

GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL



INFORMATION BOOKLET 2018 – 2019



Explanation of our school logo:

Deeply planted in the land of the Aboriginal people, our

Good Shepherd

bends towards all people in a gesture of loving welcome.
Each one is personally blessed and known by name.

Children and adults are drawn into this nurturing, nourishing,
supportive, protective and compassionate love
of the One who keeps all in view.

In this close companionship, the Good Shepherd reminds us that
we too are to care for each other, to look after each other,
to bend towards one another
in comfort and support,

to be together the heart of God.



Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School belief statement

To be together the heart of God through...

...connected hearts

As a caring community, we welcome diversity and reach out to others.

...inspired minds

As a collaborative community, we inspire learning to ensure sustainable growth.

...flourishing students

As a dynamic community, we build identity and resilience to nourish wellbeing.

Term Dates 2018

Term 1: 5 February – 13 April
Term 2: 30 April – 6 July
Term 3: 23 July – 28 September
Term 4: 15 October – 21 December

Term Dates 2019

Term 1: 4 February - 12 April
Term 2: 29 April – 5 July
Term 3: 22 July – 27 September
Term 4: 14 October – 18 December

School Contacts

Phone 6255 7888
Email office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au
Website www.goodshepherd.act.edu.au
Before and After School Care Camp Australia Ph:1300 105 343
actgoodshepherd@oshccampastralia.com.au

School Leadership Team

Principal David Austin
Assistant Principal Melinda Hall-O'Brien
Religious Education Coordinator Anthony O'Connell
Coordinators Diana Jones, Lisa MacMahon and Vanessa Ross
Office Manager Joan Jones
Finance Manager Helen Wilks

Holy Spirit Parish Team

Fr Mark Croker, Fr Jiss and team

Address Holy Spirit Parish
Burdekin Avenue
Amaroo ACT 2614

Telephone 6242 9622

Vision of Community – Our Parish Team

From the outset, our school is built on the vision of home, school and parish growing together. The Holy Spirit Parish Team leads our community and directly supports the school through:

- Participation in staff development;
- Participation in school community prayer and sacraments;
- Weekly classroom visits;
- The sacraments and rituals which celebrate children's experience;
- Spiritual support for families;
- Leadership of and support for the Sacramental Programs;
- Parenting courses;
- Prayer and practical support.

Prayer

Prayer is an intrinsic part of daily school life. During the day, each class takes time to pray. We endeavour on most days to ensure that the first 10 minutes of the school day are not interrupted to allow time for Morning Prayer. Prayer itself takes many forms - traditional prayers, scriptural, liturgical and creative prayer. These forms of prayer may be expressed in many ways: stillness, listening, reflection, dialogue, music, drama, song or dance. The principle aim of our school's faith education program is to expose children to the full spectrum of prayer experiences and to deepen their relationship with Jesus.

Prayer Celebrations

Throughout the term the school community gather to examine a particular prayer focus. Parents, family and friends are all welcome to attend these celebrations – dates and times of which are available on the school calendar.

School Hours

The school day begins at 8.55 am at which time the children line up for assembly in the courtyard. The school day concludes at 3.10 pm. There are two breaks in the school day: 11.00 - 11.40 am, and again from 1.20 – 2.00 pm. Eating time at lunch is supervised in the classroom from 1.10 – 1.20 pm.

Playground Supervision



Supervision by a member of the teaching staff begins each morning at 8.30 am. Children should not be at school prior to this time unless they attend Before School Care. Recess and lunchtime breaks are supervised, as is the final duty of the day from 3.10 pm - 3.30 pm. Outside these times, parents requiring child care for their children need to make arrangements with Camp Australia.

Several playground areas are available for the children at playtimes. The play equipment and sandpit are accessed on a rostered basis. Children also have access to the Library during lunchtime breaks on designated days of the week.

On wet weather days, parents are asked to park cars and collect children from their classrooms as teachers are required to supervise their own classes. Supervision is provided for those who catch the bus and those children who walk home when using the school crossing.

