



Good Shepherd
Lutheran School | Para Vista

Strategic Plan

2026 - 2030



Our Story

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is an Early Learning – Year 6 school situated in the north eastern suburbs of Adelaide with an enrolment of 520 students.

Our Early Learning Centre and Primary years are organised into five distinct stages of learning, intentionally designed to reflect children’s developmental growth. At Curiosity Early Learning Centre, age-based learning communities provide a strong foundation through play-based, inquiry-led experiences that nurture curiosity, language and social confidence.

As students transition into the Primary years, they move through clearly defined stages that thoughtfully group year levels to support both academic progress and social development. This approach allows teachers to plan collaboratively, align curriculum expectations and build on prior learning with consistency and clarity. Students remain within these smaller learning communities for longer,

strengthening relationships with peers and staff, while structured transition processes between stages provide orientation, shared experiences and intentional preparation for the next phase. At each stage, teaching builds progressively on foundational literacy and numeracy skills while fostering connection with self, others and God, ensuring every child is known, valued and supported throughout their journey at Good Shepherd.

We are dedicated to cultivating transformative leaders grounded in faith and equipped with a holistic education. We believe this is achieved through a comprehensive curriculum that explicitly teaches foundational literacy and numeracy skills as the bedrock for all learning, alongside rigorous academic programs in all key learning areas.

Our pedagogical approach emphasises active, conceptual learning, ensuring students develop strong critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills necessary for global impact, and to become active, informed citizens connecting strongly with communities and practice beyond the classroom. Faith integration, social-emotional learning, and a focus on global understanding are woven throughout daily lessons and co-curricular activities. For our students, this fosters compassion, resilience, and a deep understanding of their place in the world.

The school has a clear focus on proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and providing a quality educational program that seeks to prepare students for life. This is done in the context of a caring community. All students are valued as unique individuals challenged to fulfil their God-given potential.

Specialist areas include Technologies, Visual and Performing Arts, Physical Education and Auslan. A coordinated framework of academic, wellbeing and learning support ensures students are guided at every stage of their development. This includes differentiated classroom practice, targeted intervention programs, wellbeing support structures, and access to specialist staff where required. Our students and staff enjoy the benefits of working in a well-resourced, safe and purposefully designed learning environment.

We operate in partnership with Endeavour College at Mawson Lakes, a Year 7 to 12 Lutheran secondary school to which our graduating students have priority consideration.

Good Shepherd is a member of 'Connected Schools' and works in partnership with Salisbury Lutheran Kindergarten, Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School, St Paul Lutheran School, and Endeavour College. Together we offer a seamless Early Learning – Year 12 education with a vision to be a future-focused, vibrant community of schools, working in partnership to achieve more than we could imagine or achieve individually.

We proudly support every transition our students make - from Early Learning into Primary years, through each stage of learning, and into secondary education. Whether families continue within Lutheran Education or choose a different pathway, we respect freedom of choice and work closely with students and families to ensure each transition is thoughtful, confident and well supported. Our focus is not simply on preparing students for the next school, but on equipping them with the skills, character and self-belief to embrace change and thrive in new environments.

Our Strategic Plan guides this journey, helping us live out our commitment to being...

**Active and
connected,
growing for
LIFE.**

Grounded in the values of Love, Optimism and Creativity, and shaped by our Learning Principles, it ensures that every stage, every milestone and every transition is approached with purpose, care and a clear vision for each child's future.



Vision

Inspiring and empowering students to continuously develop their capabilities in exceptional learning environments while developing empathy, purpose and a commitment to having a meaningful and positive impact in life.

Mission

We are a Christ-centred, student focused community that values student voice, fosters a sense of belonging, and promotes holistic wellbeing and development of students and staff.

We are dedicated to building strong and meaningful connections with students, families, staff, and the wider community.

We are committed to excellence in education through sustainable business practices.

LOVE

We love because God first loved us. We respond by extending respect, compassion and care to each other.

From the Bible...

... let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. 1 John 3:18

And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. Colossians 3:14

OPTIMISM

Optimism cultivates expectation and inspires confident action towards a positive future. It promotes courage, integrity and strength to overcome fear of the future or regret for the past.

From the Bible...

I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. Jeremiah 29:11

... you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious - the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realised. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies. Philippians 4:8-9

LOVE
OPTIMISM
CREATIVITY

CREATIVITY

Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in a different way. Creativity harnesses imagination to inspire innovative solutions. We acknowledge that God's amazing creativity is beyond our comprehension. Good Shepherd Lutheran School is a community which stands in awe and wonder at the mystery of God's creativity. In response we strive to shine in individuality, to love and serve God and people using our gifts and talents.

