



Transition of Year 7 to Endeavour College

School Councils have agreed that from the beginning of 2016, Golden Grove Lutheran, St Paul Lutheran and Good Shepherd Lutheran will become R-6 schools and Endeavour College will educate students from Years 7-12.



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Frequently Asked Questions

The LENS partner schools are excited by the enhanced educational opportunities facilitated by the move of Year 7 students onto the Endeavour College campus in 2016. The educational landscape in Australia has entered an unprecedented phase of national cooperation. The impact of emerging technologies, the Australian Curriculum, national testing, new funding models and teachers with a greater understanding than ever before of the way students learn, equates to real potential for improved student outcomes. Inherent in the national initiatives is the assumption that Year 7 students are located in secondary environments. The research data supports this position. From 2015 South Australia will be the only state where some Year 7s are still located in stand-alone primary schools. As Lutheran schools, we are called to serve our communities by providing excellent education. The LENS schools recognise that best practice in Year 7 education is now assisted by the secondary school environment.

Why are Year 7 students better suited to secondary environments?

Around 60% of LENS students currently celebrate their 13th birthdays while still in primary school. There is a significant difference in the educational and social needs of these young people and those of a student in Reception. The gap is less between preteens and Year 12s. Recent brain research has also provided new insights into the extraordinary degree of brain development occurring in early adolescence. Secondary and middle schools engaging in educational programs directed at the years of early adolescence have proven to be most successful in providing the challenging but supported environments which best suit the needs of these students. Facilities, specialist teachers, older student role modelling, extension possibilities and increased opportunity for creating connections through diverse co-curricular programs all contribute to the capacity of secondary schools to deliver the best possible outcomes for emerging adolescents. The new Australian Curriculum recognises this, and works on the assumption that Year 7 students will have access to specialist facilities that are generally only available in secondary and purpose built middle schools.

Can Endeavour College provide the appropriate facilities and services for my Year 7 child?

Endeavour College already has a range of specialist facilities and services; Science laboratories, Performing and Visual Arts spaces, Design and Technology, Language studies, Adaptive Education, ICT and Physical Education facilities, all staffed by qualified specialist teachers to enhance the core learning program. Strong pastoral care structures – home class teachers, a student counsellor, youth worker and school Pastor help ensure that the well-being of all



students is nurtured. Co-curricular opportunities in music, sport, pedal pux, performing arts, worship, village events, clubs and community service provide students with additional stimulus. In addition, experienced middle school educators will be added to the Endeavour staff team and new purpose built facilities will accommodate the cohort. These provide the capacity to incorporate the spaces required for best practice learning – spaces which enhance collaborative learning, flexible teaching arrangements, access to technology, and group interaction. The introduction of a mobile ICT device for students in Years 7-9 is also planned.

What will happen during the transition years 2015-2016?

The 2012 Year 3 cohort will be the first group of Year 7 students to attend Endeavour College. The LENS schools are conscious that the rites of passage associated with senior primary in 2015 and junior secondary in 2016 will need to be appropriately redefined for the new circumstances. Staff at individual sites will ensure that each cohort of students has the leadership and other opportunities that families have come to expect in the final year of primary school and the first year of secondary school.

What are the financial implications?

For the years 2016-2019 (during which time all current R-3 students will move through to Year 7) the Year 7 tuition fee will be 70% of the Year 8 tuition fee. The precise figure for 2016 is not yet known, but as a comparison, 70% of the Year 8 fee in 2013 would have been \$4,690 per annum. The ICT levy, camps and excursions will continue to be charged in addition to the tuition fee. The introduction of a mobile ICT device will also incur an associated cost. The existing sibling, LENS and special remission guidelines will remain unchanged.

What if I wasn't planning to send my child to Endeavour College for secondary school?

Some students will only attend Endeavour College in Year 7. Families in this situation will be supported through measures such as buy back schemes for uniform and hire arrangements for ICT devices. Until such time as Year 7 is part of the government secondary school sector in South Australia, Endeavour College will continue to have a formal intake at Year 8 in order to facilitate movement in and out of the College at this point.

How can I prepare my child for the transition to Year 7 at Endeavour College?

By the time they get to Year 6, our Year 7 cohorts from 2016 and beyond will be looking forward to the adventure of being with their friends from all the LENS schools at the Endeavour College campus for Year 7. In the interim, it is important that students feel secure and receive positive messages about the extended opportunities available to them. Reassure your child that they will be known and cared for in the new environment – this is part of the core culture of Lutheran schools. Focus on the new opportunities and take a tour of the College so that it is familiar. Recent data collected from LENS primary students revealed that their transition fears centred on organisational concerns, including finding their way around, finding lockers and classrooms, and knowing what books to take to class. The same students surveyed a few months into their time at Endeavour College reported that the majority of these concerns proved groundless or were relieved within the first few weeks. Orientation activities will be tailored to the younger cohort and will ensure that students make connections even before they arrive at Endeavour College.



Salisbury Lutheran Kindergarten (Kindergarten)
 10 Waterloo Corner Rd
Salisbury 5108
Director: Jenny Schapel
T: 8258 8070
E: kindy@slk.lca.org.au



Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School (Primary)
 Sunnybrook Dr
Wynn Vale 5127
Principal: Daryl Trigg
T: 8282 6000
E: office@goldengrove.sa.edu.au
W: www.goldengrove.sa.edu.au



Good Shepherd Lutheran School (Primary)
 388 Montague Rd
Para Vista 5093
Principal: David Wilksch
T: 8264 7966
E: admin@gspv.sa.edu.au
W: www.gspv.sa.edu.au



St Paul Lutheran School (Primary)
 44 Audrey Ave
Blair Athol 5084
Principal: Andrew Messenger
T: 8260 2655
E: admin@stpaulba.sa.edu.au
W: www.stpaulba.sa.edu.au



Endeavour College (Secondary)
 85 Mawson Lakes Blvd
Mawson Lakes 5095
Principal: Heather Vogt
T: 8368 3311
E: admin@endeavour.sa.edu.au
W: www.endeavour.sa.edu.au

Where can I go to ask further questions and be kept informed?

All of the LENS Principals welcome questions from existing and potential families and appreciate the chance to discuss your individual circumstances. A transition committee comprising the Principal and a Council representative from each LENS school continues to oversee the work taking place at the individual sites in order to ensure a smooth and effective transition to the new model. Further details will be periodically communicated to the LENS community as they become available.



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