

# *Good Shepherd Catholic School*



## **EVANGELISATION PLAN**

2014 - 2017



## Vision Statement

Good Shepherd Catholic School is an inclusive community growing together in faith guided by the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ. Our school is dedicated to fostering life-long learning.

## Mission Statement

By living our Catholic values and beliefs in partnership with parents, caregivers, parish and wider community we strive for educational excellence encapsulating the spiritual, cognitive, emotional, social and physical development of the child.

**“Many Gifts, One Spirit”**

## Introduction:

The Church’s mission, received from Jesus Christ through the apostles, is to proclaim the Good News of Salvation to every human being.

*‘Jesus Christ instituted his Church as the community of his followers, his Body in the world. He would be its Head, and all who believed and accepted Baptism would be his members. He gave his Church the mission of proclaiming his Gospel to every human person, and to baptise all who believed’*

*[Bishops Mandate para. 2]*

Catholic schools have a vital part to play in the Church’s mission to the world today.

*‘Evangelisation is the mission of the Church... she must proclaim the Good News of salvation to all. To carry out her saving mission, the Church uses, above all, all the means Christ has given her... She establishes her own schools because she considers them as privileged means of promoting the formation of the whole person...’*

*[The Catholic School 7, 8]*

# Mandate Letter to the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (2009-2015)

For a school to be Catholic, it must first be a good school. Otherwise it will be unable to fulfil its mission. With many other education traditions, the Catholic school's concept of education will be.

*'the development of (students) from within, freeing them from that conditioning which would prevent them from becoming fully integrated human beings. The school must begin from the principle that its educational program is intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person.'*

*[Congregation for Catholic Education, 1977]*

The Catholic school, however, differs in a fundamental way from those of other education traditions. What makes it distinctive is its vision of the 'fully integrated' human being.

*The Catholic school differs from all others which limit themselves to forming men and women. Its task is to form Christian men and women, and, by its witness and teaching, to show non-Christians something of the mystery of Christ, who surpasses all understanding.*

*[Congregation for Catholic Education, 1977]*

## What is Evangelisation?

Evangelisation is everything we do that introduces, promotes, develops and gives witness to faith. It means bringing into fuller consciousness and into the practical life of the school what we are really on about. To evangelise is to be willing to share the good news about God with others. Evangelisation is about taking the risk to care for all people, inviting them to share in a Christian community in which they come to know God more fully, and in which they form a deeper relationship with God so God becomes central in their lives.

Evangelisation is an activity of faith, built upon the power of the message. It achieves its purpose gradually, for people need to accept the message for it to have its full effect. Evangelisation is any deliberate activity or action by which we cooperate with the self-revealing God. It involves sharing, risking and achieving.

Evangelisation:

*'cannot attain its full meaning and vitality unless it issues in witness, stirs wonder and leads to conversion. Modern people listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses'*

*[15, 21, 41, Evangelii Nuntiandi, 1975]*

Evangelisation is inclusive of Primary Proclamation (the process to assist others to arrive at an initial belief in Jesus and develop an initial interest in following Him) and Catechesis (processes for sharing the Christian experiences of God and integrating these into the person's life experiences). Evangelisation is primarily about Christian Witness.

As educators and as a Church we need to acknowledge the, 'joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties' (Gaudium Et Spes, 1) of the people we minister to. We need to acknowledge the current context or environment in which we live. These are the 'signs of the times,' and are needed to be continually worked with so that the Church and School Community embody the integration of faith, life and culture.

# Philosophy of Good Shepherd Catholic School

Good Shepherd Catholic School was established as the teaching arm of the Catholic Church in the Lockridge Parish. The school's philosophy of education has an explicit and all-pervasive religious dimension. At the heart of this religious dimension is the task of the transmission of truths, values, beliefs and attitudes of the catholic Faith.