Before and After School Care

This service is run by Camp Australia and operates within the school. The times of operation are 7.30 - 8.55 am and from 3.10 - 6.00 pm. Numbers are limited and bookings are essential. Phone: 1300 105 343
Email: actgoodshepherd@oshccampastralia.com.au

Attendance at School

It is most important that children attend school each day. Generally, each day's work is built upon the previous day's work and any loss of time may hinder the learning progress of the student.

However, a child who is ill or experiencing family trauma should be kept at home to receive the care needed for recovery. The school should be notified by telephone, email or via the Skoolbag app, of a child's absence on the day the absence occurs. Also, upon returning to class, a brief written note of explanation from the parent/guardian should also be presented to the class teacher. This notification is a legal requirement. Teachers are required to complete their class roll twice a day.

Home Learning

Home Learning experiences provide opportunities for students to become more responsible for their own learning and growth. The term 'Home Learning' refers to the wide range of learning experiences undertaken by children and their families outside school hours. At Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School, we believe Home Learning:

- promotes the joy of reading;
- balances a range of educational, recreational, family and cultural activities;
- develops students' responsibility and self-discipline; and
- provides relevant, interesting and enjoyable experiences.

At Good Shepherd, we recognise that parents are partners in their children's learning. We support Home Learning experiences that:

- foster positive family interactions;
- can be shared, reflected on and celebrated with family; and
- provide an opportunity for families to support and encourage learning.

Communication between Home and School

The newsletter 'Shepherd Spy' is sent out on the Skoolbag app and is available on the school website each week of the term on Thursday. The Newsletter contains items of interest, information and reminders of meetings and other school events. On alternate weeks, "Shepherd Shorts" with updates and reminders is sent out on the Skoolbag app and via the website. A Term Calendar is accessible through the school website and a paper copy sent home at the start of the year.

We encourage all families to use the Skoolbag Good Shepherd app which is available for both android and iphone devices. This app is used for alerts and reminders, letters and dates pertaining to school events.

There are opportunities for you to meet with your child's teacher and discuss their progress throughout the school year. Details of these occasions are provided via the newsletter and letters sent home to parents. Teachers are contactable by email, should you need to contact them throughout the year. Use firstname.surname@cg.catholic.edu.au. Please note that teachers will not read or respond to emails after hours. You will however, receive a response within 24 hours.

Sun Smart

In accordance with the ACT Government SunSmart Policy, students at Good Shepherd are expected to comply with the '**No School Hat-Play in the Shade**' rule. Shaded areas have been set aside for children to use when they do not have a hat. These areas are also available for all children to use if they wish. It is important that parents help their children apply sunscreen before coming to school, and provide them with the skills needed to reapply sunscreen as necessary. Sunscreen is provided in every classroom.

During May, June and July, children are not expected to wear their hats. This policy is supported by the Cancer Council. Our motto is "End of May – hats off day. Start of August – hats on for all of us". A plain navy beanie may be worn during Terms 2 and 3.

Nut Free

Conscious of many allergies, especially to nuts, we endeavour to keep our school environment nut-free. We ask that children not bring peanut butter or hazelnut spread sandwiches to school, or other products based on nuts (such as some muesli bars). Students should not share food.

Immunisation

The ACT Public Health Regulations reflect an attempt to prevent children from contracting the eight childhood vaccine-preventable diseases. You must present a copy of your child's Immunisation Records at the time of enrolment. If your child is not immunised, you must follow the procedures set out by ACT Health. Children who are not immunised will be

excluded from school when there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease in the school. It is mandatory that you notify the school if your child contracts an infectious disease. You will be required to adhere to the appropriate school exclusion periods, as set by ACT Health.

Medical Information

If your child has any specific medical needs or conditions (eg. asthma, allergies, epilepsy), it is essential that the school be given this information. Please record any relevant information on the enrolment form and discuss your child's needs with the Principal, at the time of enrolment.



