

## VISION, STATEMENT OF FAITH, CORE VALUES

### SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This policy is applicable to the following entities:

- Tyndale Christian School Inc
- Tyndale Christian School – Strathalbyn Inc
- Tyndale Christian School – Murray Bridge Inc

### INTERPRETATION

Within this policy, unless specifically defined otherwise, the following terms shall have these meanings:

*School or schools* – shall mean all or any one of the Tyndale group of schools

### VISION

*"To provide an excellent, inclusive Christian education that equips our students to serve God and His world".*

Tyndale Christian School was established to be a place of learning for students within the context of the Christian faith. Therefore, the core purpose of the School is to provide best practice (excellent) learning and curricula within a Christian and inclusive community.

Tyndale Christian School was established by Christian parents wishing their children to be educated in an environment that would support and complement the values and faith that the families sought to inculcate in their home. The focus of the School is to provide an affordable, holistic education for all students in a distinctively Christian community.

Since inception the intent of the school has been:

*"To be a Christian community that fosters innovation and excellence in its programmes for the academic, vocational and physical development of students; nurtures spiritual and emotional growth and prepares students to move into life beyond the School, confident and competent in their chosen field, and with an understanding of their spiritual and social responsibilities to the local, national and international communities to which they belong."*

### MISSION

The Mission of Tyndale Christian School is to do those things necessary to effectively achieve the purposes for which it exists (i.e. the Vision). While the execution of the mission will involve many actions by members of the school community, at the strategic level, there are two areas that are essential enablers to fulfilling the Vision.

Therefore, the Mission of Tyndale Christian School is:

*"To identify, encourage and develop the potential in each child through:*

- *effective selection, training and retention of staff to develop and deliver a balanced, best-practice programme of learning which is integrated throughout the student's time at the school*
- *building a community based on relationship with God and each other where the character of Christ is valued, developed and displayed."*

## MOTTO

As a Christian teaching and learning community, the School holds that biblical truths are eternal, set in place by God, the Creator of all things. This is affirmed by our School Motto which declares that:

*"God's Truth Prevails".*

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

The School's Statement of Faith is informed by the truth of the Bible. We believe in:

- One God eternally existent in three Persons; Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.
- The sovereignty of God in creation, providence, redemption, revelation and final judgement.
- The Divine inspiration of the original documents of the Bible, its entire inerrancy, trustworthiness, sufficiency and supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- The Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His atoning death on the cross as our representative and substitute, and only sin-bearer, in His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His mediatorial work and in His personal, visible return in power and glory.
- The sinfulness and guilt of all mankind, rendering them subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- Justification of the sinner by the grace of God through personal faith in Christ alone, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit.
- The receiving and indwelling of the Holy Spirit at conversion, and His continuing work in the heart and life of the believer.
- The only holy Universal Church, the body of which Christ is the Head, to which all true believers belong.
- The bodily resurrection and judgement of all mankind, the believer to life everlasting and the unbeliever to eternal damnation.

## INTENTIONALLY CHRISTIAN

The highest calling of every human being is to love God with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength and to actively live a life intent on pleasing God and worthy of the sacrifice of Jesus, through the grace that has been given to all who believe.

Our Core Values, like our Statement of Faith, are informed by the truth of the Bible and are foundational to our employment practices and teaching and learning practices and the maintenance of our Christian ethos. These Values are fundamental to us so that we can freely operate as an independent, intentionally Christian school. These Core Values are:

1. To be committed to the work of the Gospel, sharing the truth of God, by His grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, to all mankind. (*Matthew 28: 19 – 20; 1 Peter 3: 15*)
2. To love one another and lay our lives down for each other. We are called to honour all people, taking on the attitude of a servant, understanding that there is no place for abuse, harassment, mistreatment, manipulation or injustice. (*John 15: 12 – 13; Philipians 2: 1 – 8*)
3. To act with charity and justice towards our fellow man, including the foreigner, the poor, the sinner,

the orphan and the widow. (*James 1: 27; Matthew 25: 31 – 46; John 8: 1 – 11; Deuteronomy 10: 18 – 19; Psalm 24: 3 – 4; Micah 6: 8*)

4. To celebrate the creation of mankind "in God's image", equal in relationship, yet distinctly physiologically male and female as created by God at birth. (*Matthew 19: 4; Genesis 1: 26 – 27*)
5. To honour the sanctity of marriage, recognising that it is a life-long commitment between a man and a woman, as defined in Point 4 above, and that sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage. Believers are to abstain from sexual immorality. (*Matthew 19: 4 – 6*)
6. To honour the significance of the family as God's foundation for communal life. (*Mark 10: 6 – 9; Ephesians 6: 1 – 4; Joshua 24: 15*)
7. To honour and treasure the sanctity of life, including the life of the unborn. (*Psalm 139: 13 – 14*)
8. To honour our calling to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. This includes managing our own lives well, but also caring for the creation God has provided. (*Genesis 2: 15; Matthew 25: 14 – 30*)
9. To honour the community of faith by being regularly connected to a local church where God is both honoured and worshipped in spirit and in truth and by avoiding even the appearance of sin. (*Acts 2: 42 – 47; Hebrews 10: 24 – 25; John 4: 23; 1 Thessalonians 5:22*)

Tyndale is committed to being a place where God is at the centre - where He is honoured, followed, worshipped and revealed to the School and wider community. As a Christian school we will speak openly, intentionally and deliberately about our faith, including all elements of our Statement of Faith and Core Values herein, both throughout the curriculum and in co/extra-curricular activities. We trust that all who come here will be inspired by His great love for them and the recognition that every person is intrinsically valuable, not for what they can do, but because of who they are – His children. We are passionate about our School continuing to be a place where all of our students are strengthened and emboldened to live out the gospel and become ambassadors for Christ to positively impact the wider community around them, whether locally or internationally.

