

**Strategic Property Plan for  
Good Shepherd School  
2016 – 2025**



## School development vision

To create the best 21st century learning environment to support a quality Catholic education for our children by maximising physical resources through a unified development plan.

## Scope and Objectives

This plan is intended to guide the development of Good Shepherd School from 2016 to 2025.

The objectives of this plan are to:

1. Ensure the school's physical environment will meet future learning needs.
2. Be proactive in assessing the development stages for physical growth of the school, to enable roll increases to meet ongoing demand.
3. Ensure all classrooms are flexible multi-purpose learning spaces and are at or above MOE guideline (72m<sup>2</sup>).
4. Create a modern learning environment through appropriate use of the latest developments in classroom layout and furniture.
5. Design two-storey buildings to maximise playground area.
6. Identify areas of synergy between the school and the Good Shepherd parish properties, to enable sharing of physical resources, in the spirit of a unified faith community.

## Recent History and Background

Over the past ten years the board, supported by the school community, parish and proprietor, has undertaken a programme to modernise the school.

Important developments have included:

- A new playground at the southeastern end of the school, by room 9.

- A new two-storey administration block, with the assistance of the Catholic Schools Office.
- A new classroom where the old administration block was located (room 8).
- An upgrade of the library and the creation of a new general purpose room where the old staffroom was located.
- Modernisation of the parish hall by the Good Shepherd Parish.
- Wi-fi network installed throughout the school for all of its computer technology.
- An edible garden, developed with the help of parents.

In 2007 the board received approval to grow the school's roll to 312 students. With our current nine classrooms we are unable to achieve this and our maximum student number is kept at 245

We envisage the immediate need for three new classrooms to accommodate the revised roll, with a view to expanding further in the future.

The cost of any additional classrooms may have to be met by the school, although we are on a waiting list for funding from the Catholic School's Office.

The intention at the time of approval was to build additional classrooms behind the Presbytery on the Volcanic street side of the school.

Since then, Eclipse Architecture has drawn up draft proposals for the Diocese, which include two-storey blocks of classrooms to replace rooms 1-4 and further two-storey blocks to replace classrooms 5-9.

### Existing Buildings

Refer to appendix 1 which shows the site plan and current integrated buildings.

In addition to the above, the school also uses the parish hall for assemblies and other school activities.

## School Roll and Projections

The school exists to provide a Catholic education to children belonging to the parishes of Good Shepherd and St Benedict's. The school is reaching the point where it will be unable to cater for all of these Catholic children.

The area has seen strong growth in its school-aged population and that is expected to continue.

With the school at capacity, and substantial future growth anticipated, we are investigating how best the increase can be accommodated.

## Requirements for other facilities

### Driveway:

The access to the school, from both Telford Avenue and Volcanic Street, needs addressing. One proposal is to create a driveway that flows through from Telford to Volcanic. This would be dependent on other developments on the site, and at this point is out of the control of the Board.

### Swimming pool:

The current pool is very old, too small and too shallow for our senior students. It is used to teach students who are not comfortable in water, basic water safety skills.

We have trialled an alternative swimming option, involving an intensive course of lessons at another pool. These have been deemed as very successful and have now run for two years.

The pool is currently used with the junior school to reinforce water safety, as well as senior students who are not comfortable in the water. Going ahead with the plan outlined by Eclipse would mean the school would no longer have room for a swimming pool.

#### School hall:

The hall is owned and maintained by the Good Shepherd Parish. The school pays a regular monthly fee for use of the hall. There is a question mark over whether the hall is big enough to cope with the increased growth plan for the school. The hall is also very old and is in need of a large investment to bring it up to a reasonable standard.

Options for the future could include:

- Upgrading the existing hall, with the support of the parish.
- Building a purpose-built hall for the school elsewhere on the site.
- With the permission of the parish, integrating the hall as part of the school property.

The Board will review and make a decision on the best way forward for the school in the next year with regards to a hall that meets the needs of a growing school

#### Playground:

There is currently no playground that caters well for our senior students; there is an option to redevelop the 'up top' playground to better cater for the needs of senior students in the school.

There are limited shaded areas within the school and there is an opportunity to provide a shaded area, possibly over the concrete basketball court outside room 9, or between room 5 and the library.

#### Car Parking:

There is limited car parking available from Telford Ave and the majority of visitors use the area accessed from Volcanic Street. These spaces will be affected by long-term plans to develop the Gift Centre, with a through-road from Telford to Volcanic, and options need to be considered to ensure sufficient parking remains.

Preschool:

Assess the options for providing a preschool so that children in the parish can learn in a Catholic environment from the earliest possible opportunity. This could also be used for the school's Oscar programme.

The Board deems this as an option that sits beyond the timeframe for this property plan but should be revisited in the next strategic planning session.

## Conclusion

The GSS Board of Trustees is fully aware of the work currently being undertaken by the Diocese on the development of the entire Telford Avenue site including Parish, School and GIFT centre. The Board has decided to commence our school development in a meaningful way that will create the best 21<sup>st</sup> learning environment, supporting a quality Catholic education for our children with a conscious view to return on investment, were the new Diocese plans to go ahead in the next 15 years.

By the end of 2025, we envisage that the school will have enough classrooms to facilitate the education of 312 students, there will be play areas that assist in the delivery of an all-round physical education curriculum and Good Shepherd School will have noticeably decreased its environmental footprint.

We see the development of the school in 3 stages:

**GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL  
STAGED PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016 -2025**