If there is a need to administer medication to your child or to supervise the self-administering of medication by your child, parents must provide written consent by completing the appropriate form and providing the necessary information and medication. These forms are available from the School Front Office or the school website. Medication cannot be administered without this authority. Medication must be in its original packaging.

Medication is not to be stored in the children's bags or desks. Lockable storage is provided at the School Office where a record is maintained of all medication administered. Class teachers must be made aware if any children need to go to the Front Office for the administering of medication.

Sickness at School

Should a student become ill or injured while at school, they will be accompanied to the Sick Bay, located at the Front Office. For minor incidents, basic First Aid will be provided and parents notified if necessary. Sick or injured children will be supervised while waiting for parents to collect them. For serious incidents, an ambulance will be called and parents contacted.

Absence for Family Holidays

We encourage families to take family holidays during the official school holidays to minimise any effect on the learning sequence.

However, if a family holiday or extended absence occurs during term time, the school will not set any formal activities for a student during such a period. Written notice of absence should be provided to the classroom teacher at the earliest opportunity.

Please discuss this with your child's teacher in the event of a family holiday occurring during school time.

An 'Application for Extended Leave' form must be submitted for any lengthy absence from school (between 10 – 100 days) to the school Principal for approval.

Change of Address or Phone Contact Numbers

Parents are asked to notify the school immediately should any contact details change. This includes work and home phone numbers, address, email and emergency contact information. This avoids confusion and wasted time in cases of emergency. Please provide a letter or email to the school office and your child's teacher.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Program

During 2017 Good Shepherd introduced the School Wide Positive Behaviour Program (SWPBP) which is based on principles of positive reinforcement connected to four key school rules. The four key rules are: Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Respectful and Be Your Best. These rules are clearly displayed around the school and within each classroom.

Class rules and expectations of student behaviour are generated from these four key areas. These are negotiated between teacher/s and students within each class at the beginning of the school year and clearly displayed in the room.

A reward system based on acknowledgement of these behaviours has been established using 'gotcha' cards and wrist bands. Individual classrooms will also have other positive reinforcement systems in place.

Behaviour Management at Good Shepherd is based on "Restorative Practice." Our goal is that children learn to accept responsibility for their actions and have an understanding of the effect their actions have on other people. We aim to develop in children strong, positive, Christian attitudes including tolerance and consideration of, cooperation with, respect for, and empathy toward others. We constantly strive to maintain a school that is happy and harmonious. We are guided by values that are life giving and positive.

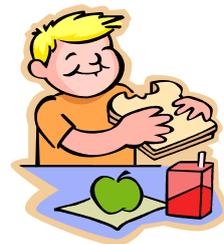
Children who display unacceptable behaviours which run contrary to our values are dealt with by the classroom or supervising teacher in the first instance and followed up by members of the School Leadership Team.

Healthy Food

We ask parents to ensure that their children come to school having eaten a healthy breakfast and to provide healthy food choices for their recess and lunch. We have a designated 'Fruit Boost' time in the morning session, when children are given time to enjoy a snack of **fresh** fruit or vegetables. Fruit Boost should be a small piece of fruit or vegetable, which is easily managed by your child. Please do not send in pre-packaged fruit in juice or syrup.

Canteen

Our school canteen is operated by Empire Catering and currently opens on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week. Lunches may be ordered on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with over-the-counter sales only available on Friday during lunch. Lunches can be ordered online via www.fleximeals.com.au or by writing the child's name, class and their food order on a paper bag containing the correct money.



School Counsellor

Catholic Care and Catholic Education provide the school with a part-time Counsellor each week. The role of the Counsellor is to be available to parents, students and teachers who may require advice regarding academic, social or behavioural problems. Parents may request an interview with the Counsellor for themselves or their child/ren by leaving contact details at the front office or via the classroom teacher. If a teacher feels that meeting with the Counsellor would be beneficial for a child, they will submit a referral to our counsellor who will then contact the parents directly.

Library

One of our primary objectives is to develop a love of literature in children. Children are encouraged to use the Library as an extension of their classrooms.

