

LEA SERVICE AWARD

John Dow

**For service to Lutheran education
2000 – 2023**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of John Dow to Lutheran education for 20 years.

John embarked on his journey in Lutheran education in 2000, commencing his teaching career at Immanuel Primary School in South Australia. Following an eight-year period of service, he assumed the dual role of Librarian and PYP coordinator, overseeing the International Baccalaureate program at St Peters Lutheran School, Blackwood. Subsequently, John dedicated a further six years to St Michaels Lutheran School as the PYP coordinator in Hahndorf, commencing in 2010.

In 2016, Tatachilla Lutheran College became John's educational home. Within this context, he assumed the mantle of Head of Junior Years, overseeing the educational landscape spanning Reception to Year 6. This role has been approached with unwavering commitment, wisdom, and insight, illustrating John's steadfast dedication to education.

The highly analytical and organisational skills that John possesses ensured the consistent delivery of a rigorous, relevant, and cohesive educational experience to every student within Tatachilla's Junior Years. Through meticulous planning, he guarantees that each student, irrespective of year level, gains access to an equitably rigorous and relevant curriculum—a collaborative effort championed and implemented by every teacher within the respective year level.

Central to John's leadership ethos is a commitment to collaboration, unifying individuals on a collective journey. Actively engaging in whole-staff and teaching team collaborations, he fosters capacity building and trust within teaching and pastoral care teams across the Junior Years. His leadership style, characterised by deep listening, a receptivity to diverse ideas, and an open-minded approach to multiple perspectives, empowers those under his purview.

Embedded in John's leadership philosophy is a profound belief in the capabilities of every child, each possessing unique beliefs, experiences, and inquiries. This foundational understanding permeates throughout the entire staff, serving as a cornerstone for leadership that promotes student agency throughout the educational institution.

John's strong and lived faith guides his relationships with people and decision making when seeking solutions to complex situations. He is the voice of reason, a leader who leaves his mark on those who have shared his path, and a good and faithful servant of Christ and Lutheran Education.

John's faithful and conscientious service to his Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, through his service in Lutheran education, has been outstanding and is humbly recognised through this award.



**Assoc Prof Lisa Schmidt
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