Information for Applicants

SCHOOL BACKGROUND
Torrens Valley Christian School is set amongst the foothills in Hope Valley, a northeastern suburb of Adelaide. Our school commenced in 1978. Current enrolment is approximately 640 students from Reception to Year 12.

Some features of the school are that it:
- Is co-educational.
- Provides a Christ-centred education in a caring family environment.
- Values each child as an image bearer of God.
- Is a multi-denominational school (children from some 14 denominations attend).
- Has a high standard of academic achievement.
- Offers a wide range of subjects at Senior School level for SACE.
- Provides a Christian emphasis in all subjects taught.
- Prepares children for life in this world and beyond.
- Has committed Christian teachers.
- Is governed by a Board elected by the Torrens Valley Association for Christian Education, a body of which all parents can become members.
- Is affiliated with over 85 other schools through our national body, Christian Education National.
- Is registered by the Non-Government Schools Registration Board and is affiliated with the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia and the South Australian Christian Schools Association.

SCHOOL STRUCTURE AND CURRICULUM
The school has an enrolment of 640 students distributed into three sections:
- Primary : Years Rec to 6
- Middle School : Years 7 to 9
- Senior School : Years 10 to 12

Each section is led by a School Coordinator. The Principal is also assisted by the Assistant Principals, Co-ordinator of Studies, Section Coordinators and Student Welfare Coordinators, who together with the Business Manager comprise the Senior Management Team of the School.
The Primary (R-6) curriculum has been established with a comprehensive and integrated Christian approach that promotes the acquisition of the required skills and concepts across all key-learning areas. Class teachers and students are assisted by education support staff where needs are diagnosed. A safe and secure learning environment is provided with a class size around 25 students.

Our Middle School represents a response to the recognition that students in the upper primary and lower secondary years are going through a distinct developmental stage. Changes in society have in many ways created the “young adolescent” with no clear role in family and society. In recent years there has been increased discussion focussing on these years of schooling as educators have realised that the traditional structures of primary and secondary school are failing to meet the young adolescents’ needs. Our integral core studies with additional specialist studies have produced remarkable progress in assisting young people grapple with the world and their place in it. A vital team of teachers is also crucial to this process.

Senior School provides for the increased rigours of selecting appropriate pathways as young people prepare for their graduation and rite of passage to the world beyond school. A wide range of SACE options are provided for and we contend that there are no pathways limited by the range of subjects provided.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY
Boys and girls are encouraged to participate in a wide range of co-curricular activity in sports, music, drama, clubs and activities.

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND AFFILIATION
Torrens Valley Christian School is conducted by the Torrens Valley Association for Christian Education Incorporated. Association members, all Christian parents, past parents and friends of the school, elect the School Board of Directors as the governing body of the school governed by a Constitution. The Association operates within the wider supportive context of the school community as a whole and indirectly, through churches of a wide range of denominations. The full range of Christian denominations is represented in the parent body of the school. There are no positions on the Board elected or appointed by any single church community. The Board is totally elected from the membership of the Association. The Principal, Business Manager are ex officio members of the Board.
CHRISTIAN BASIS AND THE EDUCATIONAL CREED

The Torrens Valley Association for Christian Education has clearly defined its Christian basis in its Educational Creed as stated in Article 3 of the Constitution. This statement must guide any strategies or objectives set for the school. All policies and procedures flow from this basis and are applications of it for all areas of school life, including teaching and learning, discipline and discipling, professional and industrial relations and administration. The following is a summary of this creed and its implications for Christian education.

Educational Creed

_The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight._

_Proverbs 9:10._

Our Common Faith
As a community united in Christ for the education of youth, we confess with the Church universal that there is one God, eternal and indivisible, in whom are three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which three Persons are really, truly, and eternally distinct, each one truly God, yet without in any way destroying the unity of the one and only God, who is one and not three;

That this one God is the creator of all things, visible and invisible;

That people were created in the image of God with dominion over the creation;

That people sinned by disobeying the express command of God, so repudiating their Creator and bringing God’s wrath and curse on themselves and on the whole creation over which they rule;

That by the curse of sin, justly imposed, every person is cut off from communion with God and is dead in sin, wholly corrupt throughout the whole individual, and utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil;

That God in his love for the world, sent his only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to be born of the virgin Mary, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, to live and suffer on this earth as a man under the curse of sin although himself without sin, to endure the fullness of God’s curse on sin in his death on the cross as a ransom for many, laying down his life for the sheep so that all who believe in him should receive without regard to their works or merit, full and free pardon, the riches of God’s favour as his children and heirs, and eternal life in Christ, being renewed by the Holy Spirit in Christ’s likeness;

That the Lord Jesus Christ, having died for our sins, rose again on the third day by the power of God, ascended to heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty who has put all things in subjection under his feet, appointing him to be Head of all things and the Church, which is his body;

That at the time appointed by God and known to no person, this very same Jesus shall come the second time in power and glory to judge all people, living and dead, and having destroyed this present world, to establish the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness has a permanent home;

That when the Lord Jesus comes again all the dead shall be raised bodily, those who by faith have done well, to eternal life, and those who through unbelief have done evil, to eternal condemnation;

That the risen Christ has sent the Holy Spirit into the world that by him redemption might be effectually applied, the divine purpose of salvation accomplished, and the Church equipped for its mission on earth;

That the redemptive activity and gracious favour of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - is essential for the fulfilment of human life.

