



Lakeside
COLLEGE

PRIMARY PROSPECTUS

January 2026

WELCOME

Welcome to Lakeside College Primary School, a vibrant learning community where Lutheran values meet diverse perspectives to create something truly special. As part of our Foundation to Year 12 College, our primary school offers your child the security of a continuous learning journey from their first day of school through to graduation.

Here, our young learners from families representing faiths and cultures from across the world come together in an environment grounded in love, service, compassion and excellence. We celebrate this rich diversity as one of our greatest strengths, knowing that when children learn alongside peers from different backgrounds and experiences, they develop the understanding and respect needed to thrive in our interconnected world.

At Lakeside, education is more than academic achievement. We see each child as unique, with their own gifts, talents and ways of learning. Our carefully crafted, progressive curriculum builds year upon year, combining explicit teaching with hands-on, project-based learning that connects to real-world experiences.

Through this multidimensional approach, we cultivate a culture where every child is free to flourish, growing into individuals who are relational, compassionate, adventurous and purposeful — equipped not just with knowledge, but with the skills, character and faith foundation to make a positive difference in their communities.

Whether your family shares our Lutheran heritage or comes from another faith tradition, you'll find a warm welcome here. We believe that within our Christian environment, all children can flourish as they develop into lifelong learners who strive for excellence while learning to serve and care for others.





Vision & Mission

Vision: To be a school of choice where each student, as a child of God, is known, valued and heard.

Mission: Within a Christian environment, we develop lifelong learners who strive for excellence, serve and care for others.

Values

Love

We create a nurturing environment where every child feels cherished and secure, knowing they belong to a caring community that celebrates their individuality.

Service

Through project-based learning, our faith and community connections, our students discover the joy of contributing to something greater than themselves, developing empathy and leadership through action.

Compassion

We approach each child with understanding and grace, recognising that learning journeys are unique and that mistakes are opportunities for growth.

Excellence

We maintain high expectations while meeting each student where they are, fostering personal best achievements in academics, character, and contribution to community.



Our Learning Approach

Impactful education happens when evidence-based practice meets innovative thinking. Our multidimensional approach combines the rigour of explicit teaching with the creativity and curiosity of project-based learning, ensuring your child develops both strong foundational skills and the ability to apply them in authentic, meaningful ways.

Through our human-centred design thinking approach to project-based learning, students tackle real-world challenges guided by driving questions. Each project is anchored by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, helping children understand from an early age that their learning can make a difference. Whether they're designing solutions for local community needs or exploring global challenges, our students discover that they are citizens not just of Pakenham, but of the world.

We design deep and lasting learning experiences at three levels:

- **Surface:** Building essential knowledge and skills
- **Deep:** Making connections and understanding relationships
- **Transfer:** Applying learning across different contexts and subjects

This approach ensures your child doesn't just remember facts for tests, but develops understanding and 21st century skills that they can use throughout life.

Our Learning Approach

At Lakeside, learning is never a secret. We believe students thrive when families, teachers, and children work together with shared understanding and common goals. Our continuous reporting approach means you're always informed about your child's journey:

- ✓ **Continuous Reporting:** Regular updates throughout the term keep you connected to your child's progress
- ✓ **Learning Conversations:** Multiple opportunities each year to meet with teachers, discuss progress, and set future learning goals
- ✓ **Student Voice:** Children actively participate in reflecting on their achievements and identifying areas for growth
- ✓ **Celebration of Growth:** We recognise and celebrate learning milestones, both big and small in our classrooms, assemblies and at our Celebration of Learning annual event

We believe that when everyone understands where a student's strengths lie and where opportunities for growth exist, we create a powerful partnership that supports each child to reach their full potential.

We recognise that learning accelerates when students know where they are, where they're going, and how to get there. Our built-in feedback systems ensure students constantly receive meaningful guidance to support their growth. Through carefully considered learning opportunities, educators and students work in partnership to ensure learning is meaningful and success is achieved.

This ongoing dialogue helps students understand their strengths, identify their next steps, and celebrate their progress.

