

**LIGHTHOUSE ACADEMY**  
A BRIGHT HOPE

# 2025

# Half-yearly report

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# Introduction

Lighthouse Academy entered its fourth year of operations as a school in 2025. We are now a school of 80 pupils from Grade RRR – Grade 1. When Lighthouse Academy was founded, there were several targets set as milestones. A significant target was taking our first class of Grade RRRs enrolled in 2022 into their first year of primary school in 2025. We admitted our fourth class of Grade RRRs at the start of 2025 and are so grateful to God for his provision in carrying the school this far.

The progression of our 20 Grade Rs into Grade 1 in 2025 meant we needed a new classroom and a Grade 1 teacher. An existing building on Lochland Farm, where our pre-school operates, and which also acts as the school's kitchen and cafeteria has been used as a temporary Grade 1 class in 2025. The pupils are adapting well to primary school and their progress in mathematics and reading is particularly encouraging.

While we grew in numbers, our pupils are also growing themselves. Their appetites match this growth. Our cafeteria certainly has been a bustling and happy place this year. From 1 February 2025 till 30 June 2025, our kitchen prepared over 5500 warm breakfast bowls (mielie meal or oats porridge) 5500 cooked lunches and 11000 snacks.



# Christian foundation



The mission of Lighthouse Academy is to offer excellent education, with a strong Christian foundation, to pupils from households which lack the financial means to pay for such education. This year we have become more deliberate in formalising what that Christian foundation looks like. Janet Webb joined our staff team and has been helping us to develop a bible teaching curriculum for the school. This curriculum is focused on teaching the gospel clearly and providing a good overview study of the bible story.

Adele and Janet have also started to implement the foundations of a Biblical relationship and sexuality curriculum. South Africa's Education Department is in the process of filling this slot with 'gender neutral' content. Christian schools are allowed to use an alternative curriculum if it is proven to be in place. We have started using material called Genesis Design which has age appropriate, bible-based content.

# Meet our new staff



**MATTLIN PILLAY**  
GRADE RRR ASSISTANT

Mattlin Pillay joined us as a teacher's assistant. She has been working in the Grade RRR class with Meagan Smith, our Grade RRR teacher.



**KEREN PARKER**  
GRADE 1 TEACHER

Keren Parker joined our team as our Grade 1 teacher. She has been working very closely with Adele (school principal), as they build a high-quality curriculum and pioneer our first primary school class.



**JANET WEBB**  
DISCIPLESHIP

Janet was the principal of iThemba school in Fish Hoek before heading to Trinity Children's Centre where she helped to develop their formal bible curriculum. Janet is supported by Crosslinks, a mission organisation based in the UK. Apart from curriculum development Janet has brought a wealth of experience to the team and has been a support to Adele. She has also taught swimming or water safety during the first term of the year.



# Financial Update

	<b>Anticipated (annual)</b>	<b>Actual (YTD 30 Jun 2025)</b>
Income	R1 231 515	R1 302 955
Expenses	R 1 576 942	R713 515
Balance	(R345 427)	R439 374

Entering the primary school space has increased our operating budget. Teaching staff are paid higher salaries and the cost of teaching materials is higher. At the start of 2025, our operational budget for the year was R1.5 million. Through school fees, pupil sponsorships and other regular sponsorships, we had an anticipated income of R1.2 million. We entered 2025 knowing that we needed to find additional support to cover the R300k shortfall.

We are so grateful that within the first 3 months of 2025 the shortfall was covered by a number of new financial supporters coming behind us. We also received the first subsidies for our ECD pupils from the Western Cape Education Department. We are very grateful to partners for their role in helping us to meet our financial needs.

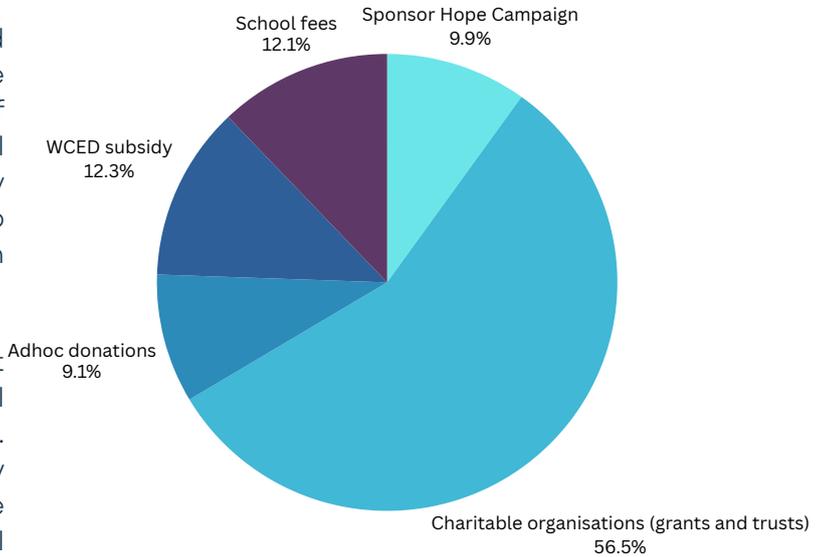
Our Sponsor hope campaign is the building block of our fundraising strategy. We seek to, over time, raise up sponsors for each of our pupils. Our financial model is that parents cover 20% of operational costs and we seek to raise the funding for the rest. Sponsors who join the Sponsor Hope Campaign, take on a child at the school and pay the remaining 80% of operational costs for a single child. For 2025 the school fee for each child at Lighthouse Academy was R440. We asked sponsors to contribute R1600 per month. We continue to look to grow this sponsorship base.

