

LOVE
OPTIMISM
CREATIVITY



Good Shepherd
Lutheran School | Para Vista







Active and connected,
growing for LIFE.

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Welcome...

Good Shepherd has a clear focus on proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and providing the highest quality educational programs, that serve to prepare students for life.

All students are valued as unique individuals, who we challenge to fulfil their God given potential in life.

Our school values of Love, Optimism and Creativity are at the heart of what we do and who we are. They inform our relationships, unlock potential in opportunities, and provide a vision for the future. This is all carried out in the context of a caring community, where positive partnerships between school and home are intentionally grown.

Supported by modern and versatile facilities, our curriculum focuses strongly on Literacy and Numeracy, while also providing rich experiences through conceptual and project-based learning. This approach gives voice and choice to students and encourages collaboration and critical thinking for all learners.

As you engage in the exciting and important task of deciding on a school for your child, your questions and queries are welcomed. We invite you to join us for one of our regularly scheduled Principal's Tours. You will hear about our vision for learners and witness for yourself the students' engagement in rich learning experiences within our vibrant and inclusive environment.

Co-Principals
Brett Humphrys and Evie Stevens





Future thinking

Imagination...

Creativity...

Innovation...

Have you taken a moment to consider what it is your child will need from education in the future to equip them with the skills and attributes necessary for success in careers that don't yet exist? The world is a rapidly changing place, and we take seriously our responsibility to monitor, predict and respond appropriately.

The only thing constant in life is change...

At Good Shepherd, we are passionate about the provision of a dynamic, engaging, and flexible learning environment.

We recognise that our students need much more from school than a rigorous academic program of learning. Our teachers strive to create environments in which students are encouraged to explore, imagine, think, collaborate, and communicate to creatively find and solve problems. In this environment, children develop personal attributes and dispositions for lifelong success and a rewarding contribution to the world in which they live.



A snapshot

Our context in brief

Good Shepherd Lutheran School Para Vista is an Early Learning to Year Six school of the Lutheran Church of Australia. We work in partnership with Endeavour College, Mawson Lakes, to provide the highest quality Early Learning to Year 12 experiences for our students.

Good Shepherd is one of over 80 Lutheran schools educating more than 40,000 students in Australia.

The school first opened with 94 students in 1981 and has grown to its current managed enrolment of approximately 500 plus students.

Curiosity Early Learning Centre supports the learning journey for children aged 3 and 4. Integrated into the school program and environment, Curiosity students benefit from a seamless pathway and transition into school. The primary years are organised into four distinct stages of learning. All students are valued as individuals and in each learning journey, application and effort are celebrated as students are challenged to fulfill their potential.

Our curriculum focuses strongly on literacy and numeracy while also providing rich and deep, integrated learning experiences across all other curriculum areas. Specialist areas include Visual and Performing Arts, a second language (Auslan), Health and Physical Education.

As an inclusive school, we also provide substantial support for students identified with learning needs, both gifted and those challenged by learning difficulties.

Our students and staff enjoy the benefits of working in a well-resourced, engaging, and safe environment.

We acknowledge the awesome responsibility God has given parents to raise healthy, well-adjusted, young people, fit to make a valuable contribution to society. We take seriously our role in supporting parents along the journey and we enjoy strong partnerships with them.





Why we exist

Vision statement

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

LOVE

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

From scripture...

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

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

Wise words...

"A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you." Elbert Hubbard

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage." Lao Tzu

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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 scripture...

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 (MSG)

... 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

Wise words...

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

CREATIVITY

Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in different ways. 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 scripture...

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 (NIV)

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 (WE)

Wise words...

"Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions." Albert Einstein







Wellbeing

Positive education

As a positive education school, Good Shepherd focuses on the whole child. We believe that developing character is as important as nurturing academic ability. Positive education brings together excellent teaching practise and the science of positive psychology.

We understand wellbeing to be built upon several different pillars. The world class South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) Wellbeing and Resilience Centre acknowledges Dr Martin Seligman's work and his identification of building blocks for wellbeing known as PERMA (Positive Emotion, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning and Accomplishment). SAHMRI's perma+ adds physical activity, nutrition, sleep and optimism, as critical factors in supporting positive mental health.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is using this research within a Christian environment to shape wellbeing and support children, families, and the community.

Play

Outdoor play is an extension and continuation of classroom learning and supports the development of the whole child. We believe creative play enriches the opportunities students have to experiment, risk take and grow.

Children are happy and feel nurtured when they are engaged in stimulating activities. Through creative play:

- children are able to identify, express and regulate their feelings;
- children can relieve stress and pressure;
- imagination is valued;
- choice and decision-making skills are developed;
- perspective is developed;
- a sense of inclusion, respect and acceptance is developed; and
- children are given opportunities to make sense of their world.

