

Information for Members



PO Box 228 KARAMA NT 0813

Telephone: 08 8920 4355

Facsimile: 08 8920 4399

membership@ntchristianschools.com.au

Website: www.ntchristianschools.com.au

All people who work and do ministry with NT Christian Schools are expected to have a clear understanding of, and unqualified commitment to, its biblical basis, the Statement of Faith called 'What We Believe'. They are expected, both in the work place and in other areas of life, to act in ways that are consistent with that basis. Acknowledging that all people are fallible and good can ultimately only come from God, board, council and staff members are expected to be committed to Jesus Christ and ought to serve and love one another as Christ loves them.

Contents

NT Christian Schools Statement of Faith	3
The NT Christian Schools story	5
Our Vision and Mission Statement.....	6
The Objects of NT Christian Schools Ltd.....	6
NT Christian Schools Overview	7
Our National Partners.....	9



Our school is about developing the community
and developing the kids...
I see God's hand in things all the time. God is using our
schools to do things in the Northern Territory that wouldn't happen otherwise.



NT Christian Schools Statement of Faith

Background

The Statement of Faith is the central document of this organisation. NT Christian Schools is founded on, and constantly informed by, a Christian worldview. The Statement of Faith seeks to explain and make clear how NT Christian Schools understands what it means to be a Christian organisation, as well as Christian individuals. It is a lens through which the organisation expresses the depth and importance of the Christian faith and worldview.

Today, the breadth of activity and influence of NT Christian Schools places it in a unique and blessed position. As an organisation NT Christian Schools has the opportunity to share the love of God and tell His story to an ever widening audience of people across the NT, including contacts in business and government as well as people connected with our various school communities, for some of whom we may be the only witness for Christ in their lives.

The original Statement of Faith was adopted in 1977 at the time of the initial incorporation of the Darwin Christian Schools Association (later NT Christian Schools Association). It was a clear and sound expression of the fundamental truths at the heart of the Association.

Over time there was a developing awareness that the language of the original Statement of Faith was becoming less understandable to many, including the numerous Indigenous communities with whom the organisation interacts, families that have a non-English speaking background, and those who are young in the faith or not steeped in a theologically rich tradition. With this awareness grew a desire to make the Statement of Faith more accessible to all those people who the organisation exists to serve. A rigorous process of reviewing and rewriting the Statement of Faith in 'plain English' was undertaken. The document 'What We Believe' is the result.

The plain English Statement of Faith holds fast to the fundamental truths of our Christian beliefs. It has been built on the original Statement of Faith and reflects its doctrinal content. The review and rewording of the Statement of Faith also presented the opportunity to:

- more fully and overtly recognise the depth and breadth of God's love for His people,
- express the wonder of being in relationship with Him,
- reiterate the great commandments to love God and love one another, and
- reaffirm our responsibilities here on earth, particularly our daily witness for Christ and the task of telling everyone about who God is and what He's done.

In 'What We Believe', much of the rich language and theological terminology of the original Statement of Faith has necessarily been altered. Nevertheless the fundamental truths inherent in those words have been preserved. 'What We Believe' affords NT Christian Schools the opportunity to continue to be salt and light in making the truth of the Gospel known to all, but especially to new generations through use of language they can more readily relate to and resonate with.



All teachers who are passionate about Christ and passionate about education should consider NT Christian Schools; it is not a compromise if you love these two aspects.



‘What We Believe’

Jesus Christ is Lord of everything. Because we know Jesus, we want to reflect His love through all our activities in education, training and care. We want to tell His story and share His goodness with all people, especially the children and families we serve.

As Christians, this is what we believe:

There is one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God created the world and He created us to be His people. God loves us and is our Father in Heaven. He rules over the world and He provides us with everything we need. God reveals himself to us through His creation, through His Word and most of all through His Son Jesus Christ.

The Holy Bible is God’s word. In the Bible, God tells us how much He loves us and how He wants to be with us forever, as family. The Bible guides and directs us on how God wants us to live. It tells us what God is like and that His plan for us is good.

God is Holy and His law is perfect. Since the beginning when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, all people have broken God’s laws, this is what sin is. God is offended when we break His laws. Unless we turn to Him and away from our sin, we will be separated from Him forever.

But God loves us and does not want to be separated from us. God wants us to choose to be in His family. He wants us to honour Him because He made the world and He rules over the world. He wants us to learn about Him from the Bible. He wants us to talk to Him and enjoy being with Him.

