



Vision, Purpose, Objects & Values, Child Safety Undertaking, Principles & Statement of Faith

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**Ballarat
Christian
College**

1. OUR VISION

Every learner reaching their God-given potential.

2. OUR PURPOSE

To provide each student Christian education that gives opportunities to develop gifts and talents to fulfil the will of God in his or her life.

3. OBJECTS & VALUES

3.1 Objects

In recognition that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, knowledge and understanding, the objects of the company are to advance the Kingdom of God, strengthen the Church of Jesus Christ and promulgate the knowledge of God that is revealed in the Holy Bible and that is in accord with the Statement of Faith, and in furtherance of these objects:

- to contribute to the educational facilities of Australia by establishing, maintaining and supporting, in such places that may be thought suitable pre-school, primary, secondary, tertiary and other educational institutions and methods of the highest standards;
- to provide an education of high academic and vocational standards that is based on:
 - i) an acceptance of the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and
 - ii) an acceptance of the Bible as the revealed Word of God, as these are defined in the Statement of Faith;
- to provide an education that also:
 - i) fosters self-discipline in staff and students while teaching them to accept the authority of the Christian community which is the whole Body of Christ, to honour and obey their parents and the laws of the governments of Australia.
 - ii) caters for the individual needs of all staff and students while stressing their responsibility to contribute positively to others as part of a Christian community.
 - iii) nurtures staff and students in the moral and ethical standards of the Bible, encourages them to develop a Biblical world view and to make life choices consistent with a formative Christian faith, while appreciating the rights of others to hold different views.
 - iv) develops the creative and critical abilities of staff and students.
 - v) fosters the development of the gifts, skills and abilities of staff and students for the service of Jesus Christ in the Body of Christ and the wider community.
- to provide Christian religious activities, worship and teaching in accordance with these Objects, the Principles and the Statement of Faith.

3.2 Values

Our Objects, Vision and Purpose is supported by the College's Core Values namely;

Commitment	<i>Isaiah 37:32</i>
Excellence	<i>Philippians 4:8</i>
Respect	<i>1 Peter 2:17</i>
Unity	<i>Ephesians 4:13</i>
Compassion	<i>Philippians 2:1</i>
Honesty	<i>2 Kings 12:15</i>

Our Core Values are underpinned by reference to biblical principles as derived from the Bible.

4. CHILD SAFETY UNDERTAKING

Flowing from Ballarat Christian College's Vision, Purpose, Objects and Values is a commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. As the College implements welfare practices which honour God and comply with the Victorian Child Safe Standards legislation, a safe environment for students is of utmost priority.

As a Christian organisation we hold that human beings are created in God's image, that they are His highest form of creation and that all human beings have an inherent dignity on the basis of who they are and not on the basis of their actions or behaviours. As a consequence of this we believe that human life is both precious and sacred, having an inherent value to God, and therefore we have zero tolerance of all forms of abuse, particularly child abuse, as stated in our Child Safety Policy.

The College recognises that in addition to having dignity and worth, human beings were created with freedom. The freedom to make choices means that we can sin and this is evidenced in our world by brokenness, injustice and violence. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection and our faith in His work leads to forgiveness and a right relationship with God. We look to this being perfected in a future age, but in the present time we need to be vigilant to protect and love all we come in contact with, especially the most vulnerable. In this regard the wellbeing and safety of children is our top priority.

We are committed in our Objects to "...the development of the gifts, skills and abilities of staff and students for the service of Jesus Christ in the Body of Christ and the wider community". We believe the outworking of this in the lives of staff and students should see the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) present as outlined in Galatians 5:22-23. The College acknowledges that the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit in lives should lead to a rejection of all forms of abuse, no matter what form it takes.

(Acknowledgements:- Crest Education & J. Fea, "Why Study History?")

5. PRINCIPLES

5.1 Education Environment

The Company serves its various communities by providing a formal education which is honouring to God. Through high quality teaching and learning in a nurturing, stimulating and biblically-directed environment, students grow in their understanding of God's world and in their commitment to serving Jesus Christ to their God-given potential.

