Principal ACM Report 2025

Good Shepherd Catholic School continues to be a place of growth, belonging, and shared purpose. I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and parish community, whose commitment to our students' learning and wellbeing ensures that our school continues to flourish. Our strength lies in the strong relationships and shared values that bind us together as a Catholic community.

Catholic Identity

The spiritual life of Good Shepherd Catholic School continues to flourish through our strong partnership with Fr. Al and the parish community. Sadly, this year we farewelled Fr Paul, who will be deeply missed by staff and students. We welcome Fr Marco and look forward to getting to know him over the coming years. Their presence and pastoral care are woven into the fabric of our school, enriching our faith journey and supporting our mission. Together, we have celebrated many significant moments in the liturgical calendar, including Ash Wednesday and Easter Masses, where students engaged in prayer and reflection with reverence. The celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, both joyful and sacred occasions, is made possible by the Parish and the dedication of our staff and the support of our families. Our connection with the parish was further strengthened through the Draw Near Project, which united our school and parish in compassionate outreach to asylum seekers in our local area.

Staff participated in a joint professional development day with colleagues from several Catholic schools, focusing on Social Justice through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. The session explored the Church's teaching on human dignity, faith-based understandings of justice, and highlighted the significance of the spiritual works of mercy. These discussions emphasised that such actions are rooted in God's unconditional love and underscored the importance of prayer in living out our faith. This year, we also gave thanks for the life and leadership of Pope Francis, whose humble witness to mercy, justice, and joy in the Gospel continues to inspire us. We welcomed Pope Leo as the new leader of the Catholic Church, praying that he may be guided by wisdom and compassion as he shepherds the global faith community.

Community

The year began with a joyful start thanks to the P&F Sundowner, a fantastic event filled with laughter, fun, and community spirit. Children delighted in sumo suits, bubbles, and the silent disco, while families enjoyed a free sausage sizzle. This event showcased the incredible role our P&F plays in bringing people together and supporting school initiatives. Throughout the year, they've continued to enrich our community through events like the Mother's and Father's Day celebrations, the Book Fair, school discos, and the unforgettable Foam Fun Day, which students will have as a cherished memory for years to come. We are deeply grateful to our dedicated volunteers; your time, energy, and generosity make these moments possible and memorable. This year, parent education was a focus with a collaboration with Midvale Hub Parenting Service. We engaged with the parent workshops about Anxiety and Your Child, ADHD and Your Child and Getting Ready for Kindy.

Our community spirit shone brightly throughout the year in a wide range of events that brought students, staff, and families together. Highlights included the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, Cross Country, and the Indigenous Sports Carnival, which showcased teamwork and perseverance. Ride and Walk to School Days promoted healthy, active lifestyles, while The Greatest Shave demonstrated our commitment to social justice and supporting those in need. Cultural celebrations such as Harmony Day, Italian Day, and NAIDOC Week enriched our understanding of diversity and inclusion, while Music Night provided a platform for creativity and talent. These occasions reflect the vibrant, connected community we have at Good Shepherd and our shared values of respect, diversity, and excellence.

Education

In 2025, our School Improvement Plan has guided our focus across several key areas, ensuring that our actions align with our mission and the needs of our learners. Central to this work has been the strengthening of faith formation, teaching quality, cultural understanding, and sustainability.

Learning at Good Shepherd continues to be guided by evidence-based practice and our Vision for Learning, which places the child at the centre of all we do. Our focus on Mathematics has grown, with staff professional development centred on the new Western Australian Mathematics Curriculum and the use of Maths Talks. These strategies encourage students to explain their thinking, approach problems in multiple ways, and engage in rich mathematical discussions that build confidence and deeper understanding. Teachers engaged in deep reflection on our Vision for Learning, examining how it connects with effective mathematics teaching practices and classroom non-negotiables. I would like to express my thanks to Mrs Jennings and the maths team for their work in developing a Maths Vision and a Good Shepherd scope and sequence.