God’s plan is to allow us to be in His family again. We can do this when we believe in Jesus. Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man and taught people about God. Jesus lived exactly how God planned for Him and never broke God’s law. Jesus took God’s anger for us when He died on the cross. Because of this, God promises that He will forgive us when we turn to Him and away from our sin. Believing in Jesus and why He died for us is the only way we can be in God’s family again.

Jesus died for us, but that was not the end! Jesus also rose from the dead. He is alive again! Jesus is the ruler of the world. He broke the power of sin. The Bible says that Jesus is now in Heaven. He rules over the world with God. Jesus is preparing a place in Heaven for every person who believes and trusts in Him.

Because Jesus is the ruler of everything, we can be sure that his promises are true. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us to help us to believe God’s promises and to understand the Bible. The Holy Spirit helps us to believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to see all the things we do that break God’s law, and helps us to be more like God made us to be. He encourages us to do God’s work here on earth. God is bringing His world back to himself and He wants us to help Him with this job. One day Jesus will come again to this world, and everything will be made new and right again.

God wants us to tell every person in the world about how much he loves them. God wants us to tell all people about how He is the ruler of the world. God wants us to tell people about Jesus and why He died for us. Every person who believes this is part of God’s family called the church.

This is God’s world and Jesus is at the heart of all things. Jesus is the ruler and Lord of everything we do. He is Lord in our schools, in our homes, in our lives and hearts. Everything we do can be done with thanks for everything God has given us and be an act of worship to Him.

The NT Christian Schools story



We are able to provide different learning opportunities for kids, so they have the chance to recognise their God-given skills and abilities in order to build their own futures and be of service to others.



Over 30 years ago, a small group of Christian parents came together in Darwin, NT. They held a shared and growing concern about their children's education and sought an alternative based on the biblical direction to ***train up children in the way they should go.***

An Association was formed and the first school opened at Marrara in 1979. From this small beginning our Association flourished over the years, with schools subsequently established in Palmerston, Alice Springs, and Bees Creek (outer Darwin), then Nhulunbuy, Woolanang (near Litchfield NP), Gäwa on Elcho Island and, in 2010, Mäpuru in East Arnhem Land.

Guided by our vision ***“to be a Christian community learning together to live life as God intended, offering hope for the world”***, our schools are characterised by some special and unique distinctives.

We enjoy the strong involvement of parents, who set up the Association to ensure ongoing partnerships between parents, teachers and the churches to educate children within a Christian worldview.

NT Christian Schools is also committed to partnerships with Aboriginal communities seeking to secure a stronger future for their children, and operates a school on the homelands at Gäwa.

Key to these partnerships has been the development of family group homes in place of boarding schools, so dedicated house parents can care for remote indigenous students and maintain close contact with their families.

We began offering the Families and Schools Together (FAST) program into urban and remote communities to promote strong community and family engagement.

We also run a Registered Training Organisation to equip young people and adults with vocational skills and qualifications.

NT Christian Schools has a construction Trade Training Centre undertaking commercial activities, supported by Transforming Skills NT, our non-for-profit building design and construction company.

And crucially, there is our committed staff - teachers, house parents, administrative and support staff – about 400 in all. Responding to God's call on them, they come from far and wide to meet the unique challenges and experience the deep joys of building a hope-filled future for all in this unique part of the world.

Our Vision and Mission Statement

"To be Christian communities, learning together to live life as God intended, offering hope for the world"

NT Christian Schools seeks to provide education, training and care in faithful response to the Gospel of Christ by:

- Partnering with Christian parents to help them fulfil their mandate of educating their children in Christ;
- Supporting all parents and carers who choose Christian education for their children;
- Developing, building and maintaining Christian schools;
- Assisting every school community to provide the highest quality education from a Biblical perspective, so that students are educated within a Christian worldview;
- Promoting Christian education in the Territory and beyond;
- Providing opportunities for vocational training, both through the Association's own entities and in collaboration with other organisations;
- Developing a wide range of partnerships that support the achievement of the vision and mission

The Objects of NT Christian Schools Ltd

The objects (or activities) of the Company are to deliver and promote education, training and care based on Christian principles and from a distinctively Christian worldview, through:

- the establishment and development of schools;
- the establishment and development of other education and training institutions and other enterprises;
- the development and delivery of education and training programs;
- the establishment and development of facilities and programs for care in support of these objectives; and
- acting as trustee and doing such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of these objects.



The school and the staff have a strong commitment to providing a distinctively Christian education.