Good Shepherd Catholic School was established in 1983 and the Sisters of the Infant Jesus lived and worked in the Parish and the school until 1989. The Presentation Sisters moved to the Parish in 1990 and continue to work in the Parish today. The school is a co-educational institution providing primary education to approximately 470 children from Kindergarten to Year 6. The school is an integral part of the Good Shepherd Parish and there is a very close relationship between the parish and the school.

The school's motto: *Many Gifts, One Spirit* is lived out in our vision of 'an inclusive community, growing together in faith by living our Catholic values and beliefs.' Through such a vision the school is able to foster a Christian mentality in our society, and to encourage young people to contribute more broadly to the development of the kind of world envisaged by Christ.

## Aims of Good Shepherd Catholic School

Good Shepherd Catholic School aims to foster the total development of each child within a caring and safe community that is totally committed to supporting the Catholic principles and ideals.

We strive to:

- foster children's faith in Christ so that they are able to become more like God;
- provide a total caring environment in which each child's dignity as God's creation is respected and developed;
- affirm, respect and develop the individuality and God-given gifts of each child, staff member and school community member;
- respect and develop in each person the God-given gift of free will;
- develop the parent's role in their children's education;
- provide enriched opportunities for each child to develop to their full potential - spiritually, academically, physically, socially and emotionally;
- provide opportunities for all children to develop culturally within their own environment and to understand, respect and embrace the cultures of others in our multicultural school;
- develop a staff community in which each person is encouraged to grow and develop in Faith for the benefit of themselves, the staff, the children and the wider school community;
- endeavour to work as a total school community in meeting the needs of each member.

# **CATECHESIS**

*Deepening of faith by sharing Christian understandings of God and integrating these into a person's human experience.*

*Catechesis is based on the teachings of Jesus and are found in:*

- **The Creed**
- **Life in Christ (following the example of Jesus)**
- **Sacraments**
- **Prayer**

**Mandate Para. 52-56**

## **ONGOING FORMATION**

<b>STAFF</b>	<b>STUDENTS</b>	<b>WIDER COMMUNITY</b>
Involvement in own Parishes through Children's Liturgy, Music Ministry, Reading or Special ministers of Holy Communion	Daily class prayer	Encouraging parents to attend sacramental celebrations by publishing in school newsletter
Involvement of staff in school Masses through Reading and being Special Ministers of Holy Communion	The preparation of the students for the reception of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation	Scriptural verses are put in the school newsletter for parental reflection
Regular weekly staff prayer and all staff are rostered on to lead the prayer	Explicit teaching of the parts of the Mass and responses	Inviting parents to be a part of Parish Family Masses and School Masses
Involvement in Religious Education studies at CEO and tertiary level	Explicit teaching about the symbols of the Church and particular signs of reverence eg. Genuflection	Participation of parents in Sacramental workshops
Participation in Holy Week celebrations	Participation in Holy Week and Easter celebrations	Inviting the community to participate in Holy Week celebrations
All staff support the Sacramental Program by attending one of the Parish Masses for each Sacrament	Participation in regular Liturgical singing	Inviting parents to attend assemblies and praying at the beginning of assembly
Staff receive the daily bulletin with the days' Gospel	Participation in whole school Mass and encouraged to attend Parish Masses on the weekend	Prayer and reflection at the Annual Community Meetings of the Parents and Friends and School Board
Staff receive the daily CathNews Perspectives with up to date news on Catholic topics and events	Whole school acknowledgement of students involved in sacramental programs	Parent reflection as part of the Parent Information Nights

