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Prospectus

ILLAWARRA
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL





Principal's welcome

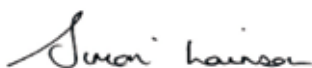
Welcome to Illawarra Christian School. As both Principal and a parent, I commend our school to you and look forward to welcoming you to our community.

Illawarra Christian School is committed to providing quality Christian education which is founded on the word of God. Our desire is to partner with parents in the education of their children.

Our school has a strong focus on effective teaching and learning, and the pursuit of excellence for the glory of God. Our experienced and dedicated Christian staff are committed to providing quality education where the word of God is taught faithfully, a biblical worldview is integrated into all aspects of school life, and students are thoroughly equipped to serve Christ.

Illawarra Christian School enjoys an educational heritage of over 35 years, nurturing students to reach their God-given potential and providing options for their future ministries, study and employment. We are known for the genuine care we extend to all students and have an outstanding record of academic achievement. The school caters for students from Prep to Year 12 in a safe, secure and positive learning environment.

At Illawarra Christian School we celebrate learning, enjoy community, and strive to serve Christ as we bring honour to him.



Simon Lainson
Principal





Biblical worldview

Equipping students with a Christ-centred worldview that informs all of life.

Our fundamental purpose is to provide an education informed by God's word as we lead our students to understand themselves and their world in the light of God's sovereignty. All curriculum and policy materials are founded on a biblical worldview, and Christian values and principles are woven through every dimension of learning at Illawarra Christian School. We aim to instruct our students' minds, shape their hearts and equip their hands so that they might be prepared for a life of service and honour to God.

Honouring God by striving for *excellence*

Students at Illawarra Christian School are encouraged to honour God and to contribute to their school community by pursuing excellence in all domains. Striving to do our best - to achieve personal excellence - has the most meaning and brings the deepest fulfilment when it is done for the glory of God. We encourage our students to embrace challenge and to have a mindset for constant growth and refinement in their academic studies, character development, spiritual life and extracurricular activities.





Learning and *caring* together

Illawarra Christian School is a dynamic community of partnerships between parents, staff and students, fostered through open communication and active parent involvement. The school is an extension of the Christian home with staff and parents working together to educate and care for our students. The warm, nurturing relationships between staff and students enrich the learning experiences and contribute to a positive and vibrant learning environment. Each child is valued as a precious member of our community.



playing &
learning

PREP

In Prep, our students are introduced to the joy of learning through play, exploration and discovery. A balance between structured group times and free play provides children with fun-filled learning opportunities in these early years.

Illawarra Christian School's Prep program for children aged 3-5 adheres to the Australian government's Early Years Learning Framework, and our accreditation rating exceeds the national quality standard.

Prep teachers work alongside families, infants staff, learning support staff, school counsellors and external support staff with a holistic approach that supports every child.

Communication is fundamental to the success of our program as we share the Prep experience with families. We value family involvement and connection as we help children develop a sense of their own identity, and as they grow in their ability to investigate and explore ideas and interact with the world around them.

- Strong focus on developing early literacy, listening and problem-solving skills
- Learning times in dance, art, music and languages
- Regular use of school facilities including library and music resources
- Online portfolio system keeps parents in touch with their child's day
- Proximity to the larger school community paves the way for a smooth transition to school



exploring &
discovering

K2

In these early school years, our students enjoy discovering God's world as they are guided in their exploration through exciting learning experiences. This is a time for building confidence and growing independence. Learning in K-2 is fun.

We understand that starting school well is a crucial step in a child's development. Our small class sizes and caring community mean children are known and cared for in an individual and personal way, with teachers adapting expectations, content and processes to optimise the learning experience for each child.

K-2 at Illawarra Christian School provides a safe place for children to explore their world, to challenge themselves, to learn from their mistakes and to think critically. These formative years are immeasurably important as our young students learn to be kind and respectful in their social interactions, diligent and cooperative in their learning, and collaborative and thoughtful in their work with others.

- Strong foundations in literacy and numeracy
- Family involvement welcomed in the classroom and in the wider day-to-day life of the school
- Learning support and enrichment teams work hand-in-hand with classroom teachers
- Opportunities for learning through excursions, sport, arts and cultural events

With a Christ-centred curriculum, dedicated teachers, parent partnership and a focus on catering for each student's individual needs and abilities, our primary students engage in stimulating learning experiences that support their growth during these vital years.

Our learning community thrives on a differentiated curriculum, positive relationships and encouragement. Dynamic and passionate educators foster a love for learning, sparking curiosity and wonder in our students with authentic experiences that delve into a wide range of disciplines. Our students are supported in their learning and extended in their thinking.

Teachers engage with their students through direct teaching strategies, collaborative and exploratory learning methods, and design processes. They care for individual student needs as they partner with parents and are supported by learning support and enrichment staff.

