

St. John's Lutheran School Kingaroy



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

St John's Lutheran School is a member of Lutheran Education Queensland, part of the Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District.

Statement of Philosophy

St John's Lutheran School, Kingaroy is a place of support for families as they seek to bring up their children in a changing and challenging society.

St John's Lutheran School endeavours to support parents in the development of the "whole" child by providing a quality educational program that caters for their emotional, social, academic and spiritual needs.

St John's is a vibrant learning community where the focus is on Faith, Family and Fellowship while developing Responsibility, Relationships and Results.

Mission Statement:

Our school community is committed to providing quality education which endeavours to prepare children for the future in a caring supportive Christian environment.

This means that our vision for St John's encompasses:

- quality learning;
- quality relationships;

within a Christian world view.

School Aims

- (a) For children to gain knowledge of Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.
- (b) To provide a setting where children can practise their responses to God's Word through worship and Christian living.
- (c) To provide an atmosphere where each child is encouraged to develop his or her individual God-given talents and abilities, becoming confident, creative and productive contributors to society.
- (d) To provide a wide range of experiences and activities which will stimulate a desire for lifelong learning and allow children to discover and develop their own interests, capabilities and skills to problem-solve, communicate ideas and information, plan and organise, and collaborate with others.
- (e) To provide a foundation in all aspects of literacy and numeracy for all students where learning is valued, excellence is encouraged, and effort is recognised and praised regardless of academic capabilities.

Educational Goals

As they are 21st Century Learners, our goal is to provide experiences that allow the students to develop their abilities to access and discern information and make meaning through being:

- active investigators and problem solvers;
- complex, analytical and creative thinkers;
- effective communicators and collaborators;
- reflective learners who contribute responsibly to society;

within the context of a Christian world view.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA **AND ITS SCHOOLS**

1. The Lutheran School

- 1.1 The Lutheran Church of Australia has a variety of agencies through which it carries out its ministry and mission of proclaiming the Work of God and administering the sacraments in accordance with the Confessions of the Church.
- 1.2 One such agency is the Lutheran School. The Lutheran Church of Australia, through its congregations and districts, owns and operates kindergartens, primary schools, and secondary schools in order to make available to its members - and to others - a formal education in which the gospel of Jesus Christ informs all learning and teaching, all human relationships and all activities in the school.
- 1.3 Specifically, through its schools the Lutheran Church of Australia offers a program of Christian Education which:
 - serves students, parents, the church, the community, and the government, by providing a quality education;
 - strives for excellence in the development and creative use by all students of their God-given gifts;
 - equips students for a life of service to God in the church and the community;
 - provides an alternative to a secularist, humanistic philosophy and practice of education;
 - includes, as a core part of the program, instruction in the truths of God, deliberately and consciously from the perspective of confessional Lutheranism;
 - involves the school community in regular Christian worship.

2. The Lutheran School and Education

- 2.1 The Lutheran school is committed to serving its students by providing quality education which meets the requirements of the state, responds to the needs of its students, and develops their God-given abilities as fully as possible within the resource limits of the school community.
- 2.2 The Principal functions as educational leader in the school and is responsible to the governing council for the total program of the school.
- 2.3 The Lutheran school operates from an underlying holistic world view which recognises the role of both God's revelation and human reason, and into which all learning and teaching is integrated.

3. The Lutheran School and Worship

3.1 The Lutheran Church of Australia confesses that worship of God is central to the life of the people of God in mission to the world of the school. Within the school, such worship may be:

- public worship of the faithful, involving the ministry of word and sacraments. This worship is open to all and will be organised to meet the needs of the school and the wider community.
- school or class devotional exercises which are part of the regular program of the whole school and which in different ways involve all students and staff.

3.2 The Lutheran Church of Australia urges and encourages schools and local congregations to work together in worship and mission in the world of the school.

- The school pastor serves as worship leader. He oversees and encourages staff, students, and others as they serve as leaders in class and school devotions. He feeds and equips the people of God for service and leads them in mission.
- Christian principals, teachers and other staff are key persons in ministry and mission to the world of the school. They participate in worship and lead it when appropriate. They model the Christian lifestyle and uphold Christian values.
- The school worshipping community works in mission together with surrounding congregations, either as a distinct worshipping group or as an extension of a local congregation.

4. The Lutheran School and Responsibilities of the Lutheran Church of Australia

The Lutheran Church of Australia commits itself to the promotion and support of its schools by:

- assisting and encouraging congregations, associations and districts to provide for the Christian education of members, in keeping with the command of Christ;
- providing means and opportunity for the professional theological pre-service and in-service education of teachers;
- encouraging congregations and parishes to follow up and minister to the contacts made in the wider community by the school and to involve the members of the school community in the ministry and mission of the congregation;
- working with the schools to assist them to realise their full potential as mission and nurturing agencies of the church.

5. The Lutheran School and Responsibilities of Governing Councils and Principals

The Lutheran Church of Australia expects the governing councils and principals of its schools to:

- staff its schools with skilled and registered educators who are able to uphold the teachings of the church and model the Christian lifestyle. In the first instance, it seeks to use the services of active members of the church. Beyond that, the church seeks to staff its schools with people who are active Christians from other denominations willing to uphold the Lutheran teaching of the school.
- support and encourage in-service training - including theological training – for the professional development of teachers;
- promote the purpose of the school in the local congregation, zone, or district;
- help the local congregation, zone or district to use the school as a means of establishing and maintaining contact with the wider community;
- actively pursue every opportunity for maximising the school's effectiveness as a mission agency of the church.

6. The Lutheran School and Parents

The Lutheran Church of Australia acknowledges that parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. As a church, through its schools, it therefore seeks to support parents in the fulfilment of this responsibility to their children. Furthermore, the church, through its schools, offers to all parents the option of a Christian education for their children.

7. The Lutheran School and Government

- 7.1 The Lutheran Church of Australia acknowledges that the State has accepted the responsibility for providing schooling for all its citizens. This education is compulsory, free and secular in its orientation.
- 7.2 The Lutheran Church of Australia further acknowledges that the government permits non-government authorities, such as the churches, to operate schools, provided that they meet certain government-determined criteria, such as curriculum, and health and safety requirements.
- 7.3 The Lutheran Church of Australia will continue to own and operate its schools in accordance with government requirements, provided that meeting these requirements does not bring the church into conflict with the Word of God or the Confessions of the Church.
- 7.4 The Lutheran Church of Australia will continue to accept financial assistance from the government under conditions determined by the government from time to time, provided that the confessional position of the church is in no way or at any time compromised.

Please see these attachments below for further information:-

- The Lutheran Church of Australia and its schools - <https://www.lutheran.edu.au/?wpdmdl=141>
- Staffing Policy for Lutheran Schools - <http://www.lutheran.edu.au/download/staffing-policy/?wpdmdl=1887&refresh=5cd27764aedd11557296996>