Our Learning Approach

Technology as a Tool

Rather than technology for its own sake, we use digital tools purposefully as responsible stewards of modern resources. Interactive whiteboards are utilised throughout the College to support dynamic, collaborative learning.

In addition:

- iPads (Prep-Year 2) support creative expression and foundational learning.
- Chromebooks (Years 3-6) enable research, collaboration, and digital creation.

All technology use is guided by digital citizenship principles, teaching students to interact online with the same integrity, respect, and compassion we practice in person.

Support at Every Step

Reflecting our belief that every child is uniquely created and valued by God, our multi-tiered support system ensures no child is left behind. We are committed to knowing and nurturing each student through:

- Small group instruction for those needing extra help or extension
- Individual learning plans when needed
- Specialist support for learning differences
- Enrichment opportunities for students to extend their God-given abilities



Building Strong Foundations

We understand that creativity and innovation flourish when built on solid foundations. That's why we take a structured, progressive approach to core learning areas:

English Excellence

- Prep to Year 3: Little Learners Love Literacy program provides systematic phonics instruction, alongside language immersion experiences that support oral language development.
- Prep to Year 2: Targeted phonemic awareness programs build essential reading skills
- Year 4 to Year 6: Strongly developed language approach focusing on morphology and etymology
- Whole School: Text-based units and knowledge units deepen comprehension and vocabulary. These are supported by carefully considered rich, meaningful mentor texts that connect with project based learning units.
- Writing: Structured, explicit instruction helps every child find their voice that is connected to reading units
- Reading Fluency: All students engage in daily reading fluency practice that supports the automaticity of reading.

Mathematical Rigour

Our well-resourced and carefully developed mathematics program balances explicit instruction with open-ended, rich, collaborative inquiry tasks. Students don't just memorise processes and procedures but understand concepts deeply. Children learn to see themselves as mathematical thinkers who can approach problems with confidence and creativity.

Supported by hands-on learning experiences, students engage in daily practice of mathematical instruction that is supported by contemporary proven research.

Curriculum Framework

Lakeside College is committed to providing a comprehensive and rigorous educational program that prepares students for academic success and lifelong learning. From Prep through to Year 10, our curriculum is based on Version 9 of the Australian Curriculum. For students in Years 11 and 12, we follow the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) curriculum as outlined by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).

Curriculum Framework

In our Primary School, encompassing Prep to Year 6, students engage in a broad and balanced range of learning areas including Christian Studies, English, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, German, Mathematics, Science, Technologies, and The Arts (Music, Drama, and Visual Art). Our Christian Studies program follows the Christian Studies Curriculum Framework, encouraging students to explore questions of faith alongside their learning, in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Central to our educational approach is a focus on the seven general capabilities: Critical and Creative Thinking, Digital Literacy, Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding, Literacy, Numeracy, and Personal and Social Capability.

We also integrate the cross-curriculum priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia, and Sustainability. These capabilities and priorities are interconnected and woven throughout each learning area, with a greater emphasis in our Human Centered Design transdisciplinary units of Problem Based Learning.

Through these innovative learning experiences, students engage with real-world challenges that require them to draw upon multiple learning areas simultaneously, developing both subject-specific knowledge and the transferable skills needed to navigate our complex and interconnected world.



A Curriculum for Life

Our entire learning framework is built on a Christ-centered foundation, guiding how we nurture each child as a unique and loved creation of God. Guided by this Christian commitment, we craft a learning experience that is comprehensive, responsive, and shapes our approach from the Early Years through Primary School.

Early Years (Foundation to Year 2)

In Foundation to Year 2, we embrace play-based and hands on immersive experiences as ways for children to joyfully explore God's creation. These sit alongside explicit teaching, allowing children to develop oral language skills, build social confidence within a grace-filled community, and nurture their God given love of learning. With iPads as learning tools, even our youngest students begin developing digital literacy in age appropriate ways.



