

Educational Creed



Learning and Growing with God

as taken from the
Rules of Association of the
Deniliquin Christian School Association Inc.

EDUCATIONAL CREED

The principles by which the Deniliquin Christian School Association is guided in all its activities and transactions are formulated in the following Educational Creed.

- 1.1 OUR COMMON FAITH
- 1.2 THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD
- 1.3 PEOPLE'S LIFE
- 1.4 SIN AND EDUCATION
- 1.5 REDEMPTION IN CHRIST
- 1.6 PEOPLE'S TASK
- 1.7 THE SPECIAL TASK OF PARENTS
- 1.8 THE SPECIAL TASK OF THE SCHOOL

1.1 OUR COMMON FAITH

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ...

- There is one God, eternal and indivisible, in whom are three distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each one truly God
- That this one God is the Creator of all things
- That people were created in the image of God
- That being tempted by the devil, people sinned by disobeying and rejecting God, bringing God's anger upon the whole creation.
- That by the fair and just penalty of this sin everyone is cut off from the original relationship with God that He created us for
- That God, in His love for the world, sent His Son Jesus Christ into our human world. Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, being conceived by the Holy Spirit. He lived and suffered on this earth as a person under the curse of sin, though He Himself was without sin. He endured death on the cross, paying the penalty that was due to us, so that our relationship with God can be restored.
- That the Lord Jesus Christ, having paid for our sins, rose again on the third day by the power of God, went up to heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father.
- That, at a time known only to God, this very same Jesus Christ shall come again revealed in power and great glory to judge all mankind, living and dead. He will establish the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness will reign forever.
- That when the Lord Jesus comes again all the dead shall be raised bodily, those who by faith in Him, having done well, to eternal life, and those who, through unbelief, have done evil, to eternal separation from God.
- That the risen Christ has sent the Holy Spirit into the world, to be active in our salvation and in equipping His people for their mission on earth.
- That an active relationship with God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - is essential for the fulfilment of a persons life, and is only available to us when we accept the gracious gift of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

THEN OUR SCHOOL SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE ...

Each child is clearly taught:

- a) that God made the world
- b) that God sustains and governs the Creation according to His own will, for His glory and the good of His people
- c) their own sinfulness before God
- d) their own total dependence on God and the impact of sin on the whole of creation
- f) the relevance of the death of Jesus Christ to the whole of creation on a personal and interpersonal level
- g) that they can only come to a true understanding of any part of life through the active help of God's Holy Spirit
- h) that Jesus Christ is Lord
- i) that Jesus Christ will return

1.2 THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ...

The Scriptures, the Old and New Testament, are the only sufficient, certain and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience. It is without error in its original manuscripts, and is therefore authoritative in all that it affirms, in every branch of human knowledge.

This Scripture, written by men moved by the Holy Spirit is itself the written Word of God.

This Scripture is essential for our knowledge of God, of ourselves, and of the rest of creation.

That therefore the Bible is central in the whole educational task.

THEN OUR SCHOOL SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE THE BIBLE IS...

- a) our supreme standard by which our whole life is to be judged
- b) where God has revealed some of His mind to us in a meaningful and coherent way
- c) God speaking to mankind in such a way as to command obedience
- d) the best book to read

and not merely

- a) a subject text book
- b) a manual of ethical judgements
- c) a proof testing manual for support of our own ideas

3.3. LIFE

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ...

People, as God's image-bearers, are given power and responsibility over creation to rule it, manage it, and use it wisely under God.

God created people for His own glory, and that therefore we can only reach full human potential (maturity) when we are living a life of willing submission to God, in agreement with God as made known in His Word, the Bible.

Because of the effects of sin, no one can attain this fulfilment except through the power of Holy Spirit.

For people to attempt anything at all without God is inherently destructive for people and of the creation over which we are given power and responsibility.

It is our privilege, as God's image-bearers, to do everything so that the glory of God is revealed in our lives.

The central concern of the educational task is to present each child fully mature in Christ.

THEN OUR SCHOOL SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE...

Education is seen to be:

- a) a life long process including schooling
- b) a process whereby each child is seen as growing in maturity
- c) growth from general experience to particular personal discrimination is part of all learning activities
- d) learning that is neither totally cognitive, behaviouristic, affective nor physical
- e) involved in the physical, cognitive, affective and spiritual domains of each person
- f) a growth towards valuing others, and moving away from self-centredness
- g) training in Christ-likeness as the aim for every child
- h) learning activities and processes of relevance which are a high priority
- i) the establishment of the rule of Christ in the life of each person. This is seen as a high priority in the light of Christ's certain return (the time of which is unknown).

3.4 SIN AND EDUCATION

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ...

Human life is in itself religion, unfolding itself either as service of the one true God or of a God-substitute.

That because of sin people rejected God in favour of God-substitutes. They are cut off from a relationship with God. The meaning they think their life has without God is misguided. This can be likened to a spiritual blindness, and only Jesus, who is the "Light of the World", can take away that darkness.

That true education is possible only when we are in relationship with God, through Christ, and it is our awe and respect of God that is the foundation of all true wisdom and knowledge.

THEN OUR SCHOOL SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE...

