



MISSION STATEMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Mission Statement

To provide quality Christian education. Glasshouse Christian College is a ministry of Glasshouse Country Baptist Church.

Guiding Principles

Glasshouse Christian College was established to provide a School environment with a Christian dimension, supporting parents in their task as prime educators.

The vision we share for our school supports and guides our approach to all aspects of our work. This is outlined specifically in several areas as follows.

Regarding our faith

- **We believe** Christ is relevant to all aspects of life **therefore we will** seek distinctly Christian viewpoints and understandings to be presented in all teaching.
- **We believe** God deserves honour in everything we do **therefore we will** seek to ensure that all the College's activities accord with God's revealed will and bring honour to His name.
- **We believe** our identity, freedom and salvation can be found only in knowing and serving Christ **therefore we will** provide opportunities for the students and their families to discover and serve Christ.
- **We believe** we are created to worship our Heavenly Father **therefore we will** provide opportunities for students to pray and worship together.
- **We believe** our nature is sinful, but we are made righteous before God through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ **therefore we will** encourage and pray for a spreading faith in Christ and encourage a growing transformation of our lives by His power.
- **We believe** God is the leader and Lord of this College **therefore we will** seek to discover and act upon God's purposes for the College as empowered by His Holy Spirit.
- **We believe** the Bible is the inspired Word of God **therefore we will** determine all College matters recognising the Bible's authoritative teaching.

Regarding our staff

- **We believe** parents derive much support in the upbringing of their children from skilled, committed and effective teachers **therefore we expect** teachers will be responsive to parental needs and will work together with them.
- **We believe** teachers are learners too **therefore we expect** teachers will seek to develop and refine their skills and clarify their understanding of Christian education through professional development opportunities.
- **We believe** the College staff need to work together in unity and cohesive purpose **therefore we expect** all staff will encourage and support one another in their calling and work.
- **We believe** the demonstration of faith, and the personal example provided by the staff is very important in fostering faith in the students **therefore we expect** staff will demonstrate, model and share their faith and their delight in learning with the students.
- **We believe** effective teachers are committed and highly skilled **therefore we expect** our staff will work hard and use the most effective methods in their teaching.

- **We believe** relationships between staff and students ought to be built on truth, justice and love therefore we expect our staff to show love to the students regardless of ability, personality and background; they will be honest with them and treat them with respect and justice.
- **We believe** neither children nor teachers are intrinsically good or wise therefore we expect our teachers will deliberately guide the development of the children through instruction and encouragement with a constant and humble dependence on God, aware of their own imperfections. Teachers will be open in acknowledging that sometimes they make mistakes too.

Regarding our curriculum

- **We believe** the gospel of Christ is the real and fundamental basis for living **therefore we expect** the curriculum and classroom practice will include effective, regular instruction from the Scriptures and their implications today for Christian living.
- **We believe** that when we know God then a true knowledge of the world leads to true wisdom and a life in God's service **therefore we expect** the curriculum will guide students to relate their learning to broader concepts and contexts and to the outworking of God's providence.
- **We believe** the capacity to make good choices in life is enhance by training, knowledge, skills and experience **therefore we expect** basic skills will be a priority, and the curriculum will be designed to foster development of the complete person.
- **We believe** it is our responsibility to cater for individual differences, and challenge students of all abilities to achieve high personal standards **therefore we expect** students to attain their individual potentials; the curriculum will be broad enough in objectives and methods to cater for individual differences.
- **We believe** resources, and particularly time, constrain any curriculum **therefore we expect** the curriculum will offer reasonable subject variety and choice, but it will also ensure time to permit depth and excellence in all offered subjects.
- **We believe** it is possible to identify subjects which are of greater and more widespread significance for the education of every person **therefore we expect** the essential areas of learning will be identified and considered compulsory (Key Learning Areas).
- **We believe** the College curriculum is not the only learning opportunity for students **therefore we expect** the curriculum will anticipate and complement other learning in the home, church and community at large.

Regarding our parents

- **We believe** parents have the primary right and responsibility for the nurture and teaching of their children **therefore we expect** the College will work to support and extend the education carried out by parents, and will report to them regularly and in detail.
- **We believe** children benefit if parents and teachers work together **therefore we expect** parents and staff to encourage and support each other. Parent participation in College life is also encouraged.
- **We believe** the College should extend the values and priorities of God – honouring parents into daily school life **therefore we expect** teachers will become aware of the values and priorities of God-honouring parents and work to support these within the school environment.

Regarding our children

- **We believe** children are created in the image of God but being human, have fallen from grace and are unable to achieve righteousness nor true knowledge in their own strength **therefore we expect** the staff will guide and encourage children in academic, moral, spiritual and physical areas so that they are enabled to develop positively and are led to acknowledge their need of God.
- **We believe** children's identity, freedom and salvation can only be found in a proper relationship with God through knowing and serving Christ **therefore we expect** staff will present the Gospel faithfully, support the teaching of Christian parents and pray for faith and growth in all the children.
- **We believe** children learn best when they know they are valued, and the greatest sense of value emerges from a relationship with God. Self-centredness is destructive. **Therefore we expect** confidence and self-

acceptance will be nurtured in a context of trust and dependence on God. This confidence and strength will be channelled into the service of others.

- **We believe** learn best in a safe, orderly and stimulating community **therefore we expect** high standards of behaviour and care will be maintained and students will contribute to, and enjoy a secure and interesting social environment.
- **We believe** each child is a unique creation of God **therefore we expect** staff will be aware of the differences among children and will show love to them all. Different abilities will be catered for and enrolments will be from varying backgrounds.
- **We believe** children learn by the example and influence of those who show them love **therefore we expect** staff will build student awareness of who Christ is, and will be a positive personal model to them of the delight in learning, and serving Him.
- **We believe** children learn best by a variety of teaching strategies and methods coupled to experiences which arouse their interest, creativity and joy **therefore we expect** the College will provide a variety of learning situations in a stimulating environment with opportunities for discovery.
- **We believe** children's learning is stimulated through appropriate challenges **therefore we expect** there will be encouragement and opportunity for high academic, practical and creative achievement.
- We believe obedience to legitimate authority is important and pleasing to God **therefore we expect** children will obey teachers and all legitimate authorities and be trained to exercise just and loving leadership themselves.

Regarding our society

- **We believe** our College should proclaim Christ in society therefore we expect the College will be a witness to the Lordship of Christ in its service and commitment to the needs of the wider community and through the quality of its internal life.
- **We believe** there are many learning and educational opportunities in society **therefore we expect** some participation in community sporting, cultural and social activities so that students will benefit from a wider set of relationships, values and resources, and so that Christian students have the opportunity to test their emergent faith.
- **We believe** there will be opportunities for the wider community to be beneficially involved in the College's activities therefore we expect visiting artists, teachers, leaders and guests will be invited to the College to enrich the curriculum.

Regarding our College community

- **We believe** all College relationships should be built on justice, love and truth therefore we expect all members of the College community will seek to work in harmony thereby honouring the name of Christ.
- **We believe** Christ's leadership of His people is the model of leadership therefore we expect leadership will be shared and all College management will be self-giving, humble, and demonstrating a sense of responsibility to God and those who are served.
- **We believe** God will provide the resources for our College; we are held accountable as stewards of all His gifts therefore we expect College buildings and resources will be managed, maintained, effectively used and shared without waste. Development and environmental improvement will be continuous.