Outdoor spaces are age appropriate, built for students and support a wide array of imaginative and creative adventures during break times.

The early learning to Year 12 pathway

A medium sized school by choice

At a time when the trend in education is towards larger Foundation to Year 12 campuses, often referred to as 'super-schools', Good Shepherd Lutheran School deliberately and purposefully remains a medium sized pre and primary school.

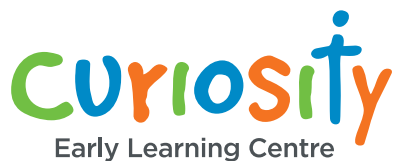
We strongly believe that this structure ensures:

- all students develop and maintain an identity;
- high standards of behaviour and consistent, effective behavioural support is offered;
- staff and the wider community can maximise individual attention, focus on care and take a personal interest in each child's journey; and
- application and effort are celebrated as individual potential is maximised.

Early learning to Year 12 journey in partnership with Endeavour College

Whilst we acknowledge the enormous benefits of medium sized schools, we passionately strive for the provision of a seamless early learning – Year 12 educational pathway where consistent values and expectations are promoted across the primary and secondary years. Good Shepherd Lutheran School, in cooperation with Endeavour College, Mawson Lakes, provides this pathway. School leaders, staff, and students, mix across the campuses, planning, interacting and delivering engaging student experiences and opportunities.

Our graduating students have priority entry to Endeavour College.



Early learning at Curiosity

The Early Learning Centre environment and experiences at Good Shepherd are designed to promote each child's curiosities and wonders in an inclusive space where they are supported to become confident, independent, and active problem solvers with the understanding that they are valued contributors to society.

Curiosity is a Reggio Emilia inspired early learning environment built on the premise that:

- children are capable to construct their own learning;
- children are collaborators and learn through interaction within their communities;
- children are natural communicators and should be encouraged to express themselves however they feel they can;
- the learning environment acts as the third teacher;

- educators are partners, nurturers, and guides, who help facilitate the exploration of children's interests; and
- parents are partners in education.

Curiosity exists to provide and support an excellent transition pathway for our students to move into the primary years.



Out of school hours care at Imagination

Imagination (OSHC) is also a vital part of our school. It is school-run, with a director on site leading before and after school care during the term and a holiday program throughout the term breaks.

Connected Schools

Good Shepherd Lutheran School forms a part of the *Connected Schools* network. *Connected Schools* is a Christ-centred community of early years — Year 12 Lutheran schools. Our commitment to partner, dream and passionately engage across five sites of learning in support of students and families, is based on evidence that schools are capable of much more working in partnership.

Connected schools are:

Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Para Vista, Golden Grove Lutheran School, Wynn Vale, St Paul Lutheran School, Blair Athol, Salisbury Lutheran Kindergarten and Endeavour College, Mawson Lakes.



A Christ-Centred Community of K-12 Lutheran Schools





Student learning and success

The learning environment is a safe and supportive place to build self, social, emotional and spiritual capacity.

All efforts to promote positive attitudes, achievements and behaviour have as their prime goal, the Christian growth and development of students as individuals, and as members of a community. This practice is based on the Christian principle of caring for each other, rather than maintaining order through a purely punitive system. We strive to maintain a school environment where children can experience success while feeling safe, happy and secure.

We encourage commitment to a restorative approach when relational challenges arise. A restorative approach provides opportunity for those who have been affected by conflict to be part of the healing process. When students play a part in the repairing and rebuilding of relationships and have a clear understanding of behavioural expectations, the minimisation of ongoing conflict results.

We nurture and develop in our students and families, a 'growth mindset' — a way of viewing challenges and setbacks with a belief that

abilities aren't fixed, but can improve over time. As students improve their thinking skills, they are more likely to embrace a growth mindset and learn through their mistakes.

Learning is attuned to be engaging, developmental, personalised and differentiated to meet individual need.

Differentiated learning at Good Shepherd involves providing students with different pathways to achieve success. Students engage and focus on a task when they are at the centre of their own learning experience. Personalised learning leads to deeper understanding and application for students.

Learning is constantly reviewed and challenged as we design curriculum for the future that is also relevant to our setting and context. We promote flexible learning arrangements focused on growing each child.

Learners are enabled to use initiative, be resourceful, innovative and persistent.

Looking to the future, we recognise our students will be required to be strong problem solvers. In a dynamic world where technology and automation is changing the workplace

at rapid rates, children must be ready to face the challenges, ask questions and think for themselves. Well developed, these skills will positively impact all facets of their lives.

Learners are active and informed citizens, connecting strongly with communities beyond the classroom.

At Good Shepherd we are a local, national and globally connected school. Being connected through technology in all areas of learning provides students with excellent opportunities to be innovative.

