423.
Phone 02 4997 4189 Fax 02 4997 4216
Email: admin@bulahdelah.catholic.edu.au
WELCOME

A very warm welcome to our school.

May you find your association with St Joseph’s both happy and rewarding.

This Parent Handbook for 2015 provides you with all the important information you will need to know about the day to day running of the school.
I encourage you to read through it carefully and if you have any queries to contact us.

With every best wish for the year ahead.

The staff of St Joseph’s.

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome to St Joseph’s Bulahdelah. I hope the time you spend with our school is happy and enriching. Our school community is part of the wider community of the Myall Coast Catholic Parish and as a parish school we aim to educate our pupils within the framework of Christ’s gospels. We strive to create a loving, caring, compassionate, just and forgiving environment where each child feels secure and happy. Within this environment we aim to provide high quality, educational activities that provide all students with the opportunity to achieve their potential. As a Catholic school we aim to build our sense of community through meaningful liturgy, prayer, symbols and rituals.

I hope all families feel welcome and part of our school community as parents are a vital and valued component of the school. We are firmly committed to the ideal of working in partnership with each family. By working together we can help your child develop for a future in this third millennium. You are your child’s first and most important teacher and your attitudes and values will shape those of your child. It is of vital importance to your child’s educational growth that you play an active role in his/her education. The school offers many opportunities for parental involvement: through the P&F, library, canteen and a variety of classroom and school activities.

As well as the Key Learning Areas (English, Mathematics etc) we have choir, debating, public speaking and many sporting activities. Stewardship of our environment is highlighted through our environmental groups and social justice initiatives are part of our ethos. We strive to develop discerning students who are able to use the knowledge gained, not only for themselves, but also for the good of society as a whole. Cultural experiences are also very important, as is developing a love of learning so that all students become life-long learners.

At St Joseph’s we strive to give children a love of learning, a joy in discovering and experimenting. We have a responsibility to challenge children, encourage them to take risks without fear of failure and help them feel secure within themselves, confident to tackle whatever life has to offer.

School is not just about academics: it is also about making new friends, being part of a larger community, having new experiences, being involved and learning about life. Together, as parent and teacher, we will work for the most important person at St Joseph’s: your child.

By acknowledging the dignity and nurturing the potential of each child I am confident as a school community that we can work together to provide your child with the best educational environment that will sustain their growth and talent. As the Principal of St Joseph’s Bulahdelah I feel it is indeed a privilege to educate the children in my care and to live and work in the beautiful caring environment that is St Joseph’s Bulahdelah.

With Every Good Wish,
Joanne Trotter
Principal
SCHOOL DETAILS

Street Address 26C Bulahdelah Way, Bulahdelah
Postal Address PO Box 2 Bulahdelah 2423
Phone 4997 4189
Fax 4997 4216
School Mobile 0407 934 294
Email admin@bulahdelah.catholic.edu.au
Website http://blhsla.mn.catholic.edu.au
Portal http://intra.blhsla.mn.catholic.edu.au

THE COMMUNITY

Parish Priest Fr Kevin Kiem
Associate Pastor Fr Phil Doyle
Pastoral Coordinator Sr Margaret Valentine RSC
Parish Website http://www.bulahdelahcatholicparish.org.au
School Principal Mrs Joanne Trotter
REC Miss Amanda Collins

Teaching Staff
Miss Amanda Collins K/1
Miss Sarah Bragato 2/3/4
Mr Michael Tobin 5/6
Miss Amanda Collins SAP Teacher
Mrs Margrit Everingham Librarian
Miss Brooke Hartup Learning Support Teacher

Clerical Officer Mrs Nickie Dorney
Ancillary Staff Mrs Kerry Yates Library Assistant/Pastoral Care
Mrs Robyn Smith Learning Support Assistant

TERM DATES 2015

Term 1 Tuesday 27 January TEACHERS RETURN
Wednesday 28 January CHILDREN RETURN
Thursday 2nd April TERM ONE FINISHES