All classes have a formal Library lesson each week, during which time they are encouraged to borrow from the school collection. All children should have a Library Bag to help protect books from accidental spills and damages.

Excursions and Performances

During the year children will be given opportunities to participate in a variety of educational activities either at school or at other venues. The cost of the activity and transport is deducted from the Enrichment Fee, which is included in the School Fees.



Children in Year 5 and 6 participate in a 3-day (2 nights) school camp experience each year. Year 4 participate in an overnight excursion. The cost of this camp is added to the School Fees.

Students from Kinder to Year 3 participate in an intensive swimming program in Term 4.

Stationery Requirements

The school supplies all exercise books, art and craft supplies and all other stationery needs for all students. A Resource Fee is incorporated in the school fees each term. Children are urged to keep a range of stationery supplies at home for assignments and general home learning activities. All material should be clearly labelled and books covered with adhesive contact.

School Fees

In conjunction with the Parish, Catholic Education provides our buildings, ongoing maintenance and is responsible for staff salaries. The school is responsible for all other costs associated with the running of the school. The payment of School Fees is essential to our existence as a quality learning community. BPay is the preferred option for payment. School fees can also be paid by cash, credit card or EFTPOS at the Front Office.

Family Involvement

To help us provide the best possible education for your child, your involvement as parents is welcomed and encouraged. Help comes in many forms:

At home:

- Talking with your child about school (highlighting the positive aspects).
- Ensuring that you provide your child with the correct uniform, hat, sunscreen, fruit boost, recess and lunch each day.
- Reading with or to your child everyday.
- Ensuring that Home Learning is completed and discussed.

At school:

- Participating in the Sacramental Programs.
- Attending assemblies and Masses.
- Assisting the teachers upon request (on excursions for example).
- Attending grounds maintenance working bees.
- Nominating to be a member of the Community Council.
- Assisting with a Council working party or sub committee.

- Volunteering with School Banking, Handy Helpers, Sports Carnivals (Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country).

In line with mandatory ACT legislation, all volunteers who work with students are required to have a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. Parent, grandparents and friends are able to register for their card (free) on line: <https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au> or at any Government Shopfront. A copy of your WWVP card must be kept on file at the Front Office.

Classroom Support

The aim of the Classroom Support Program is to support and encourage those children in our school who, for a variety of reasons, are referred by the class teacher for extra help. We recognise that some children require additional assistance in order to maximise their educational growth in an inclusive environment.

The most effective practice for helping learners with special needs is one which involves a concerted and collaborative approach between the class teacher, home and the Classroom Support Team. Our program provides support from teachers and Classroom Support Assistants who work under the direction and guidance of our Classroom Support teacher, Toni Pfeiffer.

Parking/Drop Off/Pick Up

Parking is located at the eastern entrance of the school and also adjacent to the church. Parents are asked to note the disabled parking zones. For convenience in the mornings, a 'Kiss and Drop' zone is located along the front of the Administration Building. Parents are encouraged to use this if they do not intend to stay at the school.

Due to limited car parking space and with the aim to reduce congestion, the 'Kiss and Drop' zone becomes the pick-up zone in the afternoon. The car parking area adjacent to the church, is used as the pick-up zone by families who have only one child attending our school. Families with two or more children must use the pick-up zone at the front of the school.

We request each family to have a card with their name in large print displayed on the dashboard as they drive through pick-up. Our front office staff can provide this on request. The teacher on duty will call each family name so that those children can come to the kerb for the parents to drive up and collect them. This enables quick and safe collection of children. Pick-up begins at 3.20 pm each afternoon. Parents are asked not to queue before this time, to allow other cars to exit the carpark. At no time is parking permitted in the drop-off and pick-up zone.

Children should be collected by 3.30 pm, when supervision finishes.

On wet weather days, parents are asked to park cars and collect children from the classroom. This is to ensure the safety of children in wet weather.

