

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 600 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 approximately 600 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 unalterable (* hence the original usage of 'man' as inclusive of both genders in the statements below) 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.

Our common faith

The Bible reveals to mankind the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Gospel teaches of man's fall into sin and God's gracious acts of redemption, which culminated in the birth, death and resurrection of His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. It teaches us about the triune nature of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: that the risen Christ has sent the Holy Spirit into the world that by him the divine purpose of salvation might be accomplished; that at the time appointed by God and know to no man this same Jesus shall return in great glory to judge the living and the dead who shall be raised bodily to life. Our common faith sets the parameters of the whole of school life; hope for the future which gives new meaning and purpose to life and therefore determines our behaviour (interrelationships) and the curriculum (educational framework).

The Word of God

The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the infallible Word of God and is the supreme standard by which our whole life is to be judged. God reveals Himself especially in the Scriptures as well as in all He has created. The Bible provides the basis of all true knowledge and wisdom in Christ, who is the WAY the TRUTH and the LIFE. Thus, although the Bible is not a (school) textbook in the normal meaning of the word, God's Word does provide the focus for what any 'science' (that is all school subjects) should 'be about' - : God's perspective has a bearing on all fields of knowledge.

Man's life

Man was made in the image of God and given dominion over creation, which is to be nurtured and developed. Man was made perfect but fell into sin and now needs salvation through faith in Christ and renewal through the work of the Holy Spirit to be reconciled to God. Man's task is to glorify God in every aspect of his life. Education and school community life should function under this overarching concept. We live teach learn and interact to God's glory. The development of the student as the image-bearer of God is central to the educational task.

Sin and Education

Man through sin has cut himself off from the knowledge of God, of himself and of creation. Man's wisdom and knowledge has therefore become folly and ignorance. No area of human knowledge is free of this sinful falsifying. Because the focusing mechanism on the telescope through which we explore the universe and our place in it has built-in defects all our perceptions suffer.

True education is possible only where the fear and love of God is re-established by God's grace in the hearts of people, as the foundation of all wisdom and knowledge.

Redemption in Christ

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has restored the whole creation to God. This restoration will be completely fulfilled when Christ returns again, although it is realised even now in faith in every area of life. Christ's Church is His covenant community, to which children of believing parents also belong, and of which they receive the sign and seal of baptism, assuring them of the promises of God's grace. The Christian school plays an important part in enabling parents to prepare their children for life as redeemed people in an imperfect world.

Man's Task

All things are created by God, are maintained by His power and exist for His Glory. Man's task therefore is to rule over creation in a God pleasing way and for the good of humankind. Man must recognise God as creator and understand that the creation is neither chaotic nor meaningless. Creation is a rich, diverse, unbreakable unity, held together in Christ, who is the Living Word, which together with the Life-giving Spirit brought the creation into being the First and Last, the Beginning and End of God's creation. Man's task can therefore only be accomplished by people who have learned to deal with issues in creation in a Christ-centred way. All of life is subject to the Almighty Creator, who is working out His plans in spite of what man may do.

The special task of parents

Parents have the God given responsibility and authority to bring up their children according to the Word of God. The faithful training of children means teaching them about God's covenant with His people by which God binds His people to himself in wholehearted love. God has given children the responsibility to love, honour, respect and obey their parents in the Lord. It is the parents' not the state's or even the church's responsibility to determine the religious character and the direction of their children's education; yet all Christians as members together in Christ's covenant, share this responsibility.

The special task of the school

True education must equip children and young people to do God's will as His image bearers and stewards in this world. The school's special task is to lead the students to discern the meaning and structure of creation under the guidance of the Word of God and to train them to use and develop their God-given talents in the service of God and their neighbour. The school, therefore, is to advance the reign of Christ on earth. The school must recognise the authority and rights of parents in the education of their children and that this task is not subject to Church, State or other outside body. The school, however, is expected to uphold all legitimate authority.

The authority of the teacher over the student ("in loco parentis") is to be upheld by the whole school community. It is given for the effective nurture of the child, within the limits of the special task of the school, and is only to be used for this purpose, recognising that all authority is of God, to whom all who exercise authority must give account.

Our Confession

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, sends his holy spirit to lead us into the truth, which is Christ, and with glad submission to god's word 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

The vision of Torrens Valley Christian School is to nurture children in a Christ centred learning environment in order to develop their full academic, creative, personal, physical, moral and spiritual potential.

Mission

TVCS is built on faith in Jesus Christ, providing excellence in education and teaching servant leadership, compassion, respect and responsibility for the world in which we live.

In order to accomplish this, the School is committed to the following:

- Develop a strong, vibrant and committed school community, founded in the common Christian faith, as expressed in the Nicene Creed and the constitution's Educational Creed, and sustained by the Spirit of God.
- Develop high quality, integrated curricula, which are based on a Christian (Protestant) world and life view.
- Employ and develop committed Christian teachers with a variety of talents and a strong desire to develop the abilities of children in a positive teaching atmosphere.
- Provide well-equipped accommodation and grounds in a pleasant setting to support the education of children and young people.
- Maintain appropriate levels of income to support the educational demands on resources, and remain financially secure.
- Maintain the school enrolment.
- Develop close links with other Christian schools in South Australia and elsewhere.
- Promote the establishment of Christian schools as and where the Lord leads.
- Develop the school as a lighthouse for the local community, showing a Christian community in action.

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 person specification:

- Christian commitment
- Understanding of Christian Education and recent readings in this area
- Approach to children's learning
- Ability to work as a member of a team
- Handling conflict and its resolution
- Strengths and weaknesses - professional/personal
- The teacher as a learner
- Curriculum experience and strengths/personal preferences
- Discipline and Student Management
- Treatment of students with special needs - from gifted to learning difficulty students

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. All persons who have previously expressed an interest in employment at TVCS are requested to notify their specific interest in this position(s).
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 on Monday, 18 September, 2017** and should be marked "Confidential" and addressed to:

Mrs Julie Dow
Principal's Assistant
Torrens Valley Christian School
1227 Grand Junction Road
HOPE VALLEY SA 5090

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.