



Heathdale Christian College Prospectus



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Dear Parents & Guardians,

Choosing the right school for your child and family is one of life's most important decisions. We know that God has made every child unique and as you read our Prospectus and gain insight into our learning community, our desire is that this will assist you to make the right decision for your family.

We believe that God calls parents to raise their children and our staff take this calling with honour and respect. It can enable the staff to enter a unique partnership with parents by acting as parent delegates to the students placed within our care.

Our extensive range of subjects and our strong academic programs, encourage students to seek excellence in every aspect of their lives, reflecting and developing their God given gifts and talents.

Our Prospectus aims to paint a picture of Heathdale through its foundation documents and some of the College's attitudes and policies. I hope that it will assist you in making an informed decision about your application.

I would encourage you to take a tour of our Melton or Werribee campuses, to see our school in action as you will quickly see our heart and start to appreciate what this dynamic faith based learning community is providing on a daily basis.

Please contact our Enrolment Officer on 9974 4801 or alternatively you can email us at enrol@heathdale.vic.edu.au

Yours sincerely,

Ross Grace
Principal / CEO



Our History

Christian schooling has become a widespread phenomenon throughout the western world in recent years. Many people today are seeking a quality education for their children, consistent with deeply felt Christian beliefs that will affirm traditional standards upheld in the home.

In 1979, research by the Werribee Baptist Church revealed that a large number of Christian families within the community felt a need to establish a Christian school in the area.

Accordingly in 1980, a committee was set up to “carry out all actions necessary to have a school in operation by February 1982”. The College commenced in that year with 37 students from Prep to Year 7 and has grown steadily ever since.

Heathdale Christian College has been established to provide Christian education to children whose parents want them to be nurtured and educated in ways consistent with the Christian faith. Heathdale Christian College is open to all children whose parents accept and actively endorse its aims, and who wish to take advantage of this type of education.

In 2012, Heathdale acquired its Melton Campus, which specialises as a Primary school, with a family friendly environment and extensive bus network, it is providing more families with

The College will enrol students from a wide range of backgrounds provided that applicants can agree to, and support, the Foundational Statements of the College.

Train the child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Prov.22:6 (NIV)

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To glorify God through Christ-centred education that helps children develop their God given potential.

CORE BUSINESS STATEMENT

Christian education; The quality development of the child.

QUALITY STATEMENTS

to achieve the purpose, through its core business, we have a commitment to the following:

Quality Environment; through:

- God being glorified in all we do and have;
- A culture conducive to spiritual growth in an atmosphere where all people are valued as created by God;
- All staff being committed to Christ and growing in their walk with Him;
- Educational programs that reflect a natural bias toward Biblical values;

Quality Learning; through students being:

- Engaged in learning;
- Encouraged to value learning and become life long learners;
- Challenged to achieve the highest standards in accordance with their God-given abilities;
- Equipped in social development, personal development and skills development.

Quality Achievements; by:

- Promoting and fostering diligence and excellence in all endeavours as governance, management, staff, parents and support groups;
- Providing Christian Education with sound curriculum and teaching;
- Encouraging students to acquire the knowledge, skills and work habits needed to grow into disciplined, thinking individuals;
- Equipping students for vocations in the service of God's kingdom.

Quality Management; through:

- All staff and systems operate in a Godly, parent-friendly manner;
- The implementation of appropriate policies, procedures and systems;
- Leadership that embodies high standards of personal and corporate integrity;
- The pursuit of best practice management systems.



DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

Heathdale Christian College is an Australian school supporting the democratic nature of our country.

As Christians the Bible (as a guide for our spiritual welfare and daily conduct) is clear on how we should view our nation's government and its laws.

Romans 13:1-7

“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. ...Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience... Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.”

Heathdale Christian College affirms that this College is an Australian school, and it supports and promotes the principles and practice of our Australian democracy, and under God, is committed to:

- Our elected government;
- The rule of law;
- Equal rights for all before the law;
- Freedom of religion;
- Freedom of speech and association;
- The values of openness and tolerance.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Prov.3:6 (NIV)

GOVERNANCE

College Board

Heathdale Christian College Limited is a Company governed by a Board consisting of members from a variety of Protestant Christian churches, and the community. The College relies on parents and interested people who wish to promote the objectives of the College.