School Uniforms

The school uniform, sports uniform and all accessories are available through McDonalds/Lowes stores which are located at Gungahlin. At the beginning of the year the class teacher will inform parents which days children are required to wear the school sport uniform.

The Community Council operates a Clothing Pool for pre-loved uniforms. Pre-loved items can be ordered by completing an order form available at the Front Office.

School uniform requirements:

Girls Summer Uniform	Boys Summer Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Standard ACT Catholic Schools Summer dress or Navy unisex cargo shorts and sky blue shirt with embroidered school logo. ▶ Navy fleece with embroidered school logo. ▶ White school socks (covering the ankles) ▶ Black leather shoes. ▶ Navy legionnaires hat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Navy unisex cargo shorts ▶ Short sleeve sky blue polo shirt with embroidered school logo. ▶ Navy fleece with embroidered school logo. ▶ White school socks (covering the ankles) ▶ Black leather shoes. ▶ Navy legionnaires hat.
Girls Winter Uniform	Boys Winter Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Canberra Catholic School Pinafore or navy unisex long pants. ▶ Navy blue stockings or socks. ▶ Sky blue skivvy; long sleeve sky blue polo shirt with embroidered school logo or sky blue blouse with peterpan collar ▶ Navy fleece with embroidered school logo. ▶ Navy legionnaires hat or navy beanie. ▶ Black school leather shoes (not canvas or jogger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Navy unisex long trousers. ▶ Navy socks. ▶ Long/short sleeve sky blue polo shirt with embroidered school logo. ▶ Navy fleece with embroidered school logo. ▶ Navy legionnaires hat or navy beanie. ▶ Black school leather shoes (not canvas or jogger Style)
Girls Sports Uniform	Boys Sports Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Good Shepherd sports polo shirt. <i>During winter a navy long sleeve t-shirt may be worn underneath the polo shirt.</i> ▶ Navy blue unisex shorts, navy blue netball skirt with sports briefs to match or navy Skorts. ▶ White socks (covering the ankles). ▶ Navy blue and emerald green tracksuit with embroidered school logo. ▶ Navy legionnaires hat or navy beanie. ▶ White sports shoes (no bright or fluorescent colours). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Good Shepherd sports polo shirt. <i>During winter a navy long sleeve t-shirt may be worn underneath the polo shirt.</i> ▶ Navy blue unisex shorts. ▶ White socks (covering the ankles). ▶ Navy blue and emerald green tracksuit with embroidered logo. ▶ Navy legionnaires hat or navy beanie. ▶ White sports shoes (no bright or fluorescent colours).

Sport

We are dedicated to maintaining a strong commitment to a sound sporting program. Children participate in weekly Physical Education activities. Sporting clinics, run by sporting clubs, are also conducted throughout the year. These clinics may include Cricket, Hockey, Tennis, Aussie Rules, Rugby League and Rugby Union and Soccer. Children from Kindergarten to Year 3 also participate in an intensive Learn to Swim Program during Term 4 each year.

At Good Shepherd, children participate in Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals during the year. Those children who achieve at a high level may be invited to compete in further levels of competition.

Good Shepherd School operates Netball and Cheerleading Clubs. Children are to register at the beginning of the school year.

The Arts and STEM

All students receive Arts and STEM lessons from specialist teachers.

Art lessons provide opportunities for students to gain greater understanding and accomplishment in the Arts and for students to appreciate the meanings and values that each of the creative arts offer. Music, and Drama are each explored in depth throughout the year in conjunction with the regular class program.

An opportunity exists for children to participate in Musical Tuition on a user pays basis. Musicorp independently bills parents if they have chosen for their child to be involved in this extra music program. For more information, please refer to www.musicorp.com.au.

STEM lessons cover content predominantly from the Science component of the Australian Curriculum. These lessons take place in our dedicated STEM room which affords the children the space and resources to have “hands on” interactive experiences.

Information and Communication Technologies

ICT is a deliberate focus at Good Shepherd. The school is committed to building a strong resource base in technology. All classes are frequently exposed to this essential element of modern education. Our student computer network is accessed from individual classrooms using i-pads, chrome books and interactive whiteboards.

