

At the heart of your  
child's education

Prospectus



Star of the Sea  
SCHOOL



Open Hearts and  
Open Minds





We believe that from the moment of birth, children are searching for knowledge and meaning, seeking to understand their world and finding meaningful relationships within it. That's what your child will experience at Star of the Sea School at Henley Beach.

# Welcome to the Star of the Sea prospectus and our school.

I hope it provides you with an insight into all that makes our school an outstanding and vibrant learning community.

For more than 100 years, Star of the Sea School has been a vital part of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish. Established by the Sisters of Mercy, the school began as a small Catholic school serving the needs of families in the western suburbs of Adelaide.

From our inception and under the guidance of the Mercy Sisters the school has pursued a policy of responsible management, strong parental involvement and recognition in the community of Henley Beach. The pioneering spirit and dedication of the sisters and their tradition of care, awareness of social justice and the value of the individual, have become a legacy for future generations of staff, students and parents.

At Star of the Sea, your child and family will be welcomed into a community that values quality learning, success and relationships that are based on trust, respect and cooperation.

At Star of the Sea, our culture of authentic learning flourishes in partnership with our community. We have a deep regard for the unique beach environment at our doorstep.

Our school motto, 'Open Hearts and Open Minds' arises from the belief that children learn best in a loving, caring environment where encouragement, support and nurture, build on a natural curiosity and a desire to learn. The result of this experience is that Star of the Sea

students are empowered by their education to effectively contribute to, and constructively change the society in which they live.

With Jesus at the centre of our teaching and learning we are aware of the need to be constantly evolving to meet the contemporary needs of our community. We respect each person's uniqueness and strive to develop an awareness of our responsibilities to those in need. Our school has maintained its reputation through an open approach to decision making and a commitment to excellence in all our endeavours.

Deciding which school to choose for your child is a major decision, and one of the best ways is to see our school in action. A tour of the school can be arranged where you can ask questions, meet a member of our leadership team and see for yourself how Star of the Sea School can help your child flourish and become the person you know they can be.

I am very proud to lead the Star of the Sea community and I warmly invite you to become a part of this wonderful school.



Kind regards,  
**Joe De Tullio - Principal**





discover

An environment built on a natural curiosity and a desire to learn.





We are a Catholic school that welcomes over 510 children and their families.

curiosity

# Our school

We are a school whose children are curious, competent and capable learners. Our children bring with them the unique identities of their family and in sharing their history, culture, values, thoughts, ideas and opinions, they make our school what it is; a warm, welcoming, safe place of challenge and wonder.



## Our values

We are a strong Catholic community and we constantly look for ways we can put our faith into action. Our school is built on the core values of respect, inclusivity, compassion, collaboration and honesty.

We support our families as the first and foremost educators of their child's faith development, and in partnership with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish at Henley Beach, all students participate in Religious Education lessons and sacramental programs that develop their understanding of who they are and their relationship with God.

As a school we acknowledge God's presence in our lives and celebrate liturgies each term within class and in whole school celebrations. We invite our wider community, parents and caregivers to share in all liturgical celebrations, building a strong foundation for our Eucharistic community to flourish.

## Our vision

Our vision paves the way for our education for the 21st century but also draws from our history and tradition.

At Star of the Sea we guide our learners to be self managed, innovative and critical thinkers who have a strong sense of who they are and their relationship in their world. We value the skills necessary to build meaningful relationships and to be connected to their learning. We encourage our learners to question, explore and discover so they actively contribute to a more compassionate society.

## Our history

In just over 100 years, our school evolved from a small convent to a vibrant 21st century learning community with contemporary, modern facilities and resources.

Our school was opened by the Sisters of Mercy in December 1912 on the site of the present school's playing area. Ten students began on the first day in a small cottage known as 'Star of the Sea'.

On February 16, 1922 Archbishop Spence laid the foundation stone for the convent and by 1960 the number of students had grown to 300.

In 1986 we became a Parish Primary School for boys and girls and today we have expanded from ten students to 510 students and their families who are an integral part of the Henley Beach Catholic community.



# Our curriculum

At Star of the Sea, we are strongly committed to providing the best education for your child. Fundamental principles that underpin learning at Star of the Sea include relationships, connected learning, innovative thinking, identity and a commitment to formative, engaging, life-long and life-wide learning.



## How your child will learn

At Star of the Sea, we encourage teaching practices that are well researched and that are flexible, innovative and creative so that we can cater for the different learning styles and needs of each student. We desire to develop self-directed, self-motivated learners who are encouraged to question, explore and discover using an inquiry approach to learning.