In literacy, we introduced the MultiLit program, a targeted intervention program designed to support students who need additional help. Through small-group sessions, students have strengthened key reading skills in phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension. Early results are promising, and we look forward to expanding this approach in 2026. A special thank you to Pedulla, Mrs Klaver, Miss Haddad, and Mrs Darge for their tireless work in motivating and supporting these students.

Following the great success of our Levels of Behaviour, which has provided clear and consistent expectations for students in the classroom, we have now developed a set of clear rules and guidelines for outdoor areas. These help ensure all students feel safe, respected, and supported in all parts of the school. In hand with this, we continued to consolidate the Berry Street Education Model, with the final professional development session on Character. This professional learning deepened our focus on resilience, engagement, and well-being, helping students build the self-regulation skills they need to thrive.

This year, our Sustainability Team has promoted simple, effective practices aligned with Laudato Si' and our school vision. At assemblies, students share goals to raise awareness about caring for our environment. Two electric compost machines in Year 2 classrooms process Crunch and Sip waste, producing nutrient-rich compost for our vegetable gardens, developed by Mrs Kelly. They also introduced a student-led Sustainability Team and Gardening Club, where students meet weekly to weed, mulch, and harvest produce like potatoes, tomatoes, and carrots, which are later used by the Cooking Club. Thank you to Mrs Andrew and the sustainability team for all their efforts.

Staff participated in a comprehensive professional development session focused on enhancing cultural competency and integrating First Nations perspectives into our educational practices. Staff engaged in critical reflection, group discussions, and completed the AITSL survey to assess and improve our cultural responsiveness. Plans to enhance the Yarning Circle with interactive QR codes were completed, enabling students and visitors to learn about the six Noongar seasons, native plants, and bush tucker. Along with this, we engaged Cheryl Lennox-Bradley, a local First Nations person, to produce artwork of local native animals, including their Noongar names.

For the fourth consecutive year, we received an award in the WA Premier's Reading Challenge, celebrating our strong commitment to fostering a love of reading. Congratulations to Mrs Tomazin for inspiring students and earning another individual award for her outstanding work and for once again receiving an individual award. This year was extra special as we had the honour of Amali and her parents accompanying us to Parliament House, where she was presented with her own individual award.
We were also proud to announce that our school band won the prestigious Shield at the Spirit of the Arts Festival Finale, an incredible recognition of talent, dedication, and teamwork. Special thanks to Mrs Reedman for her leadership and to Mr Colman, whose passion and guidance helped our students achieve this remarkable success.

Stewardship
Our Early Childhood educators refined the Early Childhood Philosophy to align with the school's Vision for Learning, ensuring that wellness and best practice remain at the forefront of all we do in our K–2 classrooms. I especially thank our Kindy and Pre-primary staff who managed the relocation to the hall superbly. The Early Childhood Education building project is a major highlight, bringing to life a modern and engaging environment for our youngest learners. Landscaping, new learning spaces, and sustainable design have created a space that reflects our vision for the future of education at Good Shepherd.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Catholic School Advisory Council for their wisdom and support throughout 2025. Their guidance has been invaluable as we progress with our building developments and strategic planning. We also continue to make steady progress in master planning, which will guide the next stages of our growth, including the proposed administration extension.

Conclusion

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our outstanding office staff Adelina, Siobhan, Jenny, Caroline and Carmel. Thank you for the warm welcome and sense of worth they offer to everyone who walks through our doors. Their daily assistance is invaluable and significantly contributes to the success of our school. I also want to acknowledge our Assistant Principals, Lisa, Katie and Renae, whose dedication, expertise, and enthusiasm are truly commendable. They work tirelessly with students, staff, and parents to ensure that every child in our care receives the highest quality of support and education.

I extend my thanks to our outstanding staff for their dedication, professionalism, and unwavering care for every child in our school. Your daily commitment to nurturing faith, curiosity, and belonging is what makes Good Shepherd a truly special place. To our families, thank you for your trust and partnership in supporting our shared mission. Together, as a community guided by Respect, Community, Diversity, and Excellence, we continue to live out our call to educate with faith, purpose, and hope, celebrating our many gifts and one spirit.