# Income & expenses

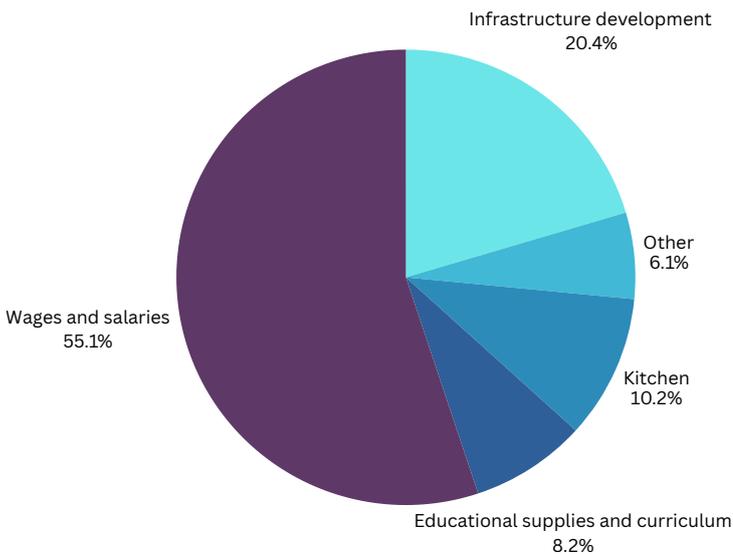
With the new financial supporters and government subsidies coming in place in 2025, we are seeing the widening of our support base beyond our personal network. This has been very encouraging. We are continuing to look to grow this base to try and include entities within various sectors.

A potential area of funding that remains difficult to tap into is the local community within which we operate. We are hoping that as the primary school grows, and the impact of the school becomes more evident, we will see more support locally.

Relative income sources



Expenses 30 June 2025



Over the course of 2025 our most significant expense has been wages and salaries. This is anticipated due to high ratio of learners to adults which we wish to maintain.

Infrastructure development costs are also a notable expense. We have been busy with a rezoning application for a potential long term site for a primary school. The costs of the various specialist inputs for this application are the primary contributor to this expense.

We have been able to keep our kitchen expenses (largely food) relatively low this year. This is not due to a compromise in quality, but rather as a result of donations of fruit from local producers and discounts from a local supermarket, for which we are very grateful.

# Challenges and opportunities



We are increasingly aware that finding trained teachers who are Christians from Villiersdorp or who are willing to relocate to Villiersdorp is going to be one of the greatest challenges we face. Teachers who do come to Lighthouse Academy that are not from the Villiersdorp area face the challenge of leaving support structures behind and slotting into a new community here.

We have started to advertise for new teacher positions for next year. We are needing to develop and grow the ways in which we can make Lighthouse Academy enticing to potential staff. We are investigating options of providing benefits and improved pay for teachers.

In 2026, we anticipate significant budget increases in the areas of curriculum development, infrastructure development and salaries. This is expected as we continue to grow our primary school. New funding partners will be required to cover these additional costs.

A growing staff team also presents opportunity. The fact that we are building up our staff team one year at a time, provides an opportunity to create the culture we want within our school. We believe that Lighthouse Academy's ability to achieve its mission is largely determined by the teaching staff. It is they who spend the most time with our pupils and have the greatest impact upon them. We therefore want to employ excellent teachers with a passion both for the children entrusted to them and for the gospel.

We have a number of staff in the ECD who have this passion. However, they are not qualified to teach primary school classes (to do so they require BEd degrees). We are looking at ways we can provide support for them to become qualified teachers while working for us. This will enable us to train up our own future teachers.

# Contact Us



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Thank-you for taking the time to read our half-yearly report. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, need more information or what to get involved with what we are trying to do.

You can help Lighthouse Academy right now. Please take a moment to pray for us:

1) Pray for our teachers and class assistants who spend each day working with our pupils. Pray that they would have love, gentleness and patience in their work. Pray that they would have skill in the way they teach the children new concepts. Pray that they would long to see each pupil entrusted to their care come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

2) Pray for our principal, Adele, that she would lead the staff team with wisdom. Pray that she would set a standard of excellence and a Christ-centred culture at Lighthouse Academy. Pray that she would entrust all Lighthouse Academy's current endeavours and future plans in God's hands and have peace.

3) Pray for our pupils. Pray that they would grow and develop to their God given potential. Pray that they would know and love Jesus. Pray for their safety and protection each day.

4) Pray for Lighthouse Academy's future - pray for the right staff and venue for our growing primary school.



If you want to make a financial donation, scan this QR code with your cell phone and follow the link to our YOCO payment page.