Your child will learn to collaborate with others, find answers and propose new ways of thinking as they build their knowledge and understanding.

## What your child will learn

Star of the Sea School is situated in a unique beach setting and provides an exceptional educational experience for boys and girls from Reception to Year 6.

We believe that curriculum must be holistic and meaningful; this means we seek ways to support the academic, spiritual, physical, and the social and emotional development of all our children.

The Australian Curriculum provides a framework for our teaching and learning. It outlines the key elements of what young Australians should learn as they progress through their primary schooling and into high school. It is the foundation of their learning, growth and active participation as productive members of society.

## Curriculum Areas

- Religion
- English
- Mathematics
- HASS (History, Social Studies and Geography)
- Languages (Italian)
- The Arts (Music, Art, Drama)
- Health
- Physical Education

## General Capabilities

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- ICT capability
- Critical and creative thinking
- Personal and Social capability
- Ethical understanding
- Intercultural understanding

## Cross-Curriculum Priorities

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait histories and culture
- Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia
- Sustainability





explore

We encourage an understanding of global awareness in an ever changing world.



# Curriculum areas

## Religious Education

Students are invited into a living encounter with the beliefs, values, symbols, rituals, faith and community of the Catholic Church. Our Religious Education is an experience of Church that is authentic and life-giving. Prayer and Liturgical celebrations are a vibrant part of our faith education. As they develop their beliefs, live and celebrate their faith, your child will develop a strong sense of social awareness and understanding that all human beings are loved by God and therefore are a vital member of the world community.

## Mathematics

Mathematics at Star of the Sea is designed to be a dynamic and engaging, with numeracy skills that will enrich and empower their lives.

The curriculum focus is on developing mathematical proficiencies in understanding, reasoning, fluency and problem solving skills, as well as helping students to develop the ability to creatively apply their understanding in efficient ways.

The Australian Curriculum content strands for Mathematics are Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability.

## Science

The Science Program at Star of the Sea has been developed with the knowledge that our students need an understanding of science to make sense of their world. Your child will study physical sciences, chemical sciences, biological sciences and Earth and space sciences.

## English

English is a rich language that forms the basis for all communication in our country. Your child will engage with English, and develop a love of language and literacy. This includes listening, reading, viewing, speaking and writing. Literacy is the ability to understand and to use language in appropriate spoken, written and visual forms for different contexts, purposes and audiences.

Students engage in activities that support their growing understanding and use of Australian English. In English, students will read, communicate, create, reflect and think critically about a range of fictional, factual, non-print and multimodal texts from diverse cultures. Your child will be exposed to a broad range of literature including novels, poetry, plays, films, picture books, short stories and magazines.

## HASS

Through studies of History, Social Studies and Geography, students will be able to develop the skills, knowledge and values which will enable them to participate in a variety of different ways as ethical, active and informed citizens in a democratic society, within a global community, in an ever-changing world.

The HASS studies area aims to develop in all students a knowledge and appreciation of societies, locally, nationally and globally; of changing environments and systems; and of interactions between environments and societies. Students will also learn about cultural diversity, and the different perspectives people have, and the emerging forms of new knowledge, technologies and demographic patterns in the world.

Through a variety of pedagogical experiences, your child will be encouraged to be a critical thinker and to positively and effectively participate in their school, community and wider world.



# knowledge



## The Arts

The Arts include music, dance, drama, media and visual arts. In all areas, students learn to discuss the art form and to express opinions about it.

The Visual Arts Program allows Star of the Sea students to explore their ideas through a variety of art forms, developing experience in the areas of drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, textiles, puppetry, construction, mixed media, poster and theatre art. Students have the opportunity to explore their own artistic choices while being exposed to a variety of artworks and techniques from artists and other cultures both past and present. The children are also encouraged to critically reflect and respond to art works. They have opportunities to share their art, become involved in art competitions and contribute to school celebrations such as liturgies, assemblies, art displays, Book Week, and the school Art Exhibition.

The Visual Arts Program is part of the integrated school curriculum and makes links with other subject areas such as the Religion, HASS, Science and Literacy Programs.

At Star of the Sea school we are well known in the community for our wonderful and varied Music Program. The students are exposed to many musical experiences through singing, listening, playing, moving, creating, performing, reflecting and enjoying. Students are also encouraged to perform for a variety of audiences, beginning with class performances and leading to large performances to the greater community. The provision of live performances as a feature of the program greatly enhances the musical experience.

## Design and Technology

We want our children to build on their knowledge of past and present technology and we inspire them to design for the future.