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 are required to bring their own device (BYOD) for use at school each day. Information regarding this program is forwarded to the parents of Year 3 children during the semester prior to their entry into Year 4.

Kindergarten Information

Towards the end of Term 4, an Information and Orientation session is conducted for those enrolling in Kindergarten the following year. While the parents attend the meeting, the preschool children will join the Kindergarten teachers for their introduction to primary school.

The two seminars scheduled for 2019 Kindergarten enrolments will be held Tuesday, 13 November and Thursday, 29 November from 9.30 – 11.00am. Children and parents are required to attend **both** sessions.

Reporting and Assessment

Assessment in primary school occurs during the full school year. Every teacher continuously gathers information and makes judgements about his or her students' strengths, weaknesses, abilities, achievements and needs. Such assessment is used in planning future learning experiences.

Teachers use a range of assessment procedures, including:

- Personal reflection and goal setting;
- Recording observations of children's learning;
- Administration of progress tests;
- Anecdotal notes;
- Maintaining checklists;
- Analysis of work samples;
- NAPLAN (*National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy*) in Years 3 and 5;
- Specific screening.

Communication between teachers and parents is vital to the success of children. The following opportunities are available for Reporting and Communication:

Term 1:	Parent Information Night Parent Information Letter Parent/Teacher Interviews
Term 2:	Information Letters NAPLAN Testing Student Achievement Reports Opportunity for follow-up interviews
Term 3:	Information Letters NAPLAN Reports Learning Journey
Term 4:	Information Letters Student Achievement Reports Opportunity for follow-up interviews



Should you require additional communication outside this formal structure, please contact your child's teacher, via email: first name.surname@cg.catholic.edu.au

School Community Council

The School Community Council meets twice a term. (One meeting is closed and the other meeting scheduled in Week 8 is open to all members of the community). It has a major role to play in our school by:

- Providing a parent forum;
- Helping to build community;
- Developing partnerships between parents and teachers;
- Fundraising;
- Developing and maintaining the grounds;
- Discussing the management and distribution of funds;
- Assisting in Policy Development.

Curriculum Overviews

All curriculum taught at Good Shepherd is based on the Australian Curriculum with the exception of Religious Education. Refer to <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/parent-information/>

Religious Education

Religious Education is based on the Catholic Education guidelines *Treasures New and Old*. The curriculum is based around the following strands: Church in the World, Prayer and Celebration, Jesus and Discipleship, God and God's Creation.

English

The English curriculum has three strands: Language, Literature and Literacy. Incorporated in these are the elements of Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking. These are viewed as a whole, not separate subjects. Our understanding is that children learn by doing. We expect children to learn to read by reading and to write by writing. The underlying skills of phonics, spelling and grammar are taught in context.

Mathematics

The Mathematics curriculum content is divided into the strands of: Statistics and Probability, Measurement and Geometry, Number and Algebra. Mathematical teaching is primarily an inquiry approach, whereby children are involved in investigative scenarios related to the Maths concept.

Humanities and Social Sciences

In Humanities and Social Sciences we promote learning through the process of investigation, communication and participation. The Australian Curriculum areas of History, Geography and Civics and Citizenship are covered over the course of each year.

The Arts

Through the different areas of the Arts, children can exercise their imaginations and creatively explore and engage in different art forms. Instruction in Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts is provided at Good Shepherd

Technology

Each class has daily access to technology in its many and varied forms. The use of technology in our classrooms opens up endless opportunities for students to create, explore, construct and share. The ongoing purchase of i-pads and chrome books allows all children to engage with technology as a platform for learning.

The BYOD classes of Years 4, 5 and 6 use Google Apps to work collaboratively (and simultaneously) with their classmates and peers in other classrooms. Two over-arching rules for children with regards to using their devices are:

- When at school, my device is a tool, not a toy.
- When at school, my device is for education, not entertainment.

Safe on-line behaviour is expected. Children sign a contract at the beginning of Year 4 which clearly states the schools rules and expectations regarding the appropriate use of their device.