- Continued fundamental focus on literacy and numeracy skills
- Specialist programs in STEM, Japanese, creative arts and focus groups
- Nurturing resilience and promoting positive attitudes towards learning through development of a growth mindset
- Leadership opportunities
- Global and local community engagement including involvement in charities both at home and abroad

3.6

engaging
& growing





enriching &
equipping

7.10

In partnership with parents, teachers at Illawarra Christian School are passionate about nurturing our students through this exciting time of personal change. A vibrant and relevant educational environment provides rich learning opportunities which equip our students for both current and future life experiences.

Our students are engaged in a diverse range of learning opportunities that allow us to care for their emotional, social, physical, spiritual and intellectual development as they grow in their understanding of who they are in God's world. They are encouraged to develop resilience when they face challenges and to embrace disappointments as opportunities to learn and grow.

Critical thinking, collaborative learning and technology are prioritised as essential elements in preparing our students for their futures.

We celebrate each individual's pursuit of personal excellence in academic learning. The needs of both enrichment students and students with special needs are met as we focus on caring for each individual.

- Elective subjects in practical, academic, creative and technical fields cater for a wide range of abilities and interests
- Cumulative seminar program teaches students effective study skills
- Wide range of extracurricular opportunities in fields as varied as STEM, public speaking and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- School-wide camping program each year

Our senior students are challenged to be genuine in their faith, diligent in their studies and positive in their engagement with the school community. These two final school years see them empowered to move forward into life beyond school with confidence and maturity.

In our classrooms we foster a love for learning, encourage mutual support and cooperation, and value respect for each other. We encourage and celebrate the achievement of personal excellence for all students.

We aim to nurture our senior students as they develop the resilience, organisation and perseverance needed to succeed in the specific challenges of the HSC as well as the broader challenges that lie ahead.

This is an exciting stage where students are prepared to reflect on our world in an intelligent and thoughtful way. We strive to challenge and inspire our students so that they might leave our community secure in their value and purpose in Christ, excited about bringing God's truth and hope, and sufficiently humble and confident to engage meaningfully with the world God has made.

- Small classes allow for close individual attention and build student confidence
- Individual mentoring program ensures all students receive one-on-one care as they negotiate the challenges of senior study
- A wide range of electives as well as all Extension 1 and 2 subjects are available for study
- Study days provide space for students to consolidate effective study habits
- Continued opportunities for leadership, sport, camps and excursions

1112

challenging &
empowering



Music

- Classroom-based music lessons as well as peripatetic music teachers
- Primary choir and band perform both at school and in the wider community
- Annual Combined Bands Workshop and Mini-Tour (Primary Band)
- Outdoor lunchtime performances regularly each term allow musicians and vocalists to share and hone their talents
- Involvement in the biennial Combined Christian Schools Music Festival in Orange
- Annual HSC Major Works Evening and Stage 5 Performing Arts Night are highlights of the school year





Sport

At Illawarra Christian School, we offer a broad range of physical activities and sports which cater for the different needs and strengths of individual students. Students in primary and secondary school compete in swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals, with opportunities to represent the school at a zone, regional or state level. Less competitive secondary students also have the option to do fitness activities such as skipping, aerobics, strength circuits and Pilates.

- Weekly sport in K-2 focuses on the development of coordination and gross and fine motor skills, and includes a Learn to Swim program each year.
- Weekly sport in Years 3-6 includes both school-based activities and inter-school competition.
- A range of sport electives are available in Years 7-10, including tennis, aerobics, swimming, cricket, surfing and soccer.
- Innovative sport opportunities across the school include the Royal Life Saving Australia program, surfing and beach activities, swimming, tennis and gymnastics as well as secondary school gala days for futsal, basketball, netball, cricket, hockey and much more.
- All compulsory sport is conducted during school hours.



Extracurricular opportunities

At Illawarra Christian School we value the learning opportunities that take place outside the classroom as highly as those within. Our extracurricular program provides opportunities for students to grow and challenge themselves, to build resilience and integrity and to experience the world in new and exciting ways.

- Annual 300km Bike for Bibles ride raises support for worldwide Bible Society literacy projects
- Cultural exchange programs enable students to broaden their understanding of world diversity
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award program develops initiative and leadership abilities
- From Years 6-11, our annual camping program exposes students to exciting and challenging experiences, tailored to their age and abilities
- Visits to museums, galleries, businesses and community groups, theatre excursions and field trips, as well as visiting specialists—as diverse as the fire brigade and the Bell Shakespeare Company—engage our students in experiences that extend their learning and grow their understanding of the world



Enrolment

Take the next step to decide if Illawarra Christian School is the right choice for your child.

We welcome prospective students and their families to come for a tour of the school. A personalised tour is a great way to see our facilities up close, and to get a sense of day-to-day life at Illawarra Christian School.

For more information about the school or to complete an enrolment application, please contact the Registrar.

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