

What is a Christian School?



Choosing to send your child to a Christian School is an important decision. On occasion Christian Schools can sometimes be grouped with Church schools in terms of their philosophy. Whilst there exists some similarities there are also some key differences.

A Christian School is created with the premise that Biblical principles and values underpin everything that is done and permeates through every area of school life, not just in religious education lessons or weekly chapel services.

All staff (not just teaching staff) who work at the school are committed Christians and passionate about sharing their faith with the students. This means they are not just sympathetic to the ethos of the school, rather that they are intentional in whatever their role, to contribute to the growth in spiritual maturity of the students in our care. Our Support Staff are all involved, at times, with school camps, sporting events, fundraisers or other initiatives. The staff meet every morning for devotions and prayer time. This is a time of worship, fellowship, prayer, teaching and encouragement and helps us all to be better equipped in the roles we have to contribute to the school.

Brightwaters Christian College, like most other Christian schools, has a desire to be in a real partnership between the home and the school, to raise up young people who are committed in their faith, understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and have a desire to live out their faith through action.

What this means in terms of curriculum is that all content is taught from a Christian perspective. Whilst some particular subjects or topics within subjects lend themselves better to incorporating Christian values and Biblical principles all teachers are given the specific mandate to embed a Christian perspective into everything they teach.

What it means in terms of pastoral care and discipline of students is that policies and procedures are written and enacted from a Biblical perspective. Working hard, developing resilience, being kind, showing respect, valuing others, speaking the truth in love, providing correction from a loving perspective and being effective Peacemakers are all important Biblical principles that have their outworking in pastoral care and discipline.

A Christian School is a place where we believe each staff member is representative of God "with skin on", just as Jesus was. Each child will experience the love and nurture that Jesus spoke of when he said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14. A Christian School is a place where children are free to come and learn of God's love, His world and their place within it.