Primary Years (Years 3-6)

Years 3-6 see students taking greater ownership of their learning journey, viewing it as a stewardship of their God given talents. With Chromebooks supporting their work, they engage in increasingly complex projects while continuing to strengthen core academic skills. Students set personal learning goals and reflect on their progress, developing the self-awareness and agency needed to grow into the people God created them to be, ready for a life of learning and service.

Living our Lutheran Heart

Faith in Action

As an expression of our Christ-centered ethos, we practice faith in action. Each semester, every class engages in service learning projects. Following Christ's example of servant leadership, students discover they can create change through:

- Advocacy and raising awareness
- Research and investigation
- Direct action in our community
- Supporting causes beyond our borders

From Foundation students caring for our school environment as stewards of creation to Year 6 students leading fundraising campaigns, children learn that service and compassion are not just values we talk about, but practices we live out as reflections of God's love.

Faith Formation

Anchoring our Christian focus is our dedication toward Faith Formation. Our Christian Studies program, daily devotions, and weekly chapel services provide a relational framework for spiritual growth. These experiences help students explore life's big questions through the lens of the Gospel, develop moral understanding, and appreciate the faith traditions that shape our community, both Lutheran and the diverse beliefs welcomed in our school family.



Wellbeing & Relationships

Nurturing the Whole Child

At Lakeside, we know that children learn best when they feel safe, valued, and connected. Our comprehensive wellbeing program weaves through everything we do.

Building Social and Emotional Skills

Our carefully crafted social skills program is both proactive and protective. We don't wait for problems to arise - we actively teach children how to:

- Build and maintain friendships
- Manage emotions and resolve conflicts
- Develop resilience and coping strategies
- Show empathy and respect for others
- Stand up for themselves and others with confidence

A Culture of Mutual Respect

In our diverse community, children learn that differences are to be celebrated, not merely tolerated. Through daily interactions with peers from various cultural and faith backgrounds, students develop the intercultural understanding essential for success in our interconnected world.

Partnership with Families

We believe education is most powerful when home and school work together. We welcome parent and community involvement through:

- Regular opportunities to support classroom learning
- Celebrations of learning where students showcase their projects
- Open communication channels between teachers and families
- Community events that bring our whole school family together



Wellbeing & Relationships

Restorative Practices

We firmly believe in and employ a restorative practices approach to community wellbeing. We understand that times of conflict and challenge are not setbacks, but pivotal learning moments for exploration. When difficulties arise, our response is guided by grace, compassion, and a genuine desire to understand. This approach moves beyond punishment, focusing instead on repairing relationships and fostering accountability, ensuring every student learns to navigate complex social situations with integrity and empathy.

Positive Behaviour: Fostering a Culture of RISE

Alongside our restorative approach, we utilise Lakeside College Positive Behaviour Support (LCPBS) to promote a positive, safe, and inclusive learning community. This methodology is built on the establishment of proactive social skills and the consistent reinforcement of these same skills, ensuring a common dialogue across the College. By encouraging all students to be confident and capable learners, this approach empowers them to RISE, with a focus on Resilience, Integrity, Service, and Empathy. Student excellence and commitment to each of these attitudes are celebrated weekly at our Flag ceremonies with certificates and public recognition.

A Place to Belong

A vibrant part of our College identity is our House System, which provides a key source of connection and belonging, reflecting our belief in a supportive Christian community. Every student joins one of our four houses - Bunurong (Red), Hessel (Yellow), Jamieson (Green), and Toomuc (Blue). Throughout the year, these houses build fellowship and across-school partnerships during major celebration events, such as sports carnivals and cultural activities. The House system is a wonderful way to develop strong bonds between students across different cultures and age groups, fostering a spirited and encouraging community built on shared values.

Enriching Experiences

Our comprehensive co-curricular program provides authentic experiences that deepen learning, build character, and create memories that last a lifetime.