The Word of God
We confess that the Scripture of the Old and New Testament, acknowledged in the confessions of the Reformation, is the infallible Word of God, and so is in all things, our supreme standard by which our whole life is to be judged.

That scripture is the integral divine Word by which God, through his Spirit, draws us to and enlightens us in the truth, which is Christ Jesus our Lord, the eternal Word of God.

That the same eternal Word who reveals himself in Scripture reveals himself in all that he has created so that the revelation of God is one.

That Scripture is indispensable and determinative for our knowledge of God, of ourselves, and of the rest of creation, and also for the whole educational task.

**Man’s Life**

We confess that man, as God’s image-bearer, is given dominion over the creation to rule it, manage it, and develop it under God, who is King over kings and Lord over lords.

That man’s life is fulfilled only in a life of free, willing submission to God, a life lived in harmony with the law of God for his creation made known in the integral revelation of the Word of God.

That, being now fallen into sin, man can attain this fulfilment only, through renewal by the Holy Spirit after the image of his creator.

That for man to attempt anything at all in independence of God or in ignorance of God’s revelation is inherently destructive of man and of the creation over which he is given dominion.

That it is man’s glory, as God’s image-bearer to do everything so that the glory of God is revealed in his doing.

That the development of the child as the image-bearer of God is a central concern of the educational task.

**Sin and Education**

We confess that human life in its entirety is religion, unfolding itself as service of one true God or of a God-substitute;

That in sin, people have repudiated God in favour of God-substitutes with the result that they are cut off from the knowledge of God, of themselves, and of the meaning of the creation, so that the light that they suppose they have is darkness and their wisdom is folly;

That, apart from the man Christ Jesus, no person is exempted from this falsifying of knowledge through sin, but from conception all alike grope in darkness, being blinded to the meaning of life, of the world, and of people themselves;

That no area of human knowledge is free of this sinful falsifying;

That true education is possible only where the fear of God is re-established by God’s grace in the heart of a person as the indispensable foundation of all wisdom and knowledge.

**Redemption in Christ**

We confess that God in Christ by the cross has restored the whole creation to harmony with himself, making all things new in Christ;

That, although the fulfilment of this restoration awaits the future revelation of Christ in glory, yet, in principle, by the work of the Holy Spirit in the world, it is a present reality to be reckoned with in faith in every area of life;

That Christ in his redemption, by his Holy Spirit, is creating from broken people a new regenerated humanity, his church, who is bound in covenant community to Christ as Head;
That this covenant community is God’s appointed means, through the power of the Holy Spirit within the community, for communicating the redemption of Christ to the world;

That, although by the grace of God, people who reject the Word of God as the ordering principle of life provide many valuable insights into the common structure of reality, yet the religious direction of their thought remains radically opposed to that of the covenant community in Christ, there can be no possibility of a synthesis of their systems of thought with scripturally directed thought which Christ’s covenant community is called to pursue.

**The Human Task**

We confess that all things are created by God and, as his creation remain under his government, upheld by his power, and existing for his glory;

That it is the human task to unfold the meaning that God, the creator has given to the creation;

That a person can fulfil this task only as, dependent on the Holy Spirit, they function in subjection to the law by which God orders his creation;

That the creation is neither chaotic nor meaningless, because God has graciously preserved and sustained it in spite of the disruptive effects of human sin, and kept it subject to his law so that mankind is not a meaning maker, but instead may see the structure and meaning of God’s creation.

That people cannot truly know the creation in this God-given meaning without an obedient listening to Scripture as God’s written Word in the light of which he studies the creation.

That the law of the Creator finds its coherence and meaning in Christ who is the First and the Last, the Beginning and End of the creation of God.

That true education is the unfolding to the child of the creation in harmony with the order and meaning it has in Christ, so that the child may be prepared and equipped for their office and calling in his world as God’s image-bearer and steward.

