

What Makes a School Christian?



My name is Ross Howard, Deputy Principal of Australian Christian College here at Marsden Park. In this brief video I'm going to outline what we believe makes this school Christian. When parents look at a Christian school, they know that their children are going to be encouraged to have good morals like honesty and integrity. This type of character development is invaluable as they transition from school into their adult life. Parents also expect us to maintain a high standard of behavior so that everyone has the chance to learn. Character development and behavior are important but this is not at the heart of Christianity. When we use the term Christian, we refer to the accounts of Jesus Christ found in the bible.

Jesus Christ said and did many remarkable things but the most amazing thing he did for us is that he died on the cross so we could have a relationship with God through faith. Christians believe that faith in Jesus answers the big questions in life and it also compels us to be loving and generous to the people around us. Ultimately we want to tell other people about Jesus and we want to make a positive impact on the world.

A central aspect of a Christian school is its Christian teachers. Our teachers live out their Christian faith everyday at school. That is a scary thing because none of us are perfect. Just like any community we learn from each other. On a practical basis, we would expect to see our teachers praying for their students when they are hurt, united against all forms of bullying and encouraging students to be their best.

Our approach to being a Christian school is intentional but not intrusive. It is not our responsibility to tell our students what to think, our approach is not to brain wash or indoctrinate the students. It is our hope that our students leave school with a biblical foundation for life which leads to a relationship with Jesus. We'd love seeing our students filled with a higher purpose and a desire to do good. That's one reason why we are introducing our students to Christian workers who we are making a difference in the developing world. We also give the opportunity for our senior students to travel overseas so they can see how they can make a difference.

I hope we can appreciate that being a Christian school is much more than a name, a set of rules and teaching morals. It's about demonstrating the love of Christ to students everyday and inviting them to follow him.