Term 2 Monday 20 April BEGIN TERM TWO Friday 26 June END OF TERM TWO

Term 3 Monday 13 July BEGIN TERM THREE Friday 18 September END OF TERM THREE

Term 4 Tuesday 6 October BEGIN TERM FOUR Wednesday 16 December CHILDREN FINISH
Friday 18 December SCHOOL CLOSED 2015

3
A Statement of Vision and Mission
St Joseph's Primary School Bulahdelah
Loving, Learning and Living like Jesus.
We are (and strive to be) a future oriented, caring and child focused community, celebrating and treasuring individual gifts.

SCHOOL PRAYER
Lord may we work together to build a caring school community founded on the courage, strength and faith of the Sisters of St Joseph.
Help us to follow the example of our patron Joseph, by living in loyalty, gentleness and love.
AMEN

St Joseph’s Primary School Bulahdelah was established in 1953 by the Sisters of St Joseph. The school crest signifies our Catholic heritage and makes links to the local area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
We at St Joseph’s Bulahdelah acknowledge and pay respect to the Worimi people as the original and ongoing owners and custodians of this land. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice.
Bulahdelah, named after an Aboriginal word meaning ‘the meeting of the waters’ is set on the banks of the Myall River near its junction with the Crawford River.

THE CATHOLIC DIMENSION OF OUR SCHOOL

Religious Education
We recognise that parents are the first and foremost educators of their children in matters of faith.

It is your witness and commitment that lays the foundation for your child’s Christian formation.

While Religious Education lessons form part of each day, Christianity is a way of living and therefore influences every aspect of our school life. We strive to deepen the child’s understanding and knowledge of the Catholic Faith, as well as creating an environment which will help the children grow in their own relationship with God.

The Religious Education programs taught in our school follow the guidelines of our Diocesan Religion syllabus. If you have any queries concerning an aspect of our Religious Education curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Sacramental And Liturgical Life
Throughout the year the children are given the opportunity to receive both the sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Penance. As children masses and liturgical services form an important part of school life you are invited to join with us for these celebrations.

We look forward to meeting with you on these occasions.

Sacramental preparation within the school is Parish based – family centred. This means that the immediate preparation for the reception of the sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation takes place outside of the regular school day and structure.
SCHOOL PROCEDURES

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL
All absences must be submitted in writing or email.

Partial absences must be recorded in the book kept in the foyer of the school. This will require the parent’s/guardian’s signature, as well as the time and reason. This procedure is required for early departures and late arrivals.

The Education Reform Act, 1990, requires that daily attendances be recorded in the class roll. It is your responsibility to ensure that your child/children attend school on each day that instruction is provided.

Whenever a child is absent you must provide a note stating their name, class, date/s and the reason for the absence. This is to be signed and returned to the class teacher. If the note has not been received within seven days of the absence then the child is deemed absent without sufficient reason. This is recorded in the class roll, which is a legal document.

Excursions and sports carnivals are part of the school’s planned learning activities and are not considered valid reasons for a child’s absence. A doctor’s certificate may be requested after four days or when there are frequent absences. Applications for exemption from school eg overseas trip, elite sporting camp, must be made in writing using the prescribed form prior and cannot be granted retrospectively.

Parents may not sign another student in or out without the written permission of the parent or guardian of that student.

Requests for long periods of leave must be made to the Principal, for a period greater than two weeks (ten school days) you will need to contact the school and apply for an Exemption from Attendance at School form.

ACCIDENTS
From time to time minor accidents may occur. All teachers have first aid and resuscitation qualifications and each teacher on duty carries a first aid kit. If a serious injury occurs, parents are contacted immediately and if necessary, we also contact the ambulance. It is important to have up to date emergency phone numbers on record at all times. Please contact the office if your phone number changes, or that of your emergency contact.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL
All students must attend the appropriate dismissal line under the covered outdoor leaning area. Teachers supervise children from their lines to their respective cars and buses and across Bulahdelah Way with walkers. Parents are requested to come into the grounds to collect their children and the children are asked to let the teachers know when they are leaving the school grounds.