Science

The Science Curriculum leads children into the natural and constructed world and to search for explanations of natural phenomena. The Curriculum in Science has three interrelated strands: Science Understanding (*Biological, Chemical, Earth and Space and Physical Sciences*); Science as a Human Endeavour (*Nature and Development of Science and Influence of Science*) and Science Inquiry Skills (*Questioning and Predicting, Planning and Conducting, Processing and Analysing Data and Information, Evaluating and Communication*).

Health, Lifestyle, Sustainability and Physical Education

In Health and Physical Education children learn to develop positive attitudes about themselves and their bodies and to act in ways that will promote their all-round health. The principle strands of the syllabus include: Active Lifestyle, Dance, Games and Sports, Growth and Development, Gymnastics, Interpersonal Relationships, Personal Health Choices and Safe Living.



The Good Shepherd School Houses

The Sports Houses at Good Shepherd are named in honour of people who in one way or another have brought leadership, identity and connection to our community.

NOOLUP – Yellow and Orange

Written records tell us that the aboriginal elder Noolup was a great leader to his people. Noolup travelled across Ngunnawal country and beyond, establishing strong kinship ties across the region, earning deep respect. Good Shepherd School has been built on the land that was held sacred by Noolup and his people. It is with great pride that we named our first house Noolup in his honour, and use the colours of yellow and orange to signify the earth, and ochre, signifying the sand and bark, the earthy, natural colours of the environment in which he lived. Noolup's story teaches us the qualities we strive to develop in our own lives - a strong connection and relationship with the land and the people, and a sense that all things should be held sacred.

CAVANAGH – Green and White

Our school is built on land that was farmed by the Cavanagh family who came from Ireland about 150 years ago to start a new life here in Australia. The family grazed sheep and cattle and grew crops, caring and nurturing for the earth and tending God's creatures. The Cavanagh family was respected by local settlers as honest, hardworking and generous. We named our second school house Cavanagh in honour of this family who cared for this land before we built our school. Green and white have been chosen as the house colours to represent the pastures and the sheep's fleece. The Cavanagh's story teaches us the qualities we strive to develop in our own lives - to become people who are patient, brave and willing to endure hardship.

PATTERSON – Red and Black

As the city of Canberra changed and grew, farms gave way to the expanding city and suburbs crept further from the city. People like Father Bernie Patterson, our Foundation Parish Priest, moved to this area to welcome others, to nurture their spirits, to nourish their families and to share God's love with God's people. In the early days of our town development a small number of people assembled in the lounge room of a home in Palmerston to celebrate the first Sunday Mass, with Father Bernie saying that Mass. Holy Spirit, Good Shepherd, Mother Teresa Schools and St. John Paul II College are part of the Holy Spirit Parish and were begun with Father Bernie's vision and trust in God. So with great pride, we named our third house Patterson in Father Bernie's honour, using the colour red to symbolise the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Fr Bernie's story teaches us qualities we strive to develop in our own lives - to trust in our God who never stops loving us, and to open our lives to God's immeasurable love.

BRESCIA – Blue and Purple

In Italy almost 500 years ago, a girl named Angela Merici was born. As she grew, she was called by God to change the lives of people she met through teaching about Jesus' love. In a little town called Brescia she gathered a community of women who were later called the Ursuline Sisters. These great women worked among the local people and shared in the lives of their families. Angela taught about Jesus, and about God's great love for everyone. In our story here at Good Shepherd, Sr Genny Ryan and Sr Anne Cogle (who were Foundation Members of the Parish Team) together with the sisters of Angela Merici have travelled with us and blessed us with countless gifts. Their contribution to our school is beyond measure. We named our fourth house Brescia, the first place of St Angela's work. The vibrant colours of blue and purple are the colours for joy, hope and possibility. St Angela's story teaches us that God touches our lives in so many ways. We are challenged in turn to bless the lives of those who travel with us each day, especially those who are most in need of our compassion.