Science, technology, mathematical learning areas and engineering

are utilised in a cross-disciplinary approach to learning that develops the skills of collaborative problem solving, creative thinking and critical analysis.

## Languages – Italian

At Star of the Sea all students have the opportunity to learn Italian and experience one of the oldest cultures in the world.

## Physical Education

Our Physical Education focuses on inclusion and fun, but it's also about challenge and developing healthy habits that will last a lifetime.

## The Marine Discovery Centre

The world-class Marine Discovery Centre allows our students to learn first-hand about their marine environment and ocean conservation. Our students take part in Marine Studies lessons and beach trial as a component of the Science curriculum, and other schools visit the MDC to take advantage of our unique facility.





# happiness

Your child will develop more than their academic ability.

We believe that children learn best in a caring, accepting environment and we provide a range of support programs for them, both in and beyond the classroom.



# Supporting your child's development

At Star of the Sea, your child will learn life skills through sport, music and extra-curricular activities. Their understanding of compassion through social justice will hold them in good stead for the rest of their lives. We encourage all of our children to develop the concepts responsibility and positive self-image as a member of a caring community.



## Inclusive Education and Learning Assistance

We have a strong emphasis on early intervention for students who need some additional support with the learning program and time in class, whether that is help with reading, speech pathology, occupational therapy or those students with special disabilities.

## School Counsellor

At Star of the Sea we know that social and emotional well-being leads to happiness and success.

While classroom teachers guide and support all students with day to day issues, such as friendship issues, anxiety, relationships and more; our school counsellor provides a more specialised support to students and parents, and can include issues such as family change and grief. The support is provided in consultation with teachers, parents and leadership. Students can self-refer or be referred by teachers or parents.

## Library Resource Centre

The Library Resource Centre is an integral part of the school's daily life. It is an accessible learning environment where students, staff and the wider community are welcome, valued and assisted with their information needs.

All classes are provided with opportunities for formal borrowing.

Book talks and readings are provided to develop a love of literature and a culture of reading in the school. Students are trained in Library skills and provided with opportunities to be voluntary library assistants. They work in the Library at lunchtimes to assist younger students with book borrowing, reading stories and organising games.

## Beyond the classroom

### Performance Music

Our school has extremely strong Music and Choir Programs. One in two children from Years 3 to 6 learn an instrument at school and have the chance to play in our concert bands, ensembles, rock band and the school choir which also performs at concerts, Expressive Arts nights and the Catholic Schools Music Festival.

### Sport

Star of the Sea school has a strong history and commitment to sport.

We have teams in traditional sports such as soccer, football and netball, but also a range of other sports to teach a variety of physical and team skills. Our school has a strong swimming tradition and we hold our own Swimming Carnival and Sports Day every year, as well as participating in inter-school competitions for swimming, athletics and other mainstream sports.

### Beach activities

Henley Beach is integrated into our school life. We use the beach often for lessons – and other learning opportunities. We are committed to teaching our children about their responsibility to protect our marine environment and we use Marine Discovery Centre to help us in this process.

# Our community

## Star of the Sea is a vibrant school community that is more than just a learning environment.

The heart of our school beats with the contributions of our families.

We acknowledge the family as valuable and critical to our work, and respect the uniqueness of the individuals who make up our school community, from parents and siblings to grandparents and significant others.



### The highlights of our community

#### At Star of the Sea School we are a community that offers:

- An enthusiastic, experienced staff committed to quality education.
- A desire to foster in our children a love of learning in a fun and happy environment.
- A wide range of curriculum and extra curricular offerings.
- A Parents and Friends group that is strong, active and supportive of their school and other families.
- Pastoral and financial assistance for families in need.
- Before and After School Care on the school grounds that also offers Vacation Care on site.

- Playgroup which is held in partnership with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish.
- Little Stars transition to school program. Children preparing to start school are invited to attend our Little Stars Group. Places are offered to children who have been accepted for enrolment at Star of the Sea.
- Star Outreach – a group that assists with links between our school and the wider community, including coffee mornings, Grandparents Day and School masses.
- Technology-rich facilities that also teach the responsibility of cyber safety.

### Parent involvement

Parents are the first and most significant influence in the lives of their children. We work in partnership with you to support your child through their early years of development.

We welcome the involvement of our families in the life of our school. It is your connection, support, energy and ideas that assist your school to develop and grow – whether that is through the decision-making and governance of the School Board or sharing in our community-wide events or sport.

In our school community, we truly value and appreciate your contribution of family and significant others, and we know your child appreciates it too.



**Star of the Sea School**

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As a Catholic School  
community we support,  
collaborate and cooperate  
with a desire to develop the  
full potential of each other.