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## **FUTURE FOCUS**

**2014 - 2017**

<b>STAFF</b>	<b>STUDENTS</b>	<b>WIDER COMMUNITY</b>
Staff receive the daily bulletin with gospel of the day	School prayer (book mark)	Using the assemblies and other means (diaries etc) of encouraging parents to attend sacramental mass / fortnightly masses
Weekly focus all staff invited to lead prayer	Knowledge on the story of the Good Shepherd	Educating community about the change in the sacrament celebrations
Supporting families and the Parish as they begin to take on the role of celebrating the Sacraments	Have students assigned to prayer table responsibilities (prayer leaders)	Inviting parents to read at whole school masses. Have a mass lead by parents.
Staff role model living a life like Christ, treating others the way we want to be treated, by their on-going relationship with their children	Explicit teaching about symbols of church / reverence	Sending home the letter before every Religion unit to help parent understand what the children will be learning to reinforce these teachings at home
Promote and teach the Apostles Creed to the children	Saying prayer morning, recess, lunch and end of each day	Parents are encouraged to pray at home with their children
The Pillars of Faith; The Creed, Sacraments, Life in Christ and Lord's Prayer	Hymn singing encouraging children to participate in whole school hymn singing as another way of praying	Parents to model Christ like behaviour to their children in their homes and daily lives
	Teaching the Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed to ensure the children have an understanding of it and its importance	Encourage our families to take part in the Parish life eg attend weekend mass regularly
	Student continue to grow ad develop their understanding of how to behave in life like Jesus	

# PRIMARY PROCLAMATION

*Raising religious awareness amongst community members through helping someone to arrive at an initial belief in Jesus, developing this interest and helping them to learn more about what Jesus taught through the Gospel.*

*Mandate Para. 44-45*

## ONGOING FORMATION

STAFF	STUDENTS	WIDER COMMUNITY
Shared prayer at the beginning of staff meetings	Daily Religious Education lessons	Reflection/Prayer in the school newsletter
Participation in weekly school prayer	The teaching of and participation in the Sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation	Religious News in the school newsletter
Participation in the Sacraments – expectation that all staff will attend one of the Parish Masses for each Sacrament	Regular involvement in Whole School Masses - Each class from PP-6 is responsible for organising one Mass per year	Participation of parents in Sacramental information nights and workshops
Encouraging, assisting and supporting staff in preparation of Masses	Publish school and parish events in both parish and school newsletters	Invite parents and family members to attendance and be involved in school Masses / reconciliation
Religious Education (RE) Professional Development at school and promotion of RE PD offered by CEO	Participation in daily class prayer	Involve community in Easter and Christmas celebrations
Weekly Whole School Hymn Singing	Retreat days for all those who are involved in the participation of the Sacraments	Commissioning Mass for School Board and P&F
Assist and support Sacramental celebrations	The teaching of and participation in the Sacraments	Prayer at weekly assemblies
Encouraging and assisting staff in completion of Accreditation and renewal	Celebrate Good Shepherd Day	School and Parish work together in partnership with the Sacramental Programs
Several Liturgical focusses around the school eg admin area, hall, library etc	A liturgical focus in each room and several areas of the school to bring to student's attention the current Liturgical Season	A liturgical focus in each room and several areas of the school to bring to parent's attention the current Liturgical Season
All new staff participate in Faith, Story and Witness		Celebrate Good Shepherd Day
		New School Prayer / Faction / House Names
		Enrolment mass for sacramental candidates



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## FUTURE FOCUS

**2014 - 2017**

STAFF	STUDENTS	WIDER COMMUNITY
Encourage all staff to be involved in staff prayer	Involvement of whole school masses (fortnightly)	New School Prayer bookmark
Introduce school prayer	Celebrating Good Shepherd Day – end of term 1	Faction / house names
Introduce a whole staff spiritual retreat	A liturgical focus in each room and area in the school – prayer table kit	Celebrate Good Shepherd Day with School / Community – choir sing?
Faith, story and witness to be renewed	The teaching of and the participation in the Sacraments	Parent rosters – inviting parents into our classrooms
House names – emblem, flag (visible for students)	Reconciliation focus Year 3 - 6	Inviting parents of the class to remain after class assemblies to gather
Staff are encouraged to further develop their spiritual journey – RE PD's. Father Joe. Parkinson. Kevin Long	School prayer – know, understand and use the school pray in class and assembly	Inviting parents to join their children in the library when they are changing their Lexile books before school
		More parental involvement in school masses – possible parent mass
		Family commitment to sacramental programs in Years 3, 4, 6