5.2 Schools' Responsibilities

The schools conducted by the Company are communities which exist to help parents to equip their children for effective, obedient, God-glorifying lives as Christians in the world by:

- leading students into mission work, that is the service of God and of others as a thankful response to the work of God in Christ.
- nurturing in students the development of a biblical understanding of the world and of life.
- establishing an education environment that is characterised by faith, hope, love, joy, peace and service.
- helping students to discover and develop their own God-given abilities, training them according to those gifts and to recognise and respect the gifts of others.
- showing students that knowing their strengths and limitations is part of achieving a realistic view of God's positive purpose for their lives.
- promoting a striving for excellence in their lives.
- recognising that the local church is the institution through which God ministers to the pastoral needs of his people, administering the sacraments, and commands to Christian work and service. The Company recognises that the role of Company schools is not to replace parents or the local church, but to provide the support, facilities and encouragement of both to fulfil their role in education.

5.3 Principles

The Company maintains the following:

Christian Schools

- (a) The role of the Christian school is to partner with parents to help each student find the will of God for their life and to give them the human and practical resources, the environment, the encouragement and the opportunities to develop the gifts and talents God has given them so that they will respond to and fulfil the call of God on their life.

Evangelism

- (b) God states that He is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Thus the first will of God for the life of each student is that they 'be saved', that is they accept personally for themselves the forgiveness God offers, through the vicarious offering of Jesus on the cross.

Sanctification

(c) God expressly states that His plan and will for each Christian is to live Christ-like, that is, God has predestined that believers be like His Son (Romans 8:29, Philippians 1:6, 1 Corinthians 11:1). Thus Company schools must provide discipleship, Bible study and character training. The encouragement of involvement in fellowship with, and membership of, the local church is consistent with Company objectives and the practice of believers (Acts 2:42).

Parents

(d) The Bible gives to parents the responsibility of education. The Bible, however, allows parents to appoint teachers to help with the task of education (Galatians 4:2). The parents remain accountable to God for their child's education and the role of the teacher and school is to work together with the parents as specialists called in to help with, not take over, the role of education.

(e) Thus the Objects, Principles and Statement of Faith demands Company schools to:

- (i) work with the parents, and
- (ii) build into the lives of the families and parents the injunctions God demands of them, and
- (iii) encourage parents to take the responsibilities which God has given them both in spiritual leadership and in education.

(f) A Company school is not a single tutor answerable to one parent. Thus Company schools have clearly stated and continue to state their position in educational and spiritual perspectives, goals and objectives, course content, educational methodology and required student behaviour and involvement. Parents can then decide whether as family they can fully trust the school and the staff, whether they can fully support the philosophy, direction and methodology of the school and whether they are willing to meet the demands placed upon them and their children by the practice of the school. In short, parents are required to indicate their full support for every aspect of the school, including its policies.

Christian Growth

(g) Biblically, next to the home, the church is the prime means of developing Christian growth. Ballarat Christian College Company schools do not seek to replace the local church, instead they encourage students to be fully involved in their local churches. On the other hand, Ballarat Christian College Company schools are by their nature evangelistic, pastoral, and nurturing and do, where families are not involved in a local church, minister to the family until the family becomes involved in a local church.

(h) Ballarat Christian College Company schools through assemblies and pastoral periods lead students in worship and provoke them to prayer, praise and Christian growth within the realm of the school.

Fellowship Orientation

(i) Ballarat Christian College Company encourages students to accept salvation, walk in the light of Christ, and find fellowship with other believers (1 John 1:7).

Mission Orientation

(j) God expressly states that it is His will for all Christians to be involved in outreach to others (Matthew 28: 18-20). Thus as a Christian institution it is the task of Ballarat Christian College Company schools to encourage students towards personal evangelism and mission and to provide both training and opportunity for that mission work.

(k) God has a specific will for the lives of all people (Ephesians 5:17). Firstly, that will is for people to be 'saved' (2 Peter 3:9), that is to come into a personal relationship with God through the provision of forgiveness and access purchased in and through the blood of Jesus given on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21). Secondly, that will is for believers to be living lives which emulate the life of Jesus (Romans 8:29, Colossians 2:6). Thirdly, that will is to use fully the gifts and talents which God has given (Matthew 25: 14-30, 1 Corinthians 12:7). Furthermore, it is God's will that the message of the gospel be heard throughout the world (Acts 1:8, Matthew 28: 18-20).

