

Nowra Christian School



Grow up into Christ

Prospectus



Transforming young lives

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT:

Nowra Christian School partners with families to equip students for life through the provision of quality, Christ-centred education, founded on Biblical values.

Contents

Welcome	3
'Authentic' Christian school	5
What we value	6
A holistic approach to teaching	9
Primary K- 6	10
Secondary 7-10	12
Seniors 11-12	14
Inspiring creativity	17
Developing leaders	19
Beyond the classroom	21
Serving others	23
A friendly school community	25
Defence families	26
Joining our school	27
Contact information	Back Cover



Welcome

Nowra Christian School is a vibrant, authentically Christian, co-educational facility for students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

We believe the consistent 'partnership' between home and school is of vital importance in developing young people who will reflect the values and attitudes of Christ.

For over 37 years we have provided a nurturing environment where every student knows they are loved, respected and safe.

As parents/carers, you are an integral part of your child's learning, and are encouraged to be involved in the activities and life of our school.

Our Christian and dedicated staff are committed to providing a quality learning experience where all are able to use their God-given gifts and talents to the best of their abilities.

I warmly invite you to peruse the pages of our prospectus. We have aimed to capture the heart and character of our school. However, it is really only when you set foot on our grounds, and meet the staff and students, that you experience a little of what it means to be part of our school community, and the many opportunities that Nowra Christian School can offer your family.

**I look forward to welcoming you
in person to our school**

Mr Rob Bray
PRINCIPAL



A genuinely caring, inclusive and supportive Christian community



'Authentic' Christian school

Our motto, 'Grow up into Christ', not only acknowledges our status as a Christian school, but expresses our intention to place Jesus Christ at the centre of everything we do.

We appropriately deliver all required elements of the Australian Curriculum through a Christian 'lens' and apply Christian values to how we conduct all our activities and in every aspect of school life.

Whether regular church attenders or not, parents choosing NCS as their partner to prepare their children for life are asked to support our school's Christian ethos and beliefs. In return, parents and other family members are welcomed into a genuinely caring, inclusive and supportive Christian community.

As well as the mentoring and pastoral care provided by teachers, our students can seek guidance and help from our Primary or Secondary chaplains or one of our two qualified Christian school counsellors.

Our structure

Established in 1980 as a ministry of Nowra Baptist Church. Our School Board, comprised of volunteers, sets the school's vision and goals, appoints the Principal and ensures the school is properly resourced. The Principal is responsible for the day to day running of the school under the authority and guidance of the Board.

The Principal is also assisted by the Head of Secondary and the Head of Primary.

What we value

We believe all students have the right to feel safe, supported and respected at all times.

We have identified three key core values as representing the essence of our school: 'community', 'care' and 'character'.

Community

- We value the diversity of our community
- We appreciate that our NCS community is made up of staff, students, their extended families, their church families and our alumni students
- We foster a close-knit Christian community where Christ's love is shared and every member feels valued
- We have a responsibility to shine Christ's love into our wider community both on a local and global scale

Care

- We treat others with care and consideration
- We care for each student on an individual basis and develop a desire in every student to care for those around them
- We care for God's creation and the resources He has blessed our school with
- We take care and pride in our schoolwork and always strive to do our personal best

Character

- We desire our students to be known for their outstanding Christian character - the 'NCS difference'
- We expect our students to 'Choose Respect' by being kind and considerate of others, by respecting those in authority and by respecting our school and its Christian foundations
- We encourage students to love and honour God in all they think, do and say

Community



Care



Character





We believe every child can realise their God-given potential



A holistic approach to teaching



We focus on the whole needs of a student – the intellectual, spiritual, emotional, physical and social.

Our holistic approach to education means that we have opportunities to support a wide range of interests and abilities.

Developing independent learners

Through the introduction of the AVID program our school aims to increase academic rigour in our students and create a school culture that fosters a growth mindset.

This whole school approach to teaching ensures our staff have a common language and toolkit that allows students to transition smoothly between stages and subjects.

Learning support

Our school also has dedicated learning support staff, and two part-time school counsellors to assist children with learning and behavioural difficulties.

Enrichment

All our teachers program to extend and enrich students. By promoting a culture of inquiry and collaboration, the learning environment at NCS encourages students to extend and challenge themselves to excel. An engaging, multi-faceted curriculum, combined with an extensive range of learning and enrichment opportunities, allows our students to pursue their individual interests and realise their God-given talents.

PRIMARY K-6

Ensuring every child receives the best academic start through engaging learning experiences



A solid foundation

A child's early school years are crucial. We strive to give every child the best academic start and to understand they are truly loved by God and special in His eyes.