College Principal

The Principal is the Chief Executive Officer responsible to the College Board for the proper operation and conduct of the College as a whole. The Principal is a non-voting Board member, responsible for Board policy development & implementation, strategic planning, staffing, enrolments and supervision of staff performance and operation.

Business Services Manager

The Business Services Manager is a non-voting Board member, responsible to the Board through the Principal. The Business Services Manager is responsible for the financial dimension of the College, and for supervising non-teaching staff.

Assistant Principals

The Assistant Principals are responsible to the Principal for the smooth day-to-day running of the College, and for the educational outcomes.

Staff

Teachers on staff at Heathdale Christian College have all the required academic qualifications and hold current and appropriate teacher's registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. All Staff are dedicated Christians who are in regular fellowship with their local church and are committed to the Christian principles of the College.

Committees

Committees advise the College Board on finance, planning & development, curriculum, uniform, fund raising and other College related business.



THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

The teaching and activities of Heathdale Christian College will be in conformity with the principles outlined in the following statement of basic truths contained in the Bible.

- Holy Scripture, the Old and New Testaments, is God's written word and contains all things necessary for salvation. It is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct, and provides the frame work for our understanding of God's creation and His purposes within it.
- Holy Scripture is intelligible in itself, but our understanding of its truth is brought about only as the Holy Spirit reveals it to us. It remains essential for God's people to draw to one another's attention the plain meaning of Scripture and its implications for life, and to witness to its truthfulness in experience.
- There is one true God who in the unity of His Godhead exists in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- God's sovereign authority in His creation, providence and redemption is exercised in infinite wisdom, goodness and love.
- Mankind has chosen to rebel against the sovereign God. This event has cosmic significance: it has affected the environment in which man lives, it has marred man's nature including his mind and will, it has distorted his perception of his place in the world and has broken his relationship with God. Man by himself no longer has the power to act in a way that is pleasing to God; from birth, man's nature is self-centred and not God-centred, thereby rendering him deserving of God's condemnation and in need of salvation.
- God the Son became man and lived in His world. He is known as the man Jesus Christ who is both truly God and truly man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Prov.3:5 (NIV)

- In Mercy and Grace, Jesus the perfect man died to reconcile us to the Father. His death is the once-for-all perfect, propitiary, substitutionary and satisfactory sacrifice both for original guilt, and for all the sins of men. Through the death of Jesus, God Himself has removed the barrier which prevented His full relationship with mankind. We await the joyful manifestation of this truth.
- Because of His obedience in life and unto death, Jesus has been bodily raised from death and given all authority. This authority is not recognised by rebellious man, but will be clear to all when He returns in person to judge the world.
- Men, women and young people are declared righteous by God as they commit their lives to Jesus in repentance and faith. This conscious commitment is made possible by the work of the Holy Spirit within the individual; it is not a meritorious work.
- God, the Holy Spirit lives in everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord. By their personal commitment of faith, believers are born anew and come alive to God being thus Baptised of the Spirit.
- The Church is the universal Body of all believers who are thus regenerate, being indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Biblical ordinances* given by Christ for His Church are the Baptism of Believers and the Communion of the Lord's Supper.
- God expects His people to assemble together regularly in the Name of Christ for Bible teaching, thanksgiving, prayer and mutual edification. Spiritual gifts are to be exercised not selfishly or egotistically but with loving humility in the service of Christ and for the edification of His Church.
- Christian parents are responsible to God for the care, discipline and instruction of their children in the Lord.

** It is not intended that the College should be used as a platform for issues of contention or denominational bias.*



CURRICULUM

The staffing policy of the College is to recruit teachers who are fully qualified and registered, and who identify with the Christian foundations, ethos and practice of the College. They represent a variety of denominations, but united in their appreciation of the value of their provision of a sound education taught from a Christian perspective.

In pursuit of the declared aims of the College it is expected that children will reach high standards of work in an atmosphere of mutual encouragement, acceptance and care. Included with the academic curriculum will be Physical Education and Sport, LOTE (Language Other Than English), Creative Arts, Biblical instruction, IT (Information Technology) and wide cultural activities.