**The Special Task of Parents**

We confess that God has given parents the responsibility for the nurture of their covenant children by discipline and instruction according to the Word of the Lord;

That, to enable them to carry out this responsibility, God has given parents authority over their children to guide and direct them in the way of righteousness;

That, God has given children, on their part, a corresponding responsibility to honour, respect and obey their parents in the Lord;

That faithful training of children means instructing them in the covenant revealed in Scripture by which God binds his people to himself in wholehearted love, which covenant is the key to the fulfilment of all human life;

That while parents may invite others to share with them in the nurture of their children, the responsibility to determine the character and religious direction of the education of their children in every respect remains primarily the responsibility of the parents.
The Special Task of the school

We confess that true education is the preparation and equipping of the child for his office and calling as God’s image-bearer and steward in this world;

That a school where Christ is confessed as Head of the educational task in harmony with the Scripture is a valid expression of the life of the covenant community redeemed in Christ;

That it is the special task of the school to lead the child to discern the meaning and structure of the creation under the guidance of the Word of God, and to train the child in the use and development of his God-given talents, so that he may be equipped to serve Christ as King in all spheres of life to the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow men;

That the School, under Christ and by his Holy Spirit, is to advance the reign of Christ on earth in accordance with its special task so that his kingdom may come to expression here and now, though with much imperfection and weakness, and so that our Lord may find us busy in his garden when he comes in glory;

That parents, with their children, united in Christ for the special task of the school, together with teachers and others who share with them a common profession of faith, constitute a Christian school community, that is not in subjection to church, or state, or any other outside authority, but is subject to Christ who only rules over all;

That, while the school is entitled to expect freedom from interference in its special task, it is required to respect and uphold all legitimate authority, in particular the authority of family, church, and state and to encourage this respect in the child according to the Word of God;

That the authority of the teacher, to which the student is subject within the school and which is to be upheld by the whole school community, is given for the effective nurture of the child within the limits of the special task of the school and is to be used only for this purpose with the recognition that all authority is of God to whom all who exercise authority must give account.

The Lordship of Christ

Confessing Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the redeemer and renewer of all our life, we pursue the educational task together, with confident hope and humble reliance on God who, for Jesus’ sake, sent his Holy Spirit to lead us into the truth, which is Christ, and with glad submission to the Word of God as the guide of all our endeavour, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, whose is the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Members of the Association in accepting the Constitution of the Association subscribe in particular to the Educational Creed (Article 3) in the Constitution.

Enrolling parents sign their agreement with the Christian faith, as expressed in the articles of the Nicene Creed. They also sign a declaration that among other things, they wish their children to be taught in accordance with the Educational Creed of the Association. Parents make a statement of Christian commitment and agree that the school has full discretion through the Principal in the discipline of their children according to biblical standards to the point of asking the student to be withdrawn from the school.
DOCTRINAL POSITION
Because parents from a variety of Christian backgrounds support our School, we are often asked about our doctrinal position.

To make it clear, and to ensure a strong level of harmony between school and home, the School Board has adopted one of the historic Christian Creeds, which for many centuries has expressed the faith of believers. This is the Nicene Creed. All new parents are specifically asked if their faith commitment is echoed in the words of the Nicene Creed, and they will be requested to indicate agreement when applying for the enrolment of their children.

Staff members are expected to actively support the Christian aims of the school. Membership of a Bible based worship community is expected. Opportunities for devotions are provided in the staffroom, in classrooms and in assemblies. We encourage each other together in the Christian faith.

Vision
Torrens Valley Christian School is a Christ-centered learning environment developing young people to believe and become all that God created them to be. Developing young people to believe, belong, become.

Mission
Torrens Valley Christian School is built on faith in Jesus Christ, providing excellence in education. Our aim is to nurture children in a Christ-centered learning environment in order to develop their full academic, creative, personal, physical moral and spiritual potential.

Our Values
BELIEVE  BELONG  BECOME
Believe in God  Belong to the Community  Become all you were created to be!

School Motto
In Christ - Wisdom and Knowledge. Colossians 2:2–3
SELECTION PROCEDURE
• Applications will be received respecting confidentiality.
• All applicants will receive written acknowledgment of their application.
• Short listed applicants will be invited to an interview shortly thereafter.
• Referees will usually be contacted only subsequent to interview.

THE INTERVIEW(S)
Such matters as are listed below will be addressed at interview further to the position specification:
• Christian commitment
• Understanding of Christian Education
• Ability to work as a member of a team
• Handling conflict and its resolution
• Strengths and weaknesses - professional/personal
• Relevant skills.

APPLICATION
1. Applications must be on the Application Form provided herewith. Please complete in full even when some details will be repeated in your curriculum vitae.
2. Applicants are also invited to provide a concise curriculum vitae including personal details, church involvement, career experience, academic attainments, cultural interests, sporting activities.
3. Provision of family details and a recent photograph are invited.
4. Applications may include testimonials and must be accompanied by the names, addresses and telephone number of three confidential referees.
5. Applications which will be received until 4.00pm - Thursday 15 March 2018

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EMPLOYMENT COLLECTION NOTICE
In applying for this position you will be providing Torrens Valley Christian School with personal information.
If you provide us with personal information, for example, your name and address or information contained on your resume, we will collect the information in order to assess your application.
If unsuccessful in gaining this position, your information will be shredded once the successful applicant commences the position.
We will not disclose this information to a third party without your consent.
If you provide us with the personal information of others, we encourage you to inform them that you are disclosing that information to the school and why, and that the school does not usually disclose the information to third parties.