Our Christian Studies curriculum gives children a spiritual perspective that generates clarity and hope as they attempt to understand the world and their place in it.

Learning capacity to think deeply, critically, and creatively is enhanced through active and purposeful inquiry, question posing and problem solving.

Learning at Good Shepherd is shaped by the Australian Curriculum, with innovative connections made through an integrated delivery across all subjects. We offer an array of original, creative and engaging units of

inquiry. Our core values of Love, Optimism and Creativity underpin all learning and teaching at Good Shepherd and support development of the 'whole child'.

Our students will inhabit a world of constant shift and change. At Good Shepherd it is our privilege to help our students navigate this maze. Through a bespoke learning framework, built on essential skills in literacy, numeracy and Information Communication Technologies, together with a strong focus on capabilities such as critical and creative thinking, collaboration, communication, empathy, entrepreneurship and compassion, our learners grow and flourish as they develop skills to enable the capacity to deal with change.

Our current students will be the ones who create jobs that don't yet exist. They will need to be self-starters and self-managers. They will be question askers, problem solvers and solution focused.

If we want students to grow into problem solvers and critical thinkers, we need to help them develop metacognition (the skill of thinking about one's thinking). A culture of thinking exists at Good Shepherd where

students and staff reflect on thinking. Thinking is made visible and the language of learning is highly valued. Students are guided to regularly reflect on the question 'Who am I as a learner?'

Learners master the essential skills in literacy and numeracy and are creative and productive users of Information Communication Technologies.

Enabling technology provides students with power and opportunity to gain real knowledge and experience beyond the classroom. While a focus on learning continues to drive and stimulate the curriculum at Good Shepherd, technology enhances and amplifies the learning and gives every student opportunity to succeed.

Learners reflect and receive regular, timely and targeted feedback to understand, monitor and adjust learning goals for rigorous learning and to meet high standards.

Teachers with varying gifts and talents work collaboratively to ensure curriculum is relevant, vibrant and engaging. A focus on individual learning styles, brain based learning and an ever increasing knowledge of how students learn, combine to create a rigorous learning environment.

Quality assessment practices are an integral part of teaching and learning.

We believe children grow through all areas of their learning. No matter what their ability, with a mindset for growth, all students can accomplish improvement. Developing ongoing assessment throughout learning units, giving purposeful feedback, actively engaging students in setting learning goals and reflecting on themselves as learners, creates an atmosphere where student growth is illuminated.







The learning environment

The multi-age classroom

Good Shepherd Lutheran School adopts both single and multi-age classes. Our classroom structures support our understanding of how and where students learn best.

- Teachers concentrate and celebrate what children can do, rather than what they can't do. This reduces fear of failure and builds confidence.
- Competition is minimised within the classroom. Acknowledging difference reduces the desire to make comparisons with other children and as a result, children are always ready to 'have a go'.
- Children are allowed to make choices and express themselves in many ways; creative activities are common.
- Children's ideas are welcomed and can be tried out, building self-esteem and promoting learning.
- Freedom of choice and exploration of many ideas makes learning an exciting and real part of children's lives.
- From Year 1, children enter a class where there are older children, so settling in is much easier: older children are often delighted to help younger ones, and this helps them to feel valued and important.
- Children mix freely and are encouraged to work and play together: they learn the joys of cooperation, which leads to good citizenship.
- There is a focus on student growth rather than performance, minimizing unnecessary comparison and freeing children to be their best.
- Play allows children to show their remarkable ability for exploration, imagination and decision making.
- A skilled learning support team are present in classrooms, supporting learners and equipping educators.

Modern design has created agile learning spaces that promote creativity, collaboration, and choice.

“ Imagination is everything.
It is the preview of life’s
coming attractions”.

Albert Einstein



Community

A sense of community and belonging

Our desire is that all members of our community would share the love and warmth that comes from our 'family', a family that celebrates identity in Christ, and has a strong sense of community and belonging.

As we go about providing opportunities for students and families, we also acknowledge that the stakeholders in a child's education are many. Subsequently, 'people places' like schools will experience and evoke a range of opinions and views. Acknowledging God's love for us means we can always move forward: In confidence and with freedom, we can mend broken relationships and grow our community, celebrating difference and diversity.

'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.' Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing About Grace*

Good Shepherd Lutheran School benefits greatly from an enthusiastic community of parents, grandparents, and friends. Whether it is serving on a Board, assisting classroom teachers, or supporting an event or project, the work of volunteers in our school is valued enormously. There is no more powerful message a child can receive from a parent about the importance of education, than that of a parent voluntarily giving their time to their school. When a child observes a parent or friend actively involved in an aspect of Good Shepherd Lutheran School, they know that education is valued and further, know they too are valued.