# CHRISTIAN WITNESS

*Our efforts to be Christ-like. It is our response to Jesus' calling to reflect our God.*

*Mandate Para. 35-40*

## ONGOING FORMATION

STAFF	STUDENTS	WIDER COMMUNITY
Being compassionate by listening and being empathetic to the need of others	Encouraging peer modelling through involvement in Leadership roles	Inviting Parish Priest and parish members to various school social events
Raising social conscience and awareness of social, religious and cultural issues in the wider community	Acknowledgment of Christian Service through Merit Awards promoting the Gospel Values	Raising social conscience and awareness of social, religious and cultural issues in the wider community
Supporting each other in times of personal crises	Acknowledgement of student's birthdays at assembly	Promoting fundraising activities through the newsletter and assemblies
Extra-curricular social interactions	Encouraging students to show tolerance and acceptance of each other	Weekly school assemblies
Showing tolerance, respect and appreciation of the uniqueness of each individual	Implementation of faction award system which encourages students to display appropriate Christ like behaviours	Supporting families in crisis – employment of Social Worker and Aboriginal Liaison Officer
Sharing roles and responsibility throughout the staff	Implementation of class of the week which encourages students to display appropriate Christ like behaviours	Involvement of P&F in organising sundowner, Mother and Father Day stalls etc
Appoint staff members who witness Gospel Values	Showing compassion for others in need through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Compassion</li> <li>- St Vincent de Paul food hampers etc</li> </ul>	School Board and P&F make a commitment of service to the community at the Opening Mass
Staff make a commitment of service to the community at the opening school mass	Promote students to be involved in Parish Masses and events eg altar servers etc	
Affirmation of staff success stories		
Teaching strategies based on collaborative learning principles and explicit teaching of social skills		
Spiritual retreat		
Celebrate significant events ie birthdays, engagements etc		

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**2014 - 2017**

<b>STAFF</b>	<b>STUDENTS</b>	<b>WIDER COMMUNITY</b>
Spiritual retreat	Peer modelling: Buddy system with the 6's – formalised and certain year groups matches up	Inviting Parish Priest and parish members to social events and classroom. Arch Bishop visit
Fr Joe Parkinson run RE PD	Merit Awards: Acknowledge Christian service and values each week. Encouragement for kids	Fortnightly masses. Weekly assemblies.
Instead of KK presents to St Vinnies. Staff Charity focus. (1 per year). Adopt a child	Faction Award: Promote / encourage teachers to use more regularly on duty etc	Social worker
PLC dedication. Success stories (included in PD's)	Mission Day: October trial a fete – each class has a stall / games etc	Aboriginal Liaison Officer – working in class
Employ a social worker to implement a pastoral program in our school. Increasing the social workers time to cater for all the children who require this service 2 days in 2015	Altar Serving: Promote and make a list of altar servers and rotate a roster	Through newsletter give ideas and information about Christ like behaviour
On-going pastoral care to all our students	Free Dress Day: 1 per term for project compassion and make the kids aware of the reason behind it	Encourage further participation in school religious events (eg masses)
Staff to continue to role model Christ like behaviour in their relationships with staff, parents and students	Good Shepherd Mongolia – year 6s linking with students there. Skyping them, fundraising for something specific for them...	Welcome environment positive atmosphere
Staff supporting to relationship between this Parish / school and ours	Extending this to other classes in our school to communicate with their Parish	
Year 5 choir visiting our senior citizens and sharing their musical talents with others	Year 5 choir visiting our senior citizens and sharing their musical talents with others	Year 5 choir visiting our senior citizens and sharing their musical talents with others

# GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRAYER



Lord Jesus,

You are our Good Shepherd.

We thank you for our school,  
our families and our friends.

May our school be a place of wonder,  
where we love to learn and learn to love.

Where the lessons of today  
prepare us for the challenges of tomorrow.

Help us grow in faith  
always showing respect for others.

May we be always united  
through Many Gifts, One Spirit.

Jesus the Good Shepherd

Pray for us.