

Welcome to Christian Education

Welcome to our school. We are a part of a broader community of schools under the umbrella of Christian Education National (CEN), and together we work hard to ensure that your experience as a parent and a student in our community is distinctively different to what you might find in other schooling contexts.



Christian education invites young people
to see and understand the world through
the perspective of God's truth.



Why Christian education?

Whether it's learning how to run a 400m race, learning how to spell 'rendezvous', or learning to factorise a polynomial, all knowing has its ultimate meaning and purpose when framed by God's big picture story anchored in Jesus.

All forms of education will have a particular perspective on life. It may not always be obvious or overtly stated, but it will shape how things are understood and spoken about, how things are done, and what is chosen to be taught. This might be in the form of assumptions about the nature and origins of the world, or it might be evident through suggestions about the purpose of life and indeed what it means to be fulfilled as a human. No form of education is neutral as it will always be providing a particular lens through which students see the world and their place in it.

A different perspective

Christian education invites young people to see and understand the world through the perspective of God's truth. The Bible becomes the lens through which students view what they are learning. The lens focusses their thinking on ultimate truth—a biblical and Christ-centred vision for life where the world is created and sustained by God; where God has acted in history to deal with the distortions of creation caused by human rebellion; and where history is advancing towards a new creation in which all things are reconciled to God through Jesus who is not only the climax of the biblical story but is also the focal point of the lens.

A way of living

However, Christian education is not just about a Christian way of understanding. It is also about a Christian way of living. When Jesus said "Follow me", he was expecting people to dedicate their whole lives to serving God. Christian education informs, invites, and inspires young people to live this way. The Christian school aims to teach this way of life every day through all that is done and taught. It does this in a setting of a unified community of love and learning involving parents, children, and teachers.

Partnership with parents

Parents have the ultimate responsibility to educate their children towards a relationship with Jesus, a biblical way of knowing, and a Christian way of living. The Christian school community is a partnership with parents and the school sharing in this vision.

How can I be involved?

Your Christian school exists because of faithful parents and is ultimately governed by Christian parents and others who are committed to this approach to schooling. Your involvement is not only something that will be welcomed, but is crucial to the life of the school. Join in. Bring other parents with you. Participate and pray!

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Frequently asked questions

? Doesn't the Christian school shelter children from the real world?

Yes and no. All education and good parenting, will have an age appropriate, gradual exposure to aspects and ideas in this world. Christian education is no different. However, it seeks to guide the students towards discernment about the distortions to God's good design. It can't do this if it ignores the "real world".

? Do teachers in a Christian school tell the truth?

It might seem like a strange question, but some parents wonder that if by giving a biblical perspective of everyday things it might result in current scientific understanding being at best ignored and at worst denied. Christian education embraces science and human discovery as blessings from God, but seeks to help students discern the assumptions underpinning current understanding. It helps them critique the extent to which conclusions are, and are not, consistent with a biblical worldview. We believe this makes Christian education a more rigorous pursuit of truth.

? Are teachers in a Christian school just as professional?

Just as there are well-trained and highly professional Christian teachers working in other schools, the teachers in Christian schools are no less trained and are no less professional. The parents of Christian schools, involved with employing their teaching staff, expect no less.

? Can you have academic rigour and Christian education? Isn't there a compromise?

No. The school embracing Christian education may, in fact, have greater academic rigour. The same state curriculum, with its secular, humanistic, and naturalistic framework, is

taught in all schools. The Christian school will seek to equip the student with a critical discernment of the worldview assumptions of this curriculum; a discernment that critiques all that is at odds with a biblically informed view of life and the world. This has a greater academic rigour than accepting uncritically what is taught and learnt.

? But surely our children will be okay in a public school?

That we have a society that is committed to education for all children is wonderful and a testimony to God's common grace. A public school may give a good 'education', but the Christian parent must ask, "what are the starting assumptions of this education and towards what endpoint is this education shaping my child?". Assumptions about the endpoint of education being individual power, career, and fulfilment through competition and consumption are common. But the Christian parent wants an education that informs and inspires their child to be a distinctive, kingdom-seeking disciple who acknowledges that Jesus is Lord of all knowable and unknowable parts of this world.

? Shouldn't our children (and families) be evangelising in the local public school?

There are lots of arenas for evangelism for Christian children. Certainly, the local public school can be one. However, we would be asking our children to be evangelists in a context where the teacher has authority over them and their peers, and this person of authority is teaching them about life in this world through their own philosophical framework and via a curriculum not shaped by a biblical view of life and the world. This is a difficult context. Why not, during their most formative years, have a Christian teacher within a Christian community, teach them a Christ-centred view of life and the world which equips them to be powerful evangelists in other arenas of life in which they find themselves.





Christian Education National – who are we?

CEN is a community of Christian schools that believe that we are stronger together.

Our member associations and schools are all closely connected and defined by strong partnerships between home, church, and school to promote a transforming and biblically authentic approach to education that:

- celebrates the lordship of Christ over all of life;
- positions the gospel rather than cultural forces as the primary shaper of how we think and live;
- affirms the role of parents as having responsibility to ensure their children are educated within this understanding.

Above all, Christian Education National promotes a transformational Christian worldview where Jesus' love, power, and authority inform and guide all practice and community life – including leadership, management, teaching, curriculum, and effective governance.

Find out more at cen.edu.au

**For more information
contact your local
Christian Education
National school or
visit cen.edu.au**