St Joseph’s 1:1 Netbook Program Vision

The future of the world and of the church belongs to the younger generation, to those who, born in this century, will reach maturity in the next, the first century of the new millennium.

Thus, the Catholic school should be able to offer young people the means to acquire the knowledge they need in order to find a place in a society which is strongly characterized by technical and scientific skill. (The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, n8)

St Joseph’s Primary School Kangaroo Point is a school community striving to serve the needs of students in an authentic way. One of the School’s key learning and teaching principles is to utilise innovative pedagogical practices that effectively integrate technology. The 1:1 laptop program gives practical expression to this principle.

The key aim for integration of technology is to ensure that all students have the opportunity to become competent, discriminating and creative users of a range of technologies. St Joseph’s believes that integration of technologies provides students with the opportunity to engage in new learning possibilities and to extend students’ interaction with their local and global communities. The integration of technology also facilitates the relational nature of learning, providing new opportunities for parents to engage with teachers, learning programs and their child’s progress.

St Joseph’s Primary School aims to be a technology rich school integrating technology into all curriculum areas to enhance learning. In Year 5 students will hire a Netbook from the School for their use throughout the year and for their use for the remaining two years of schooling. In 1:1 learning, each student has access to a wireless laptop to use at school and at home, enabling communication and collaboration among peers and teachers and connecting parents to their child’s learning. The 1:1 laptop program is cutting edge and enables students to experience growth in many areas - self confidence, organisation, motivation to learn and learning in a range of modalities.

This program will provide both students and staff with an extended range of tools to engage in creative and critical thinking tasks that extend their knowledge and promote collaborative and empathetic learning. Tasks set for students can be more complex as they have so much access to technology and information. Students are better equipped as global citizens and for the world of the future.

Educational wikis, blogs, podcasts and other Web 2.0 learning tools are becoming more widespread throughout the School. The possibilities are only growing. Never before have teachers had access to free teaching materials of the quality, quantity and variety that they do today.

The school supplies a Dell 2110 notebook computer to each student as part of their enrolment at the school. The notebook is purchased jointly by the school and the family and it is fully maintained by our IT support staff.

St Joseph’s Primary School wants to fully embrace the Digital Education Revolution, not for its own sake but because the benefits that a 1:1 student notebook program brings is the right one. There is a growing body of knowledge now available to us suggesting that we need to continue along this pathway.