Every opportunity will be taken to broaden students' appreciation of their place in the created world, and in the early years, to develop sound foundations for basic knowledge, skills and study habits. Because our aims in education are not just restricted to equipping a child for a job, students will be required to take a wide range of subjects until at least the end of Year 8.

Vocational guidance and career counselling is available and students in Years 10, 11 and 12 especially will be encouraged to structure their study program accordingly. VCE and VCAL are available to Senior School students.

The program at Kindergarten, subjects that are included in the timetable in Junior School and the 'core' subjects in Middle and Senior Schools, are mainly those included in the Victorian Essential Learning Standard (VELS) and the National Curriculum.

The College believes that presenting this content and material in the context of the Christian philosophy outlined in the previous section of this prospectus is the best way to prepare any child for Christian living as a young person and ultimately as an adult within the wider community, irrespective of occupation or vocation.

But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. 1Cor.14:40 (NIV)

DISCIPLINE

Scripture indicates we all need to obey authority placed there for our good. This directive is to adults and children alike, but the people in authority are to act as people who need to give account to God for their actions. Children similarly are called to obey their parents, and parents are called not to embitter or exasperate their children (see Col 3:20-21 and Eph 6:1-4).

Therefore parents, students and staff are expected to co-operate in:

- Supporting the teachers' leadership in the classroom.
- Encouraging communication between parents and the College.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Reverence–Honour God.
- Honesty–Tell the Truth.
- Respect–Follow instructions, respect and obey those in authority.
- Courtesy/Compassion–Treat others in the way I would like them to treat me.
- Diligence–Seek knowledge, understanding and wisdom.
- Involvement–Contribute to and uphold the good name of the College.
- Responsibility–Care for all property including my own.

- Punctuality–Be in the right place at the right time and with the right Equipment.

Discipline is applied as required and according to the guidelines and policies of the College. As a last resort, and only after consultation involving parents, the Principal may exercise his rights to expel a student.

The College will be concerned about individual students who may have emotional or other problems, and will seek to help students overcome them, but the difficulties of one student will not be allowed to disrupt classes or threaten the welfare of other students.

Students have a right to know why rules and decisions are made and enforced. As they mature they will be encouraged to take part increasingly in activities involving the exercising of judgement, making decisions and taking responsibility for their own discipline.

In summary, the discipline within the College will be to provide education and pastoral care for students, to nurture in them a living Christian faith, and, by teaching and example, to prepare them to successfully handle what the future may hold.



ORGANISATION AND GENERAL

Each of the topics included under this heading are the subject of a separate sheet or leaflet which will provide full details.

Uniform

The wearing of the official school uniform is required for all grades other than Kindergarten. There are summer and winter uniforms for boys and girls, with some variations permitted between Junior and Middle/Senior levels.

Fees

Tuition fees are due for payment at the beginning of the year. Every attempt is made to keep fees to a moderate level. Concessions are available for second and subsequent children of the same family in attendance at the College at the same time.

In the event of an unexpected major change in financial circumstances, parents are advised to seek an interview with the Business Manager to discuss any issues at an early stage.

Building Fund

The College has built up and is continuing to expand its buildings and resources. Each family is encouraged to take responsibility for the privilege of using the existing facilities, & help finance new facilities by annually contributing to the Building Fund. Voluntary contributions are tax deductible.

Books, Stationery and Equipment

The College will provide major pieces of equipment, but each student is expected to provide their own writing implements and stationery in accordance with the requirements of the particular School.

Junior School textbooks are purchased by the College and the cost is met through the Junior School Levy charged to the family accounts. Textbooks for Middle and Senior School are either loaned to students or purchased by the families through the annual Book List

Finance and Enrolment

A non-refundable Enrolment Application Fee is payable to the College at the time an application for enrolment for a child is made, and a one-off payment of an Enrolment Confirmation Fee will apply to each child who successfully secures a place at the College. This will apply and be paid prior to the child's commencement at the College. In addition to tuition fees and levies, books and equipment charges may be required. Most of this expenditure usually arises at the beginning of each year

Transport and Attendance

It is important parents ensure that children arrive at school punctually (ideally five to ten minutes before the first bell) and that suitable arrangements are made for the child to return home promptly at the end of the school day.

Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Prov.4:7 (NIV)

The College is in the process of increasing bus networks to selected suburbs. Particularly to and from the Melton Campus, with supervised dedicated bus services from the surrounding suburbs.

As attendance at school is considered to be legally mandatory, all other engagements for a student (e.g. dental appointments) should be arranged for other times if at all possible.

Out of School Hours Program

The College endeavours to assist parents with their out of school hours needs by providing a program for students Prep-Yr 6. There is a fee associated with this program.

Reports & Parent-Teacher Meetings

The College produces student reports at the end of each term for Kinder-Year 12 students. Interim reports are available at the end of Terms 1 and 3, and a comprehensive report is produced at the end of Terms 2 and 4.

Since parents and teachers are involved together in the nurture of the same child, it is essential that they meet to discuss his/her progress, achievements and outcomes regularly. Hence, it is important that at least one parent from each family attend the Parent-Teacher Interview sessions held two or three times each year.

In addition to these regular reviews, where specific problems arise discussion between parents and staff may be helpful. Parental involvement and assistance and regular communication are an essential part of College life and will always be welcomed and encouraged.

Parental Assistance

In order that overall College fees may be kept as low as possible, the College relies upon parents to contribute their time and talents in the classroom, Library, Canteen, playground, grounds and occasionally in the Office. We expect each family to contribute 20 hours per year, or if this is not possible they are invited to consider an extra donation to the Building Fund (tax deductible gift).

College Rules

Every child admitted to the College is expected to conform in all respects to the College rules.



ENROLMENT PROCEDURE

The College has been primarily set up to fulfill the needs of families who wish their children to be schooled in a Christian environment, as set out in the College Purpose Statement, Quality Statements, Mission Statement, Philosophy of Education, Aims of the College and the Theological Foundations.

An application form will need to be completed, the declaration signed and the form submitted, together with:

- A Birth Certificate of the child(ren).
- A reference attesting to the good character of the family, preferably from a Pastor/Minister/Priest

(a Minister's Reference Form is available for this purpose) or, if this is not possible, then from someone like a GP, an employer, child's previous teacher, etc.

- A non refundable Enrolment Application Fee.

The application form will be dated on receipt of all the above, for the purpose of determining order of entry.

Parents and child(ren) must attend an interview (by appointment) with the Principal and the relevant Head of School or representative. This is the chance for us to meet the prospective student(s) and their families and for parents to ask any questions they may have.

During the interview the Interviewer will need to ask and be satisfied that the following are attested by the applicant:

1. The parent(s) have read and are able to support the Mission Statement and the Aims of the College.
2. The parent(s) are able to support the College Policies and Statements on uniforms, student conduct, discipline and Christian curriculum.
3. The parent(s) are able to agree to assist with practical help when possible for the improvement of school facilities.
4. The parent(s) are able to accept that devotional times are incorporated into the daily routine and Christian Life Studies are compulsory for all students.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

5. That the students of the College will be taught from a Christian perspective in harmony with the Theological Foundations of the College, and their child(ren) may decide to become a Christian through this experience.

Applicants will be advised that it is of paramount importance that there is harmony between the home and school in regards to standards, outlook and values, and that the home and school must work together in bringing up the children “in the nurture and encouragement of the Lord”.

Sibling children of current school families receive a priority for enrolment. In this case there needs to be an interview with one parent and the child.

The Principal, with advice from the appropriate Head of School, reserves the right to use their own prerogative to decline an enrolment.

Appropriate internal or external testing of child(ren) may occur for diagnostic purposes. Applications may be declined if the Principal and Head of School decide that a student is showing signs that they are not ready or not able to cope with the College program.

The enrolment of students with special needs may bring a variation to the Enrolment Procedure.

SPECIAL PRIORITY

Special consideration may be given in certain circumstances. However, only the Principal can decide whether a child in a special category can be admitted ahead of students who are already in our enrolment system.



ENQUIRIES

Web Page www.heathdale.vic.edu.au

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Werribee

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Melton

**We invite you to book a tour of our Melton or
Werribee campus to see our School in Action.
Email enrol@heathdale.vic.edu.au**