Specialist Programs:

Every week, your child will enjoy specialist classes taught by dedicated expert teachers:

- **German:** Opening windows to other cultures and developing language skills in our interconnected world
- **Digital Technologies:** Building computational thinking, coding skills, and digital creativity
- **Sport:** Developing fitness, teamwork, and sporting excellence
- **Music:** Exploring rhythm, melody, and musical expression
- **Art:** Unleashing creativity through diverse media and artistic techniques
- **Food Technology (Year 6):** Building essential life skills in nutrition, food preparation, and kitchen safety as they prepare for secondary school



Physical Education & Sport Programs

We believe physical activity is essential for healthy development:

- **Prep to Year 2:** Weekly Fundamental Motor Skills program building coordination, balance, and confidence
- **Years 3-6:** Weekly group sport sessions developing teamwork and skills across various sports
- **Years 5-6:** Opportunities to represent Lakeside in interschool competitions
- **Swimming Program:** Building water confidence and essential safety skills
- **Annual Sports Events:** Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals where every child participates and personal bests are celebrated

Enriching Experiences



Adventures in Learning: Our Community as Campus Program

We believe learning extends far beyond the classroom walls. To complement learning in their programs, each year level runs individualised incursions and excursions. A highlight of this is our progressive camping program, which builds independence and resilience:

Year 1: After School BBQ

Year 2: School Sleepover

Year 3: Mill Valley Christian Camp, Tynong

Year 4: Burnside Christian Camp, Anglesea

Year 5: Sovereign Hill, Ballarat

Year 6: Canberra

Our Kitchen Garden Program

In our thriving Kitchen Garden, students get their hands dirty while learning valuable lessons about sustainability and nutrition. From planting seeds to harvesting vegetables, children experience the full cycle of food production while developing responsibility and environmental stewardship.

A Living Library Culture

Weekly library visits nurture a love of reading and research skills. Every student participates in the Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge, with access to extensive physical and digital collections through Wheeler's eBooks and Worldbook online resources.

Creative & Performing Arts

The arts flourish at Lakeside through:

Instrumental Music Program: Individual lessons available

Annual School Production: Children from Year 5 - Year 12 have the opportunity to shine on stage

Art Festival: Celebrating creativity and showcasing student talents

Active Participation

Celebrating Our Community

Throughout the year, these special events bring our community together:

- **Harmony Day:** Celebrating our multicultural community
- **National Simultaneous Storytime:** All students in the Primary School read the same book that millions of other children in Australia read on the same day
- **Book Week:** Bringing stories to life through dress-ups and activities
- **Meet the Writer:** Showcasing our wonderful author's works
- **Science Week:** Hands-on experiments and discoveries
- **Health & PE Week:** Promoting active, healthy lifestyles
- **Reconciliation Week:** Learning from and with our First Nations peoples
- **Wellbeing Days and Festival:** Focusing on mental health and resilience
- **Christian Celebrations:** Pancake Day, Lent, Easter, and Christmas services
- **Student Lead Spirit Days:** Crazy Hair, Twins Day, Footy Colours Day.



Active Parent Community

Our Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA) enriches school life through:

- Special lunch days and fundraising events
- Community building activities
- Support for school programs and resources
- Volunteer opportunities that strengthen our school family

If you are interested in supporting our school community through PTFA, please reach out to Student Services. New members are always welcomed.

Learning in Classrooms - Foundation

A Journey of Inquiry and Action

Our Foundation program at Lakeside College is grounded in inquiry and real-world problem-solving. Throughout the year, our youngest students engage with exciting, transdisciplinary projects guided by compelling questions that connect deeply with the Australian Curriculum.

Their journey begins with a focus on our immediate community, as students become "Lakeside problem solvers," exploring how we can help all people feel a true sense of belonging at our College. This curiosity then expands outwards, transforming them into "curious learners" who seek out and celebrate the local heroes within our wider community.

A central theme of the Prep year is developing a heart for service and stewardship. Students investigate their role as "caretakers of the world," questioning how they can use their knowledge to care for God's creations. This culminates in practical action, as they learn not only how to take care of our environment but also how to passionately inspire others to help them in this vital work. This inquiry-based approach fosters empathy, critical thinking, and a sense of purpose from the very first day of school.



