

EDUCATIONAL CHARTER

This charter is a defining and enduring document that serves as a foundation and cornerstone with which the educational delivery of Dubbo Christian School, Wellington Christian School and Dubbo Christian Preschool will be aligned. By faith we believe the Bible to be the divinely inspired, inerrant¹ Word of God², the only absolute rule for faith and conduct³, and therefore also for the education of our children at home and at school. We acknowledge the centrality⁴ of Jesus Christ⁵ in all of life including education.

As open enrolment schools, we recognise that our student and parent communities include a variety of religious backgrounds and lifestyle beliefs. All who support our entitlement to our Statement of Faith are welcome in our schools. While we recognise the right of parents and students to hold different views on lifestyle or faith as private matters, it is important when joining our school communities that families understand what each school promotes, practises and teaches.

The special task of parents

Children are a gift from God⁶ and in His manifold⁷ wisdom, parents are mandated by God to bring their children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord⁸. In accord with this Biblical responsibility, God has given parents authority over their children to guide and direct them in the way of righteousness⁹.

Parents have, therefore, the prime responsibility for the education of their children, including that part of their children's education which takes place outside the home. God has given children, on their part, a corresponding responsibility to honour, respect and obey their parents in the Lord.¹⁰

Accordingly, our schools will operate in such ways that parents may with integrity fulfil their responsibility under God. And our schools will educate students in a manner that is fully integrated with Biblical truth and the principles of Christian living.

The special task of our schools

Believing God has appointed parents with the responsibility for raising their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord according to the Word of God, we understand a Christian school to be a legitimate educational institution.

Berakah Christian Education, as a parent-controlled community, exists to support parents in the Christ-centred, Biblically-based nurture and education of children. Thus, our schools operate in a dynamic partnership between parents and staff under the authority of God that recognises and safeguards the unique responsibility of parents.

Our schools are places where educational excellence, formational spiritual growth and maturity are pursued simultaneously, and where students are enabled to reach their fullest God-given capabilities. It becomes the special task of our schools to:

¹ Without error or fault

² 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:21

³ Psalm 19:7, Psalm 119:160, John 10:35; 17:17

⁴ The idea that Jesus, because of His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension, is placed at the centre of every aspect of life

⁵ Colossians 1:15-17, Philippians 3:8-9

⁶ Psalm 127:3-5

⁷ Demonstrated in many ways

⁸ Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Ephesians 6:4

⁹ Proverbs 19:18

¹⁰ Ephesians 6:1-3, 1 Timothy 5:4, Colossians 3:20

- lead students, under the guidance of the Word of God, to discern the coherent purpose and structure of the creation in Christ;
- encourage students to consider the importance of committing their hearts to the truth and attaining understanding, wisdom and righteousness through Christ; and
- prepare and equip students in the life-long development and use of their God-given skills, talents and creativity to maximum potential, in fulfilling their unique calling in life in dedication to Christ as Lord.

In pursuit of their special task, each school will develop and deliver an education that builds a sense of each student's place in God's story, working towards redemption and restoration.

Within each school community, students are subject to the authority of the teacher which is to be upheld by the whole school community. It is never to be exercised or maintained for its own sake. In our schools it is only to be used for the effective nurture of students, in harmony with the special task of our schools and with an awareness that all authority is of God¹¹.

The authority and rights of parents in the education of their children are to be recognised. Our schools are not subject with regard to their special task to church, or state, or any outside authority in performing our special tasks. It is acknowledged that, while our schools are entitled to expect freedom from interference in their special task, they are still required to respect and uphold all legitimate authority. This includes the authority of family, church and state. Each should encourage this respect in the child.

¹¹ 2 Peter 2:13-17, Romans 13:1