From the Bible...

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

So, let your light shine to all people. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Active and connected, growing for LIFE.

In him we live and move and are alive. Acts 17:28



Our Culture

Who We Are and Who We Are Becoming

Wellbeing in the Good Shepherd community can be defined as the state of contentment, satisfaction, and fulfillment experienced by the individuals within the community, including students, staff and parents.

It encompasses all aspects of life - psychological, emotional, social, spiritual and physical health.

Therefore, wellbeing in Good Shepherd Lutheran School can be seen as a holistic experience that includes positive emotions, engagement, relationships, meaning, accomplishment, achievement, optimism, resilience, and mindfulness.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is guided by a strong and intentional culture that shapes how we learn, teach and live together as a community. This culture is built through shared values, professional practice and a collective commitment to nurturing the whole person. Educators are supported to embed social and emotional learning within everyday classroom experiences and to draw on evidence-informed, strengths-based approaches that reflect the needs of our learners. Through this, our School promotes care, connection, personal responsibility and growth, ensuring that wellbeing is not a separate focus, but an integral part of daily life at Good Shepherd.



“ How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. ”
- Anne Frank

We recognise that the strength of our community begins with our people. Teaching is both a profession and a vocation, and we intentionally foster an environment where staff are supported, respected and valued. Our commitment extends beyond compliance, reflecting a genuine investment in professional growth, balanced workloads and sustainable practice.

We understand that wellbeing involves both heart and mind. Through a culture grounded in care, compassion and mutual respect, our staff are encouraged to flourish personally and professionally, knowing they are appreciated as individuals and as integral members of the Good Shepherd community.

Good Shepherd is ideally positioned to partner with students, parents and carers, and the wider community, to ensure that all students feel connected at school, and in their life more generally. Armed with a sense of self-worth, self-awareness and personal identity, learners will be better equipped to manage their emotional, mental, cultural, spiritual and physical wellbeing.

Strategic Intentions

Education

Equipping for the future, meeting needs now

Our Team

Growing in knowledge and skill, grounded in Christ

Our Community

A place to belong, serve and learn

Growth

Looking forward and investing now

Stewardship

Preparing for the future through responsible Stewardship and sustainable practices





Education

Equipping for the future, meeting needs now

- A dynamic and coherent curriculum that meets the needs of students and helps them continuously develop their capabilities.
- A variety of pathways for children and students to explore and express their individual interests and needs.
- Strong transitions within the schools that celebrates milestones and empowers students to embrace change with confidence, equipping them with essential skills to navigate new environments and challenges.
- Community connections that we can leverage to support families and contribute to our curriculum and enhance learning outcomes.
- Families who actively engage as essential partners in their children's learning.



Our Team

Growing in knowledge and skill, grounded in Christ

- A Leadership team that leads the strategic direction, fosters a culture of high performance, and ensures the continuous improvement of education outcomes.
- A collaborative and inclusive culture with systems in place to support staff.
- A positive and supportive environment where staff feel valued and their wellbeing is prioritised, helping to attract and retain a strong, engaged workforce.
- Professional development to ensure staff are well-equipped to navigate the complexities of modern education.
- Strengthen our team understanding and appreciation of the Schools Lutheran identity.



Our Community

A place to belong, serve and learn

- A community in which people belong and feel valued.
- Increase our impact within our local community.
- Meaningful partnerships with stakeholders that enrich student learning and contribute to the overall success of the school.
- Active connections to Good Shepherd Congregation and the Lutheran community to expand the Church Mission and Ministry.
- A system and structure to support the facilitation of events for and with our parent community.



Growth

Looking forward and investing now

- Develop a long-term Growth Strategy incorporating financial viability analysis, infrastructure capacity and projected needs.
- Extend our Education and Care Services and provide wrap around support (Allied Health) for children and families.
- Building and Infrastructure (Master Plan) to develop high quality learning environments and determine long term growth opportunities.
- A school brand that reflects our values and represents our community.



Stewardship

Preparing for the future through responsible
Stewardship and sustainable practices

- A high functioning Board for strategic leadership, accountability, and financial stewardship.
- Sound responsible management of the schools financial and business dealings.
- All resources are strategically, sustainably, and efficiently managed to achieve our goals and ensure long-term sustainability.
- Open to opportunities to diversify business holdings.



LOVE
OPTIMISM
CREATIVITY

Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030

LOVE OPTIMISM CREATIVITY

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Good Shepherd

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Connected
SCHOOLS

A Christ-Centred Community of K-12 Lutheran Schools