Learning in Classrooms – Year 1

Investigating Our World

In Year 1, students transition from community helpers to active investigators of the wider world. Their learning is propelled by deep inquiries that challenge them to observe, analyse, and make a tangible difference.

The year is marked by a significant investigation into the natural world, asking: "How can we observe, investigate and solve problems to help animals in our local community to survive and thrive?" This project-based inquiry sees students exploring what living things need to survive, researching local wildlife, and understanding the services in our community that support animals, from domestic pets to native creatures. Through literacy, science, and play-based learning, they become passionate advocates for our environment.

This care for living things extends to their own wellbeing as they tackle the question, "How can we help the community live healthy and safe lives?" Students dive into health education, learn the science of growing their own food, and understand the life cycles of plants, empowering them to make positive choices for themselves and others. Finally, Year 1 students look to the past to understand their place in the present, guided by the question, "How can we preserve our present for the future generations?" They explore history, technology, and changes in society, discovering how our past shapes our future and how their actions today can create a lasting legacy.

Learning in Classrooms – Year 2

From Identity to Global Action

The Year 2 journey is one of expansive thinking, where students explore their own identity to find their place in the world. Their inquiry begins with the foundational questions, "Who am I?" and "How can I develop a view of being Australian on Earth?" This exploration of self quickly broadens to our planet and beyond as they investigate Earth and Space Science, learning about our solar system and the human impacts on our environment, all while considering how to care for a sustainable future.

This global perspective builds a deep sense of empathy and responsibility. Students are challenged to consider: "How can we help others in our community and world to thrive instead of just survive?" This question launches powerful inquiries into real-world issues.

Students become creators, designers, and problem-solvers as they investigate ways to support people in need, from those in a human crisis to individuals with different abilities. They use Design Technology and Health studies to explore innovative solutions, such as how to make sound more accessible for all, transforming their growing knowledge into compassionate action that makes a genuine difference.

Learning in Classrooms – Year 3

Community, Nation, and World

In Year 3, students deepen their understanding of connection and belonging, moving from personal identity to their role within a diverse society. The year is anchored by the question, "How might we as Lakeside Christians build and support respectful communities?" This inquiry launches a rich investigation into Civics and Citizenship, where students explore their place within their community and what it means to contribute positively to an equal society.

This sense of belonging expands to a national and global scale. Students investigate Australia's unique identity, its significant geographical locations, and its Indigenous history. Their perspective then broadens to our closest neighbours, examining the cultures and links that connect Australia to the wider Asia-Pacific region.

This geographical and cultural awareness is paired with a significant scientific inquiry: "How can we as scientists understand the importance of change to help us think and act sustainably as global citizens?" Students delve into biological, chemical, and earth sciences, classifying animals, exploring habitats, and investigating why Australian animals are at risk. They are challenged to become inventive problem-solvers, discovering how scientific understanding can help us care for our world and make it a better place.

Learning in Classrooms – Year 4

Understanding Complex Systems

Year 4 marks a pivotal shift towards understanding the complex systems that shape our society and world. Students embark on a significant historical inquiry, examining the causes and profound impacts of First Contacts on Australia. This deep understanding of our past provides the foundation for exploring our present, as students ask: "What defines a healthy community, and how can we create environments that promote physical, mental, and social well-being for all citizens?"

This inquiry into community and citizenship expands to a global scale. Students tackle the critical balance between human progress and environmental stewardship, asking: "How can we balance economic growth with the need to preserve natural resources and protect biodiversity?" This is paired with a critical look at the forces shaping our modern world, as they investigate how technology has changed the way we live, work, and communicate, and its effects on people from their local community to the wider world.

Learning in Classrooms – Year 5

Connecting Past, Present, and Global Responsibility

The Year 5 program challenges students to connect their local history to their present and future responsibilities as active citizens. Their inquiry begins with a deep dive into state history, asking, "How has the past influenced and impacted our modern society in Victoria?" This exploration of migration, influential figures, and societal change provides the context for a major investigation into Civics and Citizenship: "How can we, as responsible Australians, better understand how to be 'active citizens'?" Students explore Australia's democratic processes, including state and local government, while also considering their role in supporting people from developing nations.

