

Core Statement: explanation

As central to their mission and ministry, Lutheran schools seek to nurture individuals, who are aware of their humanity, open to the influence of the Holy Spirit, and growing in and living according to a cohesive worldview

Individuals have a strong and positive sense of their own **identity** and worth. They know who they are and acknowledge and respect the identity of others. Christians know who they are and whose they are and identify their inheritance as children of God. Others in Lutheran schools, will know that Christians believe there is a God who loves everyone. They will have experienced a Christian view of the individual as expressed in their school.

Individuals are **aware of their humanity**. They acknowledge their strengths and weaknesses, their potential and limitations. They see themselves in relationship with others as they participate in community. Christians also have an appreciation of the impact of sin on them personally, on the community in which they operate and on their relationship with God. They appreciate the act of forgiving and being forgiven, restoring relationships and reconciliation – living in grace.

Moreover, **individuals** are **open to the influence of the Holy Spirit**. It is the Holy Spirit who is their ‘helper’ and through whom they receive strength and faith. People within Lutheran schools, whether they are Christian or not, will have the opportunity to know about the Holy Spirit and be open to the Spirit’s influence. For Christians, it is the Holy Spirit who strengthens and guides them in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, **individuals** are **growing in** (implying never-ending, developing, emerging) and living according to a cohesive worldview. They incorporate their belief system and everyday actions and behaviours so that there is integrity and consistency between their actions and their belief system – they walk their talk. This sense of identity is not just ‘head stuff’ but also ‘heart stuff’, a conscious thing, something that is lived not simply talked about.

Having a **cohesive worldview** implies developing a consistent, unified, interconnected and interrelated worldview, encompassing local, national and global perspectives and accepting responsibilities and rights that attend such perspectives. For Christians, it is a worldview determined by their relationship with God as creator, redeemer, sanctifier, and is centred on God’s revelation in Jesus Christ.

In summary, **individuals** have a clear sense of personal identity and integrity. They display resilience, inner peace and respect for themselves and for others.

Values Statement: explanation

Living in community reflecting characteristics of God through core values, especially love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, service, humility, courage, hope, quality and appreciation

This component of LQL is about values that students leaving Lutheran schools know about, and hopefully appropriate for themselves, having experienced them in action in the school.

No education is value-free. Lutheran education is certainly not value-free. Individuals in Lutheran schools do not live in isolation, but rather live in community with attendant responsibilities, informed by their values. The Lutheran school sees everything that its staff and students do and are, in relation to God, and sees each person as being in relationship with God. Therefore the school values and cares for all people, encouraging them to reflect characteristics of God as they live in community.

LQL core values, love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, service, humility, courage, hope, quality and appreciation, are derived from Lutheran beliefs expressed in *A framework for Lutheran schools*. They also encompass the various dimensions of human experience expressed in Hill’s (2005) value domains: religious/spiritual, ethical/moral, cognitive/intellectual, technical/vocational, political, economic, socio-cultural, physical/recreational, interpersonal/relational, and aesthetic (see Figure 2). LQL core values reflect characteristics of God and God’s will for people, as his creation.

Whilst a Lutheran school’s values program will reflect the core values identified above, some schools might choose to emphasise other values in their values program in order to reflect the diversity of their community. The synonyms and Bible references which are listed against these values (see Appendix 2) may be helpful for schools as they seek to name their values. Making the values of the school explicit, talking about them, and developing programs where they are explicitly taught is indeed now a requirement for all Australian schools (DEST, 2005). An alignment of LQL core values with DEST values is located in Appendix 4.