Covenant Christian School Association
All knowledge through Christ

PO Box 277 Belrose West
NSW 2085 Australia
admin@covenant.nsw.edu.au
www.covenant.nsw.edu.au
T 02 8459 4200

Our Mission

To assist parents in the nurture of their children, by providing a Christ-centred, biblically grounded, culturally engaging and academically rigorous education to equip the children to live for God's glory.

What does this Mission mean?

Covenant Christian School's vision statement is to faithfully serve in God's plan *to restore all things under the Lordship of Christ*. An explanation of this can be found in the document *Vision Statement Explanation.* The mission statement outlines how Covenant Christian School seeks to apply this vision statement within the context of a Christian School.

Each part of the mission statement deserves separate consideration.

To assist parents in the nurture of their children

Children are a gift from God, and the primary responsibility for the nurture and education of children to grow as disciples of Christ belongs with parents. Covenant Christian School doesn't want to replace the role of parents, because that would mean establishing a different order to that which God has ordained. Rather, we wish to assist parents in their role and responsibilities. The specific way in which we seek to assist parents is by providing a Christ-centred, biblically grounded, culturally engaging and academically rigorous education.

What is a Christ-centred, biblically grounded, culturally engaging and academically rigorous education?

Christ-centred

Colossians 1:15-20 states that all things in heaven and on earth were created by Christ, through Christ, and for Christ, and that through Christ's death on the cross all things are being reconciled to God so that Christ might be proclaimed Lord of all. Unless everything we do (for example, all our curriculum, our teaching, our discipline, everything!) is done for Christ, with the purpose of trusting Him, obeying Him, and declaring His Lordship, then we are not being faithful to our calling as a Christian school.

Biblically grounded

The Bible is God's complete word and it carries God's authority. It teaches us everything we need to know about God, salvation and godliness. Any teaching which goes against the Bible must be rejected, and any teaching which claims to be from God or about God but cannot be confirmed by the Bible must also be rejected. We seek to teach children how to read the Bible well, and so be equipped by it to live Christ-centred, godly lives. Our mission statement can only be fulfilled if all our teaching is consistent with the teaching of the Bible.

Culturally engaging

Society in general has rejected God, and rejects His people. While we know that this world and its evil ways will soon pass away, we aim to train children how to engage with culture, how to stand for those things that are true and right in the face of opposition, and how to reach out to the world around us with the light of the gospel and the love of Christ. This training includes demonstrating and developing a culture within the school that is appropriate for the people of God. It should show children how to live as Christians, while demonstrating to others the love of Christ so that they will give Him glory. We believe that this is important training to give children, rather than simply expecting them to work it out for themselves.

The training that children receive at Covenant is designed to equip them to stand firm and be a light to the world both while they are at Covenant and for a lifetime after they leave. Philippians 2:15-16 says it this way,

> "*Children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which they shine like stars in the universe as they hold out the word of life*".

Academically rigorous

Providing a strong, academically rigorous education is as important to our school as it is to any other, and is in no way compromised by the Christian training we provide. Covenant cares about its educational responsibility. In serving parents by educating their children in a way that trains them to serve God, we recognise that we are not just serving parents, but serving God. Paul's instruction in Colossians 3:23-24 summarises it well when it says,

> "*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ*."

This passage also has implications for the way children should learn. We encourage children to work hard too, as for the Lord, remembering that they are serving Him as they learn, and He will reward them for their service. They are learning to be obedient to God with all the talents He has given them, and in whatever situation He puts them. They are not simply learning to get a good HSC result.

To equip children to live for God's glory

Our goal is that students come to accept Christ as Lord and to spend their lives serving Him, and our education is directed to equipping them to do this faithfully. That is why our education is Christ-centred, Bible based, culturally engaging, and academically rigorous. Each aspect is targeted to help children bring glory to God by trusting Him, obeying Him, and declaring His Lordship.

Covenant aims to equip children not just for their lifetime, but to serve God and enjoy Him forever.