Accordingly, all employees are required to embrace, support and outwork a professional and personal commitment as a Christian, and maintain a firm personal belief consistent with the Vision, Statement of Faith and Core Values and other beliefs as are specified by the School from time to time in order to effectively carry out their employment responsibilities. This requirement is also clarified in the School's employment documentation.

At school, students experience regular sub-school chapel services, Easter services, pastoral care and Biblical Studies programmes, and are encouraged to have an ongoing relationship with a local church. We are also passionate that those who do not know God, both students and their parents, have an opportunity to meet him at Tyndale Christian School and become followers of Christ.

Being intentionally Christian also means that we are called to 'love our neighbour'. This should be demonstrated by the way we act, including:

- Being just and fair in all dealings with other people, regardless of race, belief, sex, or physical or intellectual capacity, recognising that every person has been fearfully and wonderfully made by God.
- Acting with integrity in all situations.
- Being temperate in both speech and action.
- Handling disputes or grievances in a God honouring and biblical manner.
- Affirming and displaying the School's key values of Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence.

Loving others wholeheartedly also means that we should do as Micah 6:8 commands – *"to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God"*. Therefore, the school provides a number of opportunities for students, staff and parents to be involved in community service programmes in local, regional and international settings.

The School aims to spread and strengthen the teaching of the Christian religion, as articulated in the Vision, Statement of Faith and Core Values and other beliefs as are specified by the School from time to time, the maintenance of the doctrines upon which that religion rests, and the observances that promote and manifest that religion. In the context of Christian schooling, conduct that is inconsistent with the Christian beliefs of the School, including on the part of the student body, can impact detrimentally on:

- the School's ability to be conducted in conformity with its Christian doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings;
- its ability to maintain its religious ethos; and
- its ability to model a Christian standard of conduct to each individual student and to the student body.

The use of School facilities or property in a manner that is inconsistent with its religious doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings can have the same impact. Such conduct can remove the ability of the School to act in conformity with its doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings and can incur injury to the religious susceptibility of adherents of its religion. (*Psalm 127:3; Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 8:6; Matthew 18:10; Mark 9:37, 42; Luke 17:1-2; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 2:20-22; Ephesians 5:3; Hebrews 10:24-25; Hebrews 13:17*).

## **INTENTIONALLY INCLUSIVE**

Psalm 139:14 states that we are all *"fearfully and wonderfully made"*, which at Tyndale means that every person is intrinsically valuable for who they are, not what they can do. Just as it was William Tyndale's desire for everyone to have access to God's word, it is our desire that students have the opportunity to be welcomed into a safe, loving school environment. We have an amazing opportunity to demonstrate God's heart for humanity.

'Intentionally inclusive' means that students will learn in the most supportive environment possible, alongside similar-aged peers, provided with reasonable adjustments and teaching strategies that align with our Christian beliefs and which are formulated with regard to the best interests and needs of each student and of the school community as a whole. This form of inclusion is reflected in all aspects of school life, and is evidenced in culture, policies and everyday practices.

As previously stated, all staff employed at Tyndale Christian School are required to embrace, support and outwork a professional and personal commitment as a Christian and maintain a firm personal belief consistent with the Vision, Statement of Faith and Core Values and other beliefs as are specified by the School from time to time.

All prospective families are provided with the School's Statement of Faith and Core Values. Families enrol their children at the School on the basis that they are willing to acknowledge and support that the School's beliefs (including this Statement and these Values) are embedded in the School's employment and teaching and learning practices and otherwise ensure the maintenance of our Christian ethos.

Subject to the terms of any applicable enrolment policy adopted by the School from time to time, all families are able to enrol their children at the School irrespective of their sex, race, culture, religion, family

background, socio-economic capacity, physical or intellectual capacity or their own personal beliefs and values.

Parents/care-givers will need to support their children being fully involved in all aspects of school life, including biblical studies programmes and chapel services which will be informed by the School's fundamental commitment to the Christian Faith.

### **INTENTIONALLY EXCELLENT**

The directive given in Psalm 24:3, "*Who can ascend the hill of the almighty? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart*" is very clear. It significantly influences our belief and practice at Tyndale, that we are required by God to do all things well, decently and in order.

Support for this intent is fostered by our staff's commitment to academic excellence in their teaching through regular involvement in professional development programmes and regular performance development discussions linking the outworking of the AITSL Professional Standards and School objectives.

We continually strive to be a school that provides our students with a vibrant, innovative and technology rich education both in core subjects and a wide range of co-curricular activities.

We provide post school pathways for each student, whether this is at a tertiary institution, in an apprenticeship or in employment. We offer a quality education for students with disabilities or learning needs, opportunities for students to be involved in community service programmes (local, regional and international) and an arena for students to be involved in sporting and artistic activities. Our students consistently achieve high academic outcomes