Care for our community

The leadership team

We acknowledge it is school leaders who first and foremost influence and shape the tone and culture of the school environment. We are committed to the development of strong and positive relationships with staff, students, and parents.

'As a leadership team we aspire to authentically serve and unify our community, equip and empower those around us, and commit to one another in grace and forgiveness.'

Leadership Team Mission Statement

Specialist care staff

Good Shepherd Lutheran School supports its community with specialist care staff, qualified and trained to support and counsel families in need and to provide social and emotional support for individual students.

A listening ear

A listening ear is available for students, parents and caregivers for issues directly or indirectly related to the school. A conversation may assist the student or parent to get clearer direction in deciding or resolving a problem.

Advice or referral to appropriate professional assistance can also be offered.

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Parenting resources

Good Shepherd Lutheran School has an extensive parenting library available for parents and caregivers to freely borrow from.

Our congregation

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is a vibrant and family friendly environment.

Worship, playgroup, youth, and interest groups are available.

Numerous school families have made the Good Shepherd congregation their weekend worship home. Dedicated staff nurture the ministries that extend across our connected congregation and school community.

Support agencies

Good Shepherd Lutheran School maintains strong links into the community and shares productive relationships with a multitude of support agencies, and Allied Health professionals.

Imagination OSHC

An experienced and passionate team lead an engaging and welcoming OSHC (Outside of School Hours Care) program and holiday program, available exclusively to students at Good Shepherd Lutheran School.

The program exceeds national standards by building on classroom learning experiences, and promoting activity, rest, and nutrition in a safe and supportive environment.

The service is run on school premises in purpose built modern facilities located within the main school building.

Facilities

Great teaching is supported by great facilities

We acknowledge that the most significant factor supporting student growth and learning in schools is quality teaching. Quality facilities complement learning opportunities for children. Good Shepherd facilities are purpose built to support teaching methodologies and develop collaborative skills and qualities.

Curiosity Early Learning Centre is located on the corner of Dwight Street and Montague Road. With a conviction that the environment plays a significant role in determining a child's engagement within the learning community, the indoor and outdoor spaces complement each other, allowing access and flow throughout a child's day. The learning environments have been created through the lens of natural beauty and are sustainably resourced, giving connection to the real-life experiences of children.

On the primary school site, classrooms are under the one roof, fostering a sense of community and connection. The Resource Centre is centrally located and is an integral part of the learning environment.

Junior Primary classrooms are purpose built for early childhood learning. These classrooms are located adjacent to the junior primary playground and have their own modern amenities. This creates an intimate environment for children transitioning from pre-school to primary school and greatly enhances their feeling of security and safety.

Classrooms contain powerful technology with touch screen smart displays, computers, and iPads. Students connect wirelessly to the school's network giving access to technology where and when it is needed. Robotics equipment and collaborative spaces all utilise technology to promote connectivity, communication, collaboration and creativity.

Our 'one7five', a state-of-the-art learning hub features flexible use classrooms, a theatre, and collaborative spaces. Its name 'one7five' acknowledges 2014 as the 175th anniversary of Lutheran education in Australia.

A Specialist Visual Arts and Performing Arts spaces acknowledge the value we place on creativity and innovation. A well-equipped Gymnasium completes our specialist facilities.

Our future focused learning environment was completed in 2019 with the significant refurbishment of all learning spaces and the opening of the Ark — South Australia’s first independent school Centre for Innovation and Technology.

‘Imagination’ Out of School Hours Care program has its own multipurpose area and kitchen. It is in the heart of the school and close to the outdoor play spaces.

Play spaces are age appropriately built for students and support creative play during break times. Children engage in an enormous array of imaginative and creative adventures at Good Shepherd. A grassed oval is used daily and for seasonal sports and weekend sport competitions. Good Shepherd also utilizes ‘Deborah Grove’, an adjacent local council reserve, which provides a natural and rustic space for nature play and adventure.

We are blessed to share a close connection with the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church community, and as a result, appreciate access to the Church as our central theatre and place of worship.





Staff

Our team

National changes to curriculum have informed our 'staged' school structure. This structure has brought together passionate teams of teaching and non-teaching staff who collaboratively plan, program and problem solve. Individual student needs are identified, and strategies implemented.

Our shared commitment to the development and general wellbeing of students through early identification, support programs and a focus on building and restoring relationships, brings fulfilment and satisfaction.

We are blessed with a staff team that captures a rich set of experiences and gifts, and a professional diversity of educational views and opinions. Ongoing staff development is a priority. Collegial support, an ability to laugh and a desire to grow spiritually are measures of a healthy team.

'The world has changed. Knowledge is everywhere. Teachers must become master learners instead of master knowers.'

Will Richardson





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A Christ-Centred Community of K-12 Lutheran Schools

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