Wide Curriculum

(l) Ballarat Christian College Company schools are dedicated to ensuring the individual's talents and gifts are enhanced, trained and developed and the individual is given encouragement and opportunities to use their gifts and talents, rather than the squeezing of students into a specific mould. Therefore, Ballarat Christian College Company schools must aim to offer a wide curriculum providing quality programs and opportunities to both practically orientated students as well as academically gifted students.

Allowance for Individuals

- (m) Jesus, referring to the disabled (blind) man (John 9:3), infers that God did not make a mistake when He created this man blind. The man had been created with what the disciples saw as a disability due to sin; but Jesus rebuked them explaining that what they had callously attributed to sin was a specific plan of God to glorify His Son through the healing of the blindness of this man. God did not make a mistake when He made any student or person. Each one has the strengths and disabilities which are needed to fulfil the task which God has for each that each might glorify God in the way God has ordained.
- (n) Difficulties only arise when schools, parents and individuals try to glorify God in a way other than the way God intended. Thus Company schools must make allowances so that students given into the care of Company schools can be developed to be what God has called them to be, regardless of their so called 'disability'.

Staff

- (o) Implicit in these Principles is the concept that to fulfil their stated objectives, Company schools can only use staff who are called by God to the work and equipped by God for the work of Company schools. Such staff will be Christians who are walking close to God, obedient to God on a daily basis, who understand the Objects, Principles and Statement of Faith and are dedicated to fulfilling the Objects, Principles and Statement of Faith.

6. STATEMENT OF FAITH

6.1 The Scriptures

We believe in the Divine inspiration, the infallibility and supreme authority of the Old and New Testaments in their entirety and that the Holy Spirit so moved the writers that what they wrote are authoritative statements of truth for all matters of faith and conduct. It is indispensable and determinative for all our knowledge of God, of ourselves and the rest of creation.

Matthew 4:4; 5: 17-18; 24:35; John 5:39; 10:35; 17:17; Acts 28:23; I Corinthians 2:7-16; 2 Timothy 3: 15-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

6.2 The Godhead

We believe that the one living and true God eternally exists in three persons (the Trinity): Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God depends on nothing and no-one; everything and everyone depends on Him. God is holy, just, wise, loving and good. God created all things and by His Word they are sustained and controlled.

Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; John 14: 16-17; I Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; 4:4-6.

6.3 The Father

God the Father is the first Person of the triune Godhead. He is the eternal Father in position not in generation. He is personal, ever-present sovereign, self-existent, invisible, immortal, holy, unchanging, good, merciful, all-powerful, all knowing, loving, gracious, faithful and just.

Leviticus 11:44, Malachi 3:6, Numbers 23:19, Deuteronomy 4:39, Daniel 4:35, 2 Corinthians 1:3; Psalm 90:2, 102:25-27, 107:1, Romans 2:4.

6.4 The Son

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternally existing, only begotten Son of the Father. He is the Son in position not in generation. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. When God the Son came to earth to provide for salvation He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, truly God and truly man. He lived a sinless life and died for sin in our place. He was buried, rose from the dead in bodily form and ascended to heaven.

John 1:1-3, Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, John 14:9-10, 17:1,5, Philipians 2:5-11, Romans 5:8, Colossians 1:14-22, Hebrews 1:3-8.

6.5 The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead, the divine Empowerer of all created life, the Source of true spiritual knowledge and of faith in Christ, and that He indwells every true believer, sealing them to redemption and empowering them to live a sanctified life in obedience to God's will.

John 14:16-17, 26, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 12:13, 2 Corinthians 3:17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Luke 4:1, 18-21, Acts 4:31.

6.6 The Need & Provision of Salvation

- (a) The Bible teaches that all people are born with a sin nature, and that every person chooses to rebel against God and willfully sins against Him. Sin is the breaking of the law of God. No-one is righteous, without sin, and all are

guilty before the righteous God who created us.

- (b) Jesus Christ, God who became man, lived a sinless life and died for the sin of all men. He has fully paid the debt of sin and offers forgiveness to all who put their trust in Him.
- (c) Salvation is solely by grace and is received through genuine repentance (asking God to forgive us), and wholehearted trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is also known as the 'new birth'.
- (d) There is no other means by which mankind may be saved, except through the salvation provided by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (e) A genuine conversion produces an outwardly changed life that is upright and moral.

John 1:29, 3:16-17, 4:42; Ephesians 1:6-7, 2:8-9, Romans 5:1, 18, Acts 3:19, 4:12, Titus 3:4-7, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Hebrews 2:9.