Our Primary classes are blessed to have Teachers' Aide support available during literacy and numeracy programs. Students are continually assessed by classroom teachers and the learning support team to ensure that every individual's needs are met.

Technology

Our teachers integrate technology into learning across all stages of Primary. Every student in our Primary classes has individual access to a diverse selection of portable devices.

Co-curricular opportunities

We have a wide range of activities students can engage in beyond the classroom, including: opportunities to sing regularly, perform at assemblies, participate as a choir member at Eisteddfods, take part in musical productions, Drama Club, Library, Da Vinci Decathlon, Chess competitions, UNSW Maths and English Competitions, leadership development programs, Bible study groups, and working in the school garden.

Our Stage 2 and 3 students are given the opportunity to be a part of the school concert band. The school also provides music tuition by way of private music tutors during the school day.

Annually all Primary students take part in a compulsory learn-to-swim program.

SECONDARY 7-10

Nurturing students to be the light of the world and to find their identity in Christ



Nurturing growth and development

In Secondary, students receive an excellent academic education, along with the knowledge they have a destiny and purpose in God.

We seek to provide a safe, nurturing and engaging learning environment, which allows each student to grow academically, build resilience and develop in their relationship with Christ.

While being committed to providing innovative learning, we also focus on helping students with their study skills, providing extra tailored learning support where needed.

Pastoral care

Every young person is unique and so our staff are committed to building strong relationships with each student. All Secondary students attend a 4-day camp at Anglican Youthworks, Port Hacking annually. Students build bonds of friendship while engaging in Christian discovery as they are challenged by God's word and about the place of Jesus in their lives.

Our year advisors and Secondary Chaplain play an integral role in caring for and mentoring students. Our Secondary MindMatters program provides further support for our students' social, mental and spiritual well-being.

Celebrating gifts

We encourage Secondary students to celebrate and develop their many gifts and talents, not only academically but also beyond the classroom. Nowra Christian School offers enrichment activities ranging from creative and performing arts and practical STEM experiences through to team and individual sports, leadership roles and global citizenship development opportunities such as the Duke of Edinburgh program.

Shining Christ's love

As part of nurturing young people to be the light of the world, students are encouraged to participate in leadership programs or take up the many opportunities to serve their school or their local and global community.

SENIORS 11-12



The HSC Focused Approach allows students to practice and perfect their skills



Equipping for the future

Senior schooling at NCS is designed to engage and enthuse students academically. We also nurture and empower them to serve God's wider kingdom.

We recognise that they are our future leaders who have the ability to transform and impact our world in a positive way.

HSC Focused Approach

Completing the HSC using the Focused Approach allows students to concentrate on only three subjects at any one time. Greater blocks of time allocated to each subject means that students can consolidate their understanding and use the uninterrupted time to practice and perfect their skills.

Subjects offered:*

- Ancient History
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Earth and Environmental Science
- English (to the highest level)
- Legal Studies
- Mathematics (to the highest level)
- Modern History
- Music
- PDHPE
- Physics
- Society and Culture
- Visual Arts

*Subject to student preferences

Celebrating students' many gifts and talents.



Inspiring creativity

We celebrate students' many gifts and talents in the areas of creative and performing arts.

Music

Music is considered in the context of being a gift from God to be nurtured and grown. From Kindergarten to Year 12, students are encouraged to express themselves through music and are challenged in developing confidence as performers. Students develop their skills and experience of music through co-curricular opportunities including vocal ensembles, concert bands, assembly band, the Eisteddfod and private music tuition during school hours.

Performing Arts

Students have many opportunities to participate in the performing arts, including a major school production every two years which involves students from Primary and Secondary. In recent years, the school has presented Bye Bye Birdie, Peter Pan, Pirates of Penzance and The Wizard of Oz.

Visual Arts

Visual Arts provides students with an exciting opportunity to engage their imaginations and express their creative gifts. From Kindergarten to Year 12, students are encouraged to explore personal expression and gain technical skills through working with a wide range of materials and processes.

Leadership is a skill we like to encourage and develop in every student



Developing leaders

Leadership is a skill we like to encourage and develop in every student. There are many leadership opportunities for students to engage in and to develop their skills as future leaders.

Christian leadership

Students can develop their Christian leadership skills by participating in the following:

- Followers in Training (FIT) - for Primary students
- Discipleship - Senior students lead groups of younger students in various Bible study groups.
- Leaders in Training (LiT) - for Secondary students
- My school, My Responsibility
- ATICS - 'Synergy' training program

School leadership

There are several school leadership opportunities presented to students during their time at school. These include a Student Representative Council, Primary and Secondary Prefects, House Captains and Vice Captains and School Captains.