APPOINTMENTS
Principal: if you have any concerns regarding your child’s development, or if you need to discuss any matter with the Principal, please do not hesitate to make an appointment.
Teacher: if at any time you wish to speak to your child’s class teacher, she/he is usually available before/after school, but it is best if you arrange a mutually suitable time by phoning for an appointment.

TEACHERS ARE NOT FREE TO TALK WITH PARENTS DURING CLASS.

BANKING
Banking day for the children is fortnightly on a Thursday. Bankbooks should be handed to the clerical Officer before school.
BIKES
The Department of Motor Transport states that children under the age of nine years do not have the capabilities to ride safely in traffic and should avoid taking a bicycle on the road without direct supervision. The following points should be directed to your children if they will be riding to school:

- ride your bike on the left hand side of the road
- use hand signals
- be alert
- maintain your bike in good condition
- wear an approved safety helmet
- choose the safest route

Children are to walk their bikes while on school grounds and listen to teacher instruction.

BOOK CLUB
The Ashton Scholastic Book Club operates within our school. Order forms are sent home at regular intervals. This service provides an opportunity to buy books, which are reasonably priced and suitable to the age and interest of the children within each grade.

BOOK POLICY
Children are expected to take a pride in their work and to keep all bookwork neat and tidy. The school aims to encourage pride in presentation and your cooperation is asked in ensuring that all books are suitably covered.

BUS TRAVEL
Local buses provide service to children in the region with a private bus provided for children travelling from the Tea Gardens and Hawk’s Nest area. In order for all children to travel safely a code of conduct must be signed by parents and children at the beginning of each school year.

CANTEEN
The school’s canteen operates on Mondays & Fridays. To order lunch, children should clearly write their name, class and lunch order on a lunch bag and place money in this bag. On arrival at school the bag is taken to the canteen. A complete list of canteen items is distributed at the beginning of term and renewed if there are price changes.

Please note the canteen does not sell nut products due to serious allergies. Due to the life threatening nature of these allergies, children are not to bring nut products nor share their food at any time. e.g peanut butter sandwiches.

Parent helpers assist in the canteen and new helpers are extremely welcome. Our canteen is organised and looked after by our Canteen Supervisor.

CHILD PROTECTION
At St Joseph’s Primary we are committed to ensuring we provide a safe environment for students. To assist us with this task we are required to meet the statutory obligations of the legislation relating to child protection and the policies and guidelines set out by the Catholic Schools Office.

This legislation includes:
- The Ombudsman Amendment (Child Protection and Community Services) Act
- The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act
- Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act

Catholic Schools Office documents include:
- Child Protection – Identifying and Notifying Abuse
- Guidelines for the Implementation of the Ombudsman Amendment Act
- Child Protection – Procedures for Schools
The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act and the Catholic Schools Office Policy, Child Protection – Identifying and Notifying Abuse, require all staff employed at St Joseph’s Primary report to the Department of Community Services any child suspected as being a victim of child abuse.

The Ombudsman Amendment (Child Protection and Community Services) Act and the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Ombudsman Act require that any allegation of child abuse made against a member of staff at St Joseph’s Primary must be reported to the Ombudsman’s Office and investigated by the Diocesan Child Protection Unit.

The Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act requires all employers to confirm that all employees, both paid and unpaid, are not prohibited persons. A prohibited person is one who has been convicted of a serious sex offence which would lead to the possibility of 12 months imprisonment if the offence had occurred currently in the state of NSW. A list of such offences would include sexual abuse of a child, assault, carnal knowledge and acts of indecency. Therefore, all volunteers at St Joseph’s Primary must provide the school with a Declaration outlining their status under this legislation before they can commence activity at the school. A ‘100 point’ check must be carried out as part of the process. This requires the Principal to sight forms of identification.