6.7 Satan - The Devil

We believe in the person of Satan, created by God as a perfect being, yet being lifted up with pride, was cast out of Heaven to exist as the unholy prince of this world destined to eternal judgment. He is the author of spiritual darkness, full of all subtlety and malignity, continually seeking to frustrate the purpose of God and to ensnare mankind.

Genesis 3:1-5; Matthew 25:41; Luke 10:18; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; 6:11-12; Colossians 2:16; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 12:7-9, 11-12; 20:10.

6.8 The Church

We believe that the church universal is the body of Christ, composed of all born again believers of all generations, of which Jesus is the living Head. We believe that the local church is an organised body of believers faithfully meeting together to observe the ordinances and to carry out all the principles, precepts and commissions of Christ.

Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:23, 26-27; 2:22; 1 Peter 2:5, 9; Titus 2:14; Matthew 28: 19-20.

6.9 Man

We believe;

- (a) God created one biological male, Adam, and one biological female, Eve, to be the parents of all humankind. We believe that all human beings, males and females, are created in the image of God and that there are no other God-given gender definitions or expressions. The biological sex a person is born with cannot change or be altered, and should be embraced as the gift of God for the purposes God designed. God designed the two genders, male and female, for the purpose of joy and procreation within the sole relationship of marriage. So a marriage can only be between a male and a female, and upon this foundation alone should children be conceived and families formed.
- (b) Men and women are created to worship their Creator by loving and serving Him, and by exercising dominion under God's rule by inhabiting, possessing, ruling, caring for and enjoying God's creation. Consequently, the purpose of human existence is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
- (c) All humankind is fallen (born with a sin nature) and, whatever his character and attainment, is lost in sin and without hope apart from the salvation available in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (d) Those that are born with disorders of sex development do not constitute a third sex, they are all medically identifiable deformities and are rightly recognised as disorders. They are equally created in God's image, and should embrace their biological sex in so far as it may be known. Transgender is a social construct which denies our God-given biological sex.

Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 5:12, 16-17, Jeremiah 17:9, Ephesians 2:1-3, 12, John 6:44, John 3:3-7, Acts 4:12, 2 Corinthians 11:3.

6.10 Prayer

Prayer is communion with God by which the believer can offer praise and thanksgiving, intercede for others and commit our cares and needs to the Lord. Through prayer, the believer can communicate, find fellowship with God and receive comfort, guidance, reassurance, encouragement, direction and edification.

Psalms 100:4, Jeremiah 33:3, Matthew 7:7-8, 11, 21-22, John 4:24, 14:13-14, 16:23-24, Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6-7, James 1:5-6, 1 John 5:14-15, Romans 8:26-27.

6.11 Last Things

- (a) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ will return in person with His saints and that the full consummation of the Kingdom of God awaits His return.
- (b) We believe those who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit will receive a resurrection body at the return of Jesus Christ and be forever with the Lord, while those who have not believed will be resurrected to stand at the judgment seat of God to receive His judgment and eternal condemnation to Hell.

Matthew 24:29-44, Acts 1:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:1-11, 2 Peter 3:7-14, Revelation 20:1-15, Daniel 12:2-3, John 5:28-29, 6:39-40, 1 Corinthians 15, Philippians 3:21.

6.12 Creation

- (a) All things were created by God so that “what is seen was made out of things which do not appear” (Hebrews 11:3). God the Son created all things by His Word, to the glorification of His Holy Name. It is also by God's hand, power and care that all created things are preserved and managed.
- (b) In order to understand the world, humanity and history, they must be seen in their relationship to God as the Bible speaks of them.

Hebrews 11:3, Genesis 1 & 2, John 1:3, 10, Colossians 1:16, Exodus 20:11; Revelation 4:11.

6.13 The Bible and Science

Creation as well as Scripture has been brought forth by the same God of truth. Any seeming discrepancy between the Bible and science should be resolved so that the Bible is preferred, remembering that science continually changes as new knowledge is obtained. The Bible is the unchanging truth God has revealed. The Bible, though not a science textbook, touches many areas of science, and where it does so is entirely authoritative. These scientific details were given sometimes hundreds, or thousands, of years before modern scientific discovery.

Job 26:7-14, Job 38:31-38.



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