All learning is encouraged to be consistent with Biblical principles and: -

- a) it is acknowledged that all areas of life are the proper concern of Christian study. In the classroom the length and breadth of Gods world, in its wonder, its sinfulness and its demonstration of the grace of God will be presented in this context.
- b) the following attitudes are encouraged:
 - (i) a personal awareness of sin and our own unworthiness before God
 - (ii) a maturing sense of the majesty and awesome power of God
 - (iii) service to others
 - (iv) a biblical response to the needy
 - (v) willing submission to those placed in legitimate authority
 - (vi) a generous and loving spirit to all people
 - (vii) responsible in caring for the environment
 - (viii) a Christian view on the complexities of life in a multicultural context

- (ix) a balanced recognition of the contributions made to human society by all people and to acknowledge the gifts bestowed on all by God
- (x) wanting to become more like Jesus
- (xi) an appreciation of the beauty of God's creation in all its aspects.

3.5 REDEMPTION IN CHRIST

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ...

Through the death of Christ Jesus on the cross, God has restored the whole creation to harmony with Himself, that is, all things are new in Christ.

The fulfilment of this restoration awaits the future coming of Christ, however, the work of the Holy Spirit it is a present reality (despite appearances to the contrary) to be reckoned with by faith in every area of life.

Christ Jesus, by His Holy Spirit, is creating a new regenerated people united in the church which is His body, bound to Him as head.

This body is God's appointed means, through the power of the Holy Spirit within the community, for communicating the saving love of Christ to the world.

Although, by the grace of God, some who reject the Word of God as the ordering principle of life provide many valuable insights for us, because of the religious direction of their thought, they remain radically opposed to that of the body of Christ. There can be no possibility of a synthesis of their systems of thought with the Scripturally directed thought which Christ's people are called to pursue.

THEN OUR CLASSROOMS SHOULD BE PLACES WHERE ...

- a) Learning activities prepare and assist children in their growth into Christ-likeness
- b) each child is viewed as:
 - (i) a total person at any age (rational, social, moral, aesthetic, physical, affective)
 - (ii) made in the image of God and therefore of personal worth
 - (iii) capable of a personal relationship with God through Christ
 - (iv) a seeker after meaning and personal significance
 - (v) an important member of any social relationship
 - (vi) a person with a growing standing in any community as he/she grows in dignity, maturity and an attitude of service.

3.6 PEOPLE'S TASK

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ...

Everything is the creation of God, remaining under His government, upheld by His power, and existing for His glory.

Everything is neither random nor without meaning, but ordered and meaningful, graciously preserved and sustained by God in spite of the disruptive effects of people's sin, and subject to the law of the Creator in all things.

It is our task to unfold the meaning that God, the Creator, has given to the creation.

People cannot truly know this God-given meaning without an obedient listening to Scripture, as God's written Word,

The law of the Creator ensures a rich diversity within unbreakable unity in all creation.

The whole creation finds its coherence and meaning in Christ

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 life and calling in this world as God's image-bearer and steward.

THEN OUR CLASSROOMS SHOULD BE PLACES WHERE ...

The curriculum consciously and purposefully reflects and displays God's dynamic design for the universe. All subject curriculum components are to be seen and treated as fully determined by the creative agency and power of God.

Christian education encourages a celebration of the Lordship of Christ over all His creation, challenging staff, parents and students to a life of responsive discipleship to Jesus.

Thus: -

- 1) The Physical Sciences - investigate the structure of the physical world as fashioned and ordered by God.
- 2) The Biological Sciences - study the diversity, structure and function of God's creatures and their interaction with each other.
- 3) The Social Sciences - examine the ways in which the Lord intends His human creatures to relate to one another as well as how cultures and civilisations have observed or disregarded His decrees.
- 4) Language Studies and The Arts - provide opportunity to examine how human beings have responded aesthetically to the creator and His creative power.

The growth of wisdom is to be actively cultivated in students as they gain access to knowledge and skills. The curriculum must assist students to apply themselves in faith, hope and love to the service of God and their fellow human beings.

3.7 THE SPECIAL TASK OF PARENTS

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ...

God has given parents the responsibility for the nurture of their children by discipline and instruction according to the Word of the Lord.

In accordance with this responsibility, God has given parents authority over their children to guide and direct them in the way of righteousness.

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

Faithful training of children means instructing them in the relationship that Scripture tells us God desires with His people. It is one of wholehearted love, and service, which is the key to the fulfilment of everyone's life.

The responsibility for this nurture remains always the responsibility of the parents and, since all life is religion, it is the task of the parents alone to determine the religious character and direction of the education of their children in every aspect of their learning. As members together in the body of Christ, the whole school shares this responsibility with the parents.

THEN OUR CLASSROOMS SHOULD BE PLACES WHERE..

- a) the authority of parents is seen as coming from God; and therefore
- b) the rights and authority of parents are respected and strengthened
- c) the authority of the teacher, acting in place of the parents, is likewise derived from God.

3.8 THE SPECIAL TASK OF THE SCHOOL

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ...

True education is the preparation and equipment of the child for his/her 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 Scriptures is a valid, (but not the only) 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/her God-given talents, so that he/she 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 people.

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 the school community, in the corporate functioning of which the authority and rights of parents in the education of their children are to be recognised, is not subject as regards its special task, to Church, or State, or any other outside authority.

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 over the student, 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.

THEN OUR CLASSROOMS SHOULD BE PLACES WHERE ...

The curriculum as it applies the educational creed of the school to the educational program of the school will seek to lead students to an appreciation of what it means to be God's people, in God's place, under God's rule. In so doing it will both direct them to Jesus and prepare them for faithful Christian witness in their School and Community.