CHOIR
All interested or talented children will be invited to join the school choir.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT
Our clerical assistant Mrs Nicole Dorney works in our school office from Tuesday to Thursday. Office hours are 8.45am – 3.15pm

CLOTHING POOL
The clothing pool has a good supply of pre-loved school items that are free of charge.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET USAGE
Our networked computer laboratory is in the library while all classrooms have access to the Internet. All classrooms have 6-8 laptop computers. All children are taught computer skills from Kindergarten in accordance with Board of Studies syllabuses. All classrooms have a Smartboard (Interactive Whiteboard). There is also one in the Library. Children are requested to sign an appropriate internet usage form.

CONCERNS
If at any time you are concerned about your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Normally the child’s teacher would be consulted first. Concerns will also be referred to the principal. The school has an “open door” policy and we welcome the opportunity to speak with parents. As teachers are on class all day, a telephone call should be made to arrange an appointment at a convenient time: either before or after school. The school has a Complaints, Concerns and Resolution Procedure available from the school office.

DISCIPLINE
The establishment of good discipline and order in the school is essential to:

- provide an effective, safe and enjoyable learning environment
- help pupils develop behaviour which will assist them in becoming independent, responsible, caring members of the school and wider community

All students are expected to behave and obey the school rules. They are to understand that all members of the school community (students, teachers, parents) have rights and with those rights, come responsibilities. Students are encouraged to develop self-discipline and take responsibility
EARLY STARTERS PROGRAMME
In term four of each year St Joseph’s Bulahdelah provide an ‘Early Starters Programme’ for children who are starting school in the following year. This is a free service for the whole community with the children attending school every Thursday for a full term. This gives children who are starting Kindergarten in the following year perfect grounding so that when they start ‘big school’ they are well prepared and well settled into school life.

EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS
Various excursions and incursions are organised during the year to complement class activities and enhance learning. Bearing in mind the cost, major excursions (eg to Sydney) are usually kept to one per year. Classes may go on minor excursions once or twice a term eg to Newcastle foreshore, conservatorium, Blackbutt Reserve. Specific permission to attend organised excursions is required. Children also go on excursions by foot, around the local area eg Post Office.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
These include school band, choir, debating, public speaking, sporting events and a wide variety of competitions (both academic and cultural).

INFECTION DISEASES
No child who is unwell should be sent to school. The following guidelines give the recommended time a child who is suffering from an infectious disease should be excluded from school.

Acute Conjunctivitis: until all discharge has ceased.
Chicken Pox: until fully recovered – at least 7 days after the first spots.
Glandular Fever: until recovered or until a medical certificate is given.
Infectious Hepatitis: until all symptoms have disappeared or until a Doctor issues a certificate of recovery, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice.
Measles: at least 5 days from the appearance of rash.
Mumps: until fully recovered – at least 10 days after the swelling occurs.
Rubella: until fully recovered – at least 5 days after the rash appears.
Whooping Cough: until fully recovered or a medical certificate is given – at least 3 weeks from the onset of the whoop.

Exclusions as a result of contagious conditions.
Impetigo: (Scabby Sores) consult your family doctor – if sores are being treated and are covered properly, children are allowed to attend school.
Pediculosis: (Headlice) until treatment with anti-lice lotion or shampoo has been undertaken – hair should be free of nits.
Ringworm: until treatment has begun.
Scabies: until proper treatment has begun.

Parents are reminded that all children should receive a TRIPLE ANTIGEN BOOSTER BEFORE COMMENCING Kindergarten. An Immunisation Certificate is required for school entry.

LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS
Children are not permitted to leave the playground during school hours unless they have the written permission from their parents and/or the approval of the Principal. If this occurs parents will
be contacted immediately. Violation of this important safety issue may result in contact with relevant authorities.

LIBRARY
Library lessons and borrowing are on Tuesdays. Students can borrow from the Library on a weekly basis. We ask that all students have a library bag, and that they handle books carefully whilst they are on loan. Failure to return books may result in the loss of library privileges, whilst replacement books will be charged to the family.

