

Dear Principal

As 2026 draws to a close, it is with gratitude that we reflect on a wonderful year of service to Christian schools across South Africa. Our greatest privilege has been to get to know the leaders and teachers of our schools, as Morgan, Debbie-Sue, Erith, Ian and I have travelled across the country. But that relationship extends even further, as the ACSI team here at ACSI House often tell of their interactions with schools, and what a blessing it is to build ever stronger relationships with those who call in or email us.

A highlight every morning here at ACSI House is to spend time learning more about the Lord during our devotions and praying by name for our schools and their leaders. I am sure that you have been the recipient of several voice notes from the ACSI team during the year, which we trust have been an encouragement to you. Just as Jesus did, when he laid the foundations of what would become his 'church', so we know that relationships are the key to a stronger and more meaningful ACSI family.

As we reflect on the year, we are grateful for continued growth at the ten ACSI Teachers Conferences and at the thirteen Principals Meetings. The Free State, Mpumalanga and Garden Route areas continue to grow, and it was a real joy to host our first-ever Teachers Conference in the Free State this year. The ACSI National Principals Conference in Durban was once again a resounding success, and we look forward to welcoming you to the Riverside Sun on the Vaal River next year. In addition, we are tremendously excited to be hosting our first National Teachers Conference in February, which we trust will build on the excellence established at the National Principals Conference.

121 ACSI teachers and interns benefitted from ETDP SETA funding this year, in order for them to continue with their studies. In some cases, the value of the bursaries was even more than the school's annual partnership fees, and as such it added tremendous value to those individuals and schools who benefitted from it. We are grateful that next year we will again be able to offer these bursaries to those in ACSI schools.

Advocating for the rights of Christian independent schools remains at the core of what we do, and this year has seen a continued battle in some provinces for subsidies to be paid correctly and on time. We thank those who represent us on all the Joint Liaison Committees in every province, while I continue to represent ACSI on the National Alliance of Independent Schools (NAISA), as well as on the FEDSAS Advisory Council for Independent Schools and on the IEB's Committee for Curriculum and Assessment. Although you may be unaware of most of these deliberations and interventions, they are a critical contributor to your rights as an independent school.

Our schools have once again made extensive use of the policies which we provide for them, and we congratulate all those schools that underwent their Umalusi accreditation during the year. Both Umalusi and SACE have heightened their focus on compliance, and as such we encourage all our schools to ensure that they address any outstanding issues as a matter of urgency next year.

Congratulations to you and your team on all that you have achieved this year – may it serve as a solid foundation on which to build for the future. We trust that the Lord will go before you and will make straight your paths, even as He guides and strengthens you each day. We hope that you will also have some time to relax over the Christmas period and that you will return rejuvenated and enthused to start the new year.

As we look forward to 2027, allow me to mention the ACSI partnership fees for next year. At its most recent strategic planning meeting, the ACSI Board resolved to keep the increase for 2027 to 5%. We are conscious of the financial challenges which our schools face, and as such we trust that this increase will not be too onerous.

Please be reminded too that we do have a bursary scheme available for those low-fee schools who are in financial straits. We do not want to exclude any school from our fellowship and support and will do what we can to assist wherever possible. The most important thing is to keep communicating with us

ALL SCHOOLS

Once-off joining fee (R2 000.00) when first registering with ACSI

	Average school fees per annum	Contribution per learner per annum	
Pre-school/ECD	Fees below R6 000	R11	CATEGORY 1
Primary School	Fees Below R8 000	R39	
High School	Fees below R10 000	R53	
Pre-school/ECD	Between R6 001 - R10 500	R20	CATEGORY 2
Primary School	Between R8 001 - R14 700	R62	
High School	Between R10 001 - R22 600	R76	
Pre-school/ECD	Between R10 501 – R18 000	R36	CATEGORY 3
Primary School	Between R14 701 - R22 600	R118	
High School	Between R22 601 - R31 500	R177	
Pre-school/ECD	Between R18 001 - R24 500	R55	CATEGORY 4
Primary School	Between R22 601 - R33 600	R177	
High School	Between R31 501 – R45 200	R236	
Pre-school/ECD	Between R24 501 – R38 000	R85	CATEGORY 5
Primary School	Between R33 601 - R49 500	R244	
High School	Between R45 201 – R62 000	R316	
Pre-school/ECD	Above R38 001	R110	CATEGORY 6
Primary School	Above R49 501	R309	
High School	Above R62 001	R341	

2027 CAPPED FEE

CAPPED FEE	If paid in full by the 31st March	Capped fee discount
R131 460	R126 000	R5 460

We are grateful to the vast majority of our partner schools who ensure that partnership fees and forms are submitted and paid timeously, whether annual, bi-annual or monthly.

10% DISCOUNT

If the annual fee is paid in full by the 31st of March 2027, a 10% discount will be allocated, except for the capped schools who will pay a reduced fee of R126 000.

Please note that full ACSI fees should be paid up by 31 October annually, regardless of whether paid in full or part-payments.

2027 PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Kindly refer to the deadlines below for your school to make the most of all the benefits which a partnership with ACSI provides.

Date	Deadline outline
31st March 2027	Submission of forms and payment of partnership fees. This may be for annual, bi-annual or monthly payment. Forms and first (or annual) payment must be received by this date. If forms and/or payment are not received, the benefits of a partnership with ACSI will be limited .
30th June 2027	If forms and/or payment are still not received, the benefits of a partnership with ACSI will be terminated . Please ensure you keep with the monthly payments. If two or more payments are missed, your ACSI partnership will be terminated .
31st October 2027	ACSI fees should be paid up.

Should there be any circumstances that hinder you from keeping up with payment during the year, please do not ignore the monthly payment reminders; rather contact us, so that we can discuss ways in which we can assist you.

We look forward to deepening our relationship with you and your school in 2027. We trust that the remainder of this term will go well and that the break will be restful and enjoyable for all in your school community. May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you in the days and weeks ahead – and may you know His peace and presence.

Warm regards



Neil Malherbe
ACSI South Africa National Director