NT Christian Schools Overview

Each school operating within NT Christian Schools is blessed by being a **part of a system** of schools and other functional entities that interconnect and support one another, and also receive significant support from the System Office. The Chief Executive Officer of NT Christian Schools is responsible to the Board for the operation of the organisation as a whole. School Principals work in partnership with the CEO and System Office staff in support of their particular school, and work in partnership with other Principals across NT Christian Schools and the CEO in support of the broader vision and mission of our organisation.

NT Christian Schools

Governance: Board (elected by Members)

Management: CEO

NT Christian Schools System Office staff providing support for Schools within the broad areas of Finance, Funding and Project Management, ICT, Human Resources and Payroll, Policy, Reporting and Compliance obligations, Curriculum services, as well as Pastoral Care and the facilitation of professional development opportunities.

Our Schools

Governance: School Councils (exercising delegated Board authority)

Management: Principal

Within the overarching 'System' support framework, each of our Schools operates as a unique educational entity, with the Principal exercising high levels of responsibility as Educational Leader of the School. Principals are expected manage their school within the context of the NT Christian Schools family, as well as implement the strategy and oversee the work involved to fulfil the mission of their own School and the broader organisation.

For more information on each of our Schools please see 'Our Schools; Their Stories'

Araluen Christsian College	Gäwa Christian School	Marrara Christian College	Nhulunbuy Christsian College	Palmerston Christian School	Sattler Christian College
<i>Transition - Year 9</i>	<i>Indigenous Homeland School</i>	<i>ELC + Transition - Year 12</i>	<i>Transition -Year 10</i>	<i>ELC + Transition - Year 10</i>	<i>ELC + Transition - Year 10</i>
Alice Springs	Elcho Island	NT Christian College – operating across these school campuses (Years 10-12)			
		Darwin	Nhulunbuy	Palmerston	Bees Creek

Membership

As with the original group of parents who started the organisation, members of NT Christian schools seek to apply the Biblical direction to *train up children in the way they should go* (Proverbs 22:6) and are committed to shaping the kind of education their children experience. **Members want their children to receive high quality distinctively Christian education.**

A strong and committed membership body is vital to continuing the work of Christian education, training and care and is one way in which we partner with Christian parents to help them fulfil their mandate of educating their children in Christ.

Therefore, Christian parents, grandparents, carers, staff and others dedicated to the cause of Christian education are encouraged to join our membership.

NT Christian Schools is a member-based company limited by guarantee and governed by a Constitution. A full copy of the NT Christian School Constitution is available by emailing membership@ntchristianschools.com.au.

Membership is important because:

- Membership of NT Christian Schools is an expression of your connection with the Vision and Mission statement, and your support for the purposes of the organisation.
- A faithful and active membership body ensures the distinctive Christian character NT Christian Schools is maintained.
- Membership demonstrates to government and the community that parents and other community members value Christian education and support an education that is shaped by a biblical world view. A strong number of members can be important when seeking to maintain our distinctiveness in the broader educational and political context.

When a person becomes a member they are:

- Committing to protect and preserve the mission and vision of NT Christian Schools (as described on Page 6);
- Accepting a role in ensuring that the activities of NT Christian Schools are consistent with that mission and vision ;
- Committing to governing the organisation by exercising their vote for Board and Council members;
- Delegating to the Board and relevant School Council the authority to govern on their behalf; and
- Expressing an interest in staying informed and prayerful about the life of the organisation.

Members may attend the NT Christian Schools AGM and should expect to receive audited financial statements, information about the activities of each school and future initiatives. Members would usually be consulted about any significant changes to the organisation's structure and function. Members are responsible for voting for the Board and School Councils (for campuses where a School Council is in place) and encouraged to prayerfully consider serving on the Board or a School Council for a season.

Our National Partners

NT Christian Schools is proud to be a member of the wider [Christian Education National](#) family of schools in Australia.

In providing education from a uniquely Christian perspective, NT Christian Schools is strongly supported by the Christian teacher education body of the [National Institute for Christian Education](#). NT Christian Schools has a close relationship with the National Institute and regularly supports staff members to receive Christian professional development and post-graduate study through the Institute.

NT Christian Schools also receives a high level of support from the [Australian Association of Christian Schools](#), whose mission is to assist Christian schools in Australia, advocating for them and protecting their interests at a national level.

Like more information?

Please see our website: www.ntchristianschools.com.au

Other resources, including the *NT Christian Schools Constitution*, can be made available by emailing membership@ntchristianschools.com.au



Teaching within NT Christian Schools is an amazing experience and you get a lot of support from the other teachers who are all on the same page as you.