LOST PROPERTY
Assist your child to identify clothing, drink bottles and lunch boxes by marking them clearly. Any lost property will be placed in the office for collection. Access is available via our school secretary.

MEDICATIONS
The Principal is to be informed in all cases of students who require medication during the school day, including those students who bring medication for self-administration (eg Ventolin puffers). With the exception of asthma puffers, no student is to self-administer.

Short-term medication: Parents are to fill out the consent form available from the school office eg antibiotics, Panadol.

Long-term medication: The administering of medicines long term requires a letter of advice to the school from the child’s doctor eg ADD medication, epipens. Asthmatics: Parents of children who suffer from asthma are requested to fill out an asthma action plan, available from the school office. It is extremely important asthmatics carry their medication with them at all times, especially if the asthma is exercise induced. The school does not administer analgesics, except with the written consent of the parent on the appropriate short-term medication consent form.

Anaphylaxis: Special action plans and epipens are required.

MONEY COLLECTION
All money sent to school should be in a sealed envelope clearly marked …

NAME
CLASS
PURPOSE
AMOUNT

Morning assembly is at 9.05 am each morning. At this assembly after general greetings, we pray the school prayer. Birthdays are celebrated. On alternate Mondays class awards and ‘Gotcha’ awards and principal awards are presented. All children are expected to be on time for morning assembly. Parents are most welcome and encouraged to attend.

NEWSLETTER
The school newsletter is sent home each fortnight – usually on a Thursday.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
Our school functions best with your support.

Throughout the year there will be many ways you could offer your help…

➢ Parents and Friends Association
➢ Class Helpers
➢ Library Helpers
➢ Sports Carnivals
➢ Social Gatherings/Fundraising Activities
➢ Working Bees
Whatever your talent, we welcome your contribution and extend an invitation to you to participate in your child’s education.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
The P & F generally meets on the first Monday of each month at 5.30p.m. It is a very vital and active part of our school community.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION
Communication between class and home may take the form of individual meetings, called by either teacher or parent, or be whole class orientated.
Term 1 Class Meet and Greet.
Term 2 Reports go home, interviews by request.
Term 3 Parent/Teacher Interviews
Term 4 Reports go home, interviews by request.
If you have concerns please feel to make an appointment with your child’s teacher.

PERMISSION NOTES
Should a child be required to be away from school for any activity relating to their education it will be necessary to complete a Permission Note, Medical Note and Risk assessment Form. This is required by the Education authority. This note is to inform Parents/Guardians about the event, and to seek their permission for the child to attend. It is important that these notes are completed and returned to the School by the due date.

SCHOOL CANTEEN
Lunches may be ordered on Mondays and Fridays. A list of foods available will be sent home at the beginning of the year.

SCHOOL FEES
The school tuition fee is set by the Diocesan Board and is your contribution towards the recurrent cost of educating your children in a Catholic School.
Part of the money collected is remitted to the Catholic Schools Office as our contribution towards the recurrent cost of the whole education system. The balance is the major source of income for the operating costs of the school. School Fees for 2014 are:

- 1st Child $1107
- 2nd Child $961.20
- 3rd Child $854.40

Apart from the tuition fee the school sets a Resource Fee of $165.00 per year, per child, which covers:
- exercise books
- text books
- magazines and reading materials
- duplicating costs
- art/craft supplies
- teaching aids
- copyright fees
- Sports levy etc.

The Family School Building Levy is currently $639 per family per annum fee. This levy will be used to fund both the short term and long term planning needs for Catholic school education in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Fees are billed over the first three terms.

Fee statements are sent home in terms 1, 2 and 3 ONLY and remittance is due 4 weeks later. Alternatively, you may make arrangements to have your account direct debited weekly, monthly, by the term or use the B Pay facility. We do not wish fees to become a burden for any family. If you find yourself in difficult circumstances it is essential that you discuss the situation with
Families with a Health Concession Card or a Pension Card will have the School Tuition Fee reduced to 50% of the tuition fee for the first child. An application form and copy of the card needs to be provided each year to receive this reduction.