This global perspective is broadened through Geography, as students are challenged to "better understand and appreciate our place in the world and our resources." They investigate the diverse physical and cultural characteristics of places, both in Australia and globally. This culminates in a powerful scientific and environmental inquiry into how we can "live well within our natural environment and help other creatures to thrive." Students use their knowledge of Earth Science, from states of matter to weathering, erosion, and our changing climate, to understand their place within God's creation and their responsibility to care for it.

Learning in Classrooms – Year 6

Leadership, Legacy, and Global Action

As the leaders of the primary school, Year 6 students focus on putting their learning into meaningful, real-world action. Their entire year is framed by the challenge: "How might we, as Lakeside Leaders, positively contribute toward the learning and wellbeing of others in our community?" This is not just a question, but a call to service, which they explore through Health, Christian Studies, and active citizenship. They also look backward to look forward, acting as "Lakeside Historians" to preserve the stories of the past to inform the future.

This leadership role extends to global responsibility. Students investigate how to make informed choices that reduce their environmental impact, drawing on their knowledge of Earth Science and Geography. This culminates in a significant philanthropic project where they act as "philanthropists," planning and running fundraiser stalls to provide financial support for impoverished communities. The Year 6 program is a capstone experience, empowering students to use their skills in history, economics, and science to become compassionate and effective leaders.



Inclusive Education

Inclusive Education at Lakeside College allows for the coordination, service and provision of learning support for students. It is relevant to all students and of particular importance to those with specific identified needs.

Our approach at Lakeside College is founded on the belief that every child has the ability to reach their developmental potential underpinned by equitable and inclusive practices.

Inclusive Education

The individual differences of students, their strengths and challenges, are recognised and acknowledged through the provision of individualised or modified programs. Individual differences may relate to students who need support in their learning by a specialist teacher or students who need to be further challenged and enriched in their learning.

The Director of Individual Differences assists staff to plan how they will cater for the individual needs of students in a supportive and caring environment. Student Support Officers may provide resource support, classroom support or withdrawal support, either individually or in a small group according to needs identified.

Intervention Programs

Lakeside College runs a rigorous, progressive integration MultiLit program with specialised personnel to support literacy learning. Students who are part of this program work in small groups external to the classroom to receive this targeted instruction.

In addition to this literacy support, we have also developed a dedicated Early Years Numeracy Intervention program to support learners.



Transition & Pathways

We understand that transitions are pivotal moments in your child's educational journey. Our comprehensive transition programs ensure every student feels confident, prepared, and excited about their next steps.

Starting School: Our Extended Prep Transition Program

Beginning school is a milestone we handle with exceptional care.

Our extended transition program includes:

Four Comprehensive Orientation Sessions (Term 4)

- Progressive introduction to classroom routines
- Building friendships with future classmates
- Familiarisation with school environment
- Fun learning activities that build excitement



Pre-Transition Support

- Kindergarten Visits: Our teachers visit local kindergartens to observe children in familiar settings and consult with early childhood educators
- Principal Interviews: Every family meets with our College Principal before enrolment, ensuring we understand your child's unique needs and your family's expectations
- Inclusive Education Support: Our Individual Differences Director meets with families of children with additional needs to ensure appropriate support from day one

Home Learning

At Lakeside College, we view Home Learning as a positive and balanced partnership between school and home. Our goal is to consolidate classroom learning, build lifelong learning habits, and help students develop responsibility for their own progress, all in an age-appropriate way. We firmly believe that after school time is also essential for play, rest, and family connection.

The most important home learning activity for every student is daily reading, as directed by their classroom teacher. For students in Years 1 to 6, this may be supplemented with short, focused tasks, such as phonics or spelling practice and other revision activities. We place a strong emphasis on the time allocated for these tasks, not just their completion. We encourage parents to help their child stick to the recommended time, ensuring home learning remains a manageable and positive experience that supports, rather than overwhelms, your child.





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