



# Statement of Principles and Values

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# OUR COLLEGE VALUES

## Our Mission

Donvale Christian College is a Parent Controlled school which serves the Christian community by providing Christ-centred education. Through high quality teaching and learning in a nurturing, stimulating and Biblically directed environment, students grow in their understanding of God's world and in their commitment to serving Christ in all areas of life.

## Our Commitment

We affirm:

The Lordship of Jesus Christ in all areas of life.

The Scriptures of Old and New Testament as the divinely inspired Word of God.

The Scriptures as the only absolute rule for all faith and conduct.

The responsibility of parents to bring up their children in 'the discipline and instruction of the Lord' (Eph. 6: 4).

## Our Motto

'Act justly, love kindness, walk humbly with God' Micah 6:8

## Our Vision

We see parents partnering with great teachers and staff to develop lifelong learners who reach their full potential through research-informed and innovative learning programs and practices.

We see students learning from a Christian world view, growing in Christ and graduating with a commitment to doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God.

We see a Christian community characterised by love for each other, encouragement, collaboration and transparency, committed to learning and continuous improvement.

We see a Biblically guided, strategically focused, well-informed and resourced parent-led Board working collaboratively with management, staff and parents to ensure responsible stewardship and fulfilment of the College mission, promise and vision.

# STATEMENT OF BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

## (EDUCATIONAL CREED)

DONVALE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE is directed by Donvale Christian College Ltd.

The Basic Biblical Principles of the Association are:

### Holy Scripture and Education:

- By faith we confess the books of the Old and New Testaments to be the divinely inspired, inerrant Word of God (2 Tim. 3: 16,17), the only absolute rule for all faith and conduct, and therefore also for the education of our children at home and at school

### Christian Parents and Education:

- As believing parents we have Christ's comforting assurance for our children that theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven and that He will bless them when we bring them to Him (Mark 10: 13-16)
- Expecting fulfilment of His promise and obeying the command of His apostle, we endeavour to bring our children up "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6: 4)
- Since the responsibility for this task has been placed on our shoulders as parents we gladly accept responsibility for that part of the education which takes place outside our homes in the school.
- We consider the establishment of parent-controlled Christian Schools, which are to assist us in the work of Christian nurture and education, to be our duty and God-given privilege

### Christian Schools:

- As Christ is the Saviour and King of the whole of human life (Mat. 28: 18; Eph. 1: 20-22; Col. 1: 16,17) we understand by a Christian College such an educational institution in which not only is Christ honoured by prayer and study of the Bible, but all subjects are taught by the light of God's revelation in Jesus Christ contained in the Old and New Testaments
- For such Christian Schools we as parents claim all freedom in the field of education as long as this education takes place in obedience to the requirements of God's Word and in adherence to legitimate, governmental standards and provision

### Some Doctrines Fundamental to Christian Education:

Believing all the truth revealed in the Word of God we wish to emphasise some doctrines which are of special importance with regard to Christian education. They are:

- **God and Creation:** All things were created by God so that "what is seen was made out of things which do not appear" (Heb.11:3). God created them in, through and for Christ (Col.1:15-17) by His Word and Spirit (Gen.1; Ps.33:6), to the glorification of His Holy Name (Ps.8; Ps.19; Rom.11:36). It is also by God's hand, power and care that all created things are preserved and controlled (Ps.99; Mat.6:24 f; Acts 17:24 f). In order to understand the world, man and history, they must be seen in their relationship to God as the Bible speaks of it

- **The Bible and Science:** Creation as well as Scripture have been brought forth by the same God of truth. Therefore, any seeming discrepancy between the Bible and Science can only be due to human error either in science or in the interpretation of Scripture
- **Humankind:** Humanity was created in the image of God to enjoy true communion with his Creator (Gen.1:26f; Acts 17:26f). Humans were instructed to exercise dominion under God, to interpret all reality in accordance with His design and law and to reflect in their person and works the excellence of their Maker (Gen.1:28f; Ps.8:4; Rom.1:20)
- **Sin:** By disobeying God's law and forsaking his office, man estranged himself from God and his neighbour and brought God's curse upon himself and upon all creation (Gen.3:16-19; Rom.8:19f). He also became blind to life's true meaning and purpose, misusing his knowledge and abilities, adhering to man-centred philosophies, and making himself false gods of his own imagination and desires (Rom.1:18f)
- **Christ:** Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, is God incarnate, the Word become flesh (John 1:1-14). Laying down His life for His sheep (John 10: 10-15), He paid the price of sin for them, being a ransom for all who truly believe in Him (Matt.20:28; Rom.5:6f; 1 Tim. 2: 5,6)

Risen from the dead in His physical body (Luke 24:36-43) and having ascended to the throne of Heaven He is the King of the Universe (Matt.28:18; 1 Pet.3:22). By His Word and Spirit He rules in grace over all true believers. Redeeming their life in its entirety, renewing them after His image and restoring them to the fellowship with God and their fellow men, He makes them obedient to God's will in all spheres of life (Rom.8: 1-17)

- **The Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Holy Trinity (2 Cor.13:13), the divine source of all created life (Gen.1:2; Ps.104:30), is also the source of faith in Christ, of true, spiritual knowledge and of a new sanctified life in grateful obedience to God's will (John 3: 3f; 1 Cor.2: 9f; Eph.3: 14f)

Since, therefore, the fruit of all Christian education depends on the gracious operations of the Holy Spirit, both parents and teachers are to perform their task with constant prayer that the Spirit may enable them to be good instruments in His hands for bringing the children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, and that He may so bless their work that the children come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and Master, Whom to follow and serve in all spheres of life is their greatest privilege and joy.

# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

## STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION

Donvale Christian College is a member school of the  
Australian Association of Christian Schools.

### About the Supreme Authority of the Bible:

- WE AFFIRM that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are God's infallible and inerrant revelation to man. It is thus the supreme standards by which all things are to be judged, and the authoritative guide for all life and conduct

### About the Lordship of Christ:

- WE AFFIRM that Jesus Christ is from eternity God's only begotten Son; He was born of a virgin and is therefore truly God and man. Through Him God created and sustains the world. Jesus suffered and died for our sins and rose again for our salvation. He ascended into heaven where He now sits on the right hand of the Father making intercession for His people. Christ is the Head of the Church and will come again to judge the world and complete the salvation of His people and the Kingdom of God

### About the Task of the Christian School:

- WE AFFIRM that a Christian school is a school where Christ is confessed as the Lord of creation. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, its special task is to teach the child to understand the world from a Christ-centred perspective and to equip him for his calling in life in subjection to Jesus Christ as Lord

### About the Role of Government:

- WE AFFIRM that all citizens owe obedience to the legally instituted governments of our nation which derive their authority from God and are responsible to Him for promoting and maintaining public security, justice and welfare
- WE AFFIRM that the responsibility for the education and guidance of children lies in the first instance with their parents or legal guardians, and that governments are duty bound to provide, without distinction and on general terms of equality, both the legal right and the opportunity for parents and guardians to choose for their children schools other than those established by public authorities that provide for the education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.