SCHOOL HOURS
School Commences - 8.55 a.m.
Lunch 1 - 11.20 a.m. – 12.
Lunch 2 - 1.25 p.m. – 2.05 p.m.
School Ends - 3.05 p.m.

Parents are reminded that the playground is unsupervised before 8.30 a.m. and after 3.25pm.
Parents are advised not to leave children at the school prior to 8.15am or after 3.05pm without written request to the principal.

SCHOOL UNIFORM
Our appearance is the outward sign to others of the pride and respect we have for our school. We aim to develop an understanding of this concept and encourage the children to be well groomed and to dress neatly in the correct uniform. Please refer to our Uniform Policy for further details.

If your child is unable to wear the correct uniform please send in a note to explain the reason why.

Girls’ Uniform Summer
- green check dress
- black leather shoes, black joggers
- white socks

Winter
- green, short sleeve shirt
- tartan skirt or tartan slacks
- bottle green sloppy joe/or vest *
- white socks or bottle green stockings
- black leather shoes, black joggers

Sport
- white sports polo shirt with school emblem *
- bottle green wrap around skirt or shorts *
- bottle green tracksuit
- short white socks
- black joggers

Boys’ Uniform Summer
- grey mid-length elastic waist shorts
- green, short sleeve shirt
- grey socks
- black leather shoes, black joggers

Winter
- grey trousers elastic waist
- green, short sleeve shirt
- green sloppy joe/or vest *
- grey socks
- black leather shoes, black joggers

Sport
- white sports polo shirt with school emblem *
- bottle green shorts *
- bottle green tracksuit
- white socks
- black joggers
General
School Hat green, full brim hat must be worn when outdoors. *
Rain Coat preferably safety yellow.
No make-up, nail polish, rings to be worn at school. Jewellery: earrings: studs or sleepers, 1 plain
bangle and wrist watch.

* Items able to be purchased at school. Please phone the Uniform Coordinator. Other items can
be purchased at Lowe’s.

All items of uniform should be clearly marked with the child’s name.

Summer uniform is to be worn in Terms 1 and 4.

Winter uniform is to be worn in Terms 2 and 3.

SMOKE FREE ZONE
Law stipulates that all schools are smoke free zones. Therefore, there is to be no smoking by
anyone at any time.

SPORT/PE
Sports day is Friday. Children wear school sports uniform on this day. All children participate in 15
minutes daily fitness and Sip and Crunch. Students have a fruit break each morning during class
time.

STAFF INSERVICE DAYS
Each year the school has five Inservice days for the professional development of staff (including
the first day of the school year and one of the last two). Parents are given at least two weeks
notice. Such days are PUPIL FREE and the school is closed.

TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT
Children may bring mobile phones, I phones, game boys to school at their own risk.
All IT gear is given to the playground teacher as soon as children arrive at school.
The equipment is then kept in the staff room in a secure area and given to the children at
afternoon assembly.
The children may use their games etc appropriately during their bus travel.

TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL
All Infants children are eligible for free bus travel, while Primary children are eligible only if they
live more than 1.6 km from the school (radial distance) or 2.3 km by the most direct practicable
walking route to the school gate.
To ensure safety school has a code of conduct agreement that must be read and signed and
completed by child and parent.

USE OF I.T AT SCHOOL
Internet access is readily available to all children at St Joseph’s and is an integral and essential
part of their learning experience. In order to use this essential learning tool the children and
parents are asked to read and sign a ‘safe practices’ agreement. This is in keeping with our ‘Anti-
Bullying’ Policy.

FINALLY
On behalf of all the staff at St Joseph’s Bulahdelah I want to thank you for entrusting your child
into our care. I am confident as a school community that we can work together to provide your
child with the best educational environment that will sustain their growth and talent.
We look forward to making this journey with you and your family.