External leadership opportunities

Every year selected students engage in several leadership development opportunities, including;

- South Coast Leadership Forum
- Shoalhaven Council Youth Advisory Council
- Outward Bound
- Rotary Youth Program of ENrichment (RYPEN)
- Duke of Edinburgh International Award



Students access a wide range of activities to enrich their learning



Beyond the classroom

Education needs to go beyond the classroom. Students can access a wide range of activities to enrich their learning experience and help them explore their God-given abilities.

Sport

We are blessed with large play areas, a gymnasium and sports ovals. Sporting activities are incorporated into teaching programs at all stages and Secondary students also participate in a sport and recreation program on a fortnightly basis. Sport teaches valuable life skills such as teamwork, sportsmanship, fairness, resilience and excellence.

Students participate in a variety of team and individual sports at all levels of competition: school, inter-school, zone, state and national.

Excursions

Students at every stage have opportunities to attend age-appropriate excursions and camps providing practical learning experiences directly linked to the syllabus.

Other co-curricular opportunities

- Year 10 Rural Fire Service training
- Da Vinci Decathlon
- CWA Project
- Public speaking and debating competitions
- Duke of Edinburgh
- UNSW Competitions
- Science Week
- Aeronautical Velocity Challenge
- Pi Day

Shining God's love in our community and the rest of the world



Serving others

Our students are encouraged to show Christ's love by being responsible citizens who are willing to contribute to their community for the benefit of others – locally and globally.

Service opportunities range from helping in our school canteen or serving their peers at East Nowra Public School's 'Breakfast Club', through to participating in local events, visiting nursing homes or helping bring humanitarian relief to children in developing countries on the far side of the world.

Some of the ways students serve others:

- Cancer Council Relay for Life
- Running Compassion Fair to support Compassion
- East Nowra Public School's Breakfast Club
- Performing for our local community
- Visiting nursing homes
- Packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child
- Face-painting at expos and events
- Helping in the school canteen
- Set-up/pack-up for assemblies and other events
- Running Bible study groups
- MS Read-a-Thon
- Jump Rope for Heart



We believe partnering with families is paramount in the educational welfare of your child



A friendly school community

We consider your family to be a part of our school community from the moment you choose Nowra Christian School for your child.

We recognise that timely exchange of information between family and school is central to the educational welfare of a student.

Family involvement

There are many opportunities during the year for families to get involved in the life of our school community. This could be for special events, assemblies, showcases and other activities, such as the Kindergarten Art Exhibition, sporting carnivals, Grandparents Day, Twilight Family Picnic, Compassion Fair, Worrige Community Christmas Carols, Thanksgiving Evening and various School theatrical and music productions.

We also have an active Parents/Carers and Friends Association who warmly welcome parents to attend meetings to share ideas on improving our school and to assist with building relationships within our school community.

Our Celebration and Information Evening is a great opportunity to find out what has been happening at the school and what is planned for future development.



Defence families

We are aware of the unique challenges facing children of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members. We currently have over 60 students from Defence families attending NCS, making up almost 15% of our school population.

As a result, we have employed a Defence Transition Mentor, Mrs Adrienne Varga, whose primary role is to provide support to these families.

As a school, we celebrate the contributions our Defence families make to our community and the strengths and experiences they bring. We are also committed to supporting these families as they face the challenges of service life.

Defence Club

Our Defence Club is a place where students can relax, get to know other Defence students and enjoy a treat or two. Students are invited to participate in activities such as craft, group games or sporting activities in the school gym.

Defence families get-together

At least once a term, Defence families are invited to attend a family get-together. These are a great opportunity for students, parents and caregivers to connect with one another.

Please feel free to contact Mrs Adrienne Varga with any questions via email: dtm@ncs.nsw.edu.au



Joining our school

If you would like to know more about Nowra Christian School, please contact our Enrolment Registrar who is always willing to answer your questions.

If you haven't already, please call us to organise a visit and individual tour of our school.

Please check our website for any enrolment events. We hold an Open Week in March every year. We also hold several Kindergarten Open Mornings and Year 7 'Taste 'N' See Experience Day.

To enrol your child, please download the application form from our website and return it completed, along with your family reference to the school for processing. We will contact you to make an interview time. A non-refundable fee is payable upon acceptance of an enrolment offer.

Our main intake years for new students are Kindergarten, Year 7 and Year 11. However, we encourage you to make an enquiry for any year level as sometimes vacancies arise.

Our Enrolment Registrar can be contacted as follows:

Phone (02) 4422 1199

Email enrolments@ncs.nsw.edu.au

More information and forms are available on our website www.ncs.nsw.edu.au

We thank you for your interest in our School and look forward to answering any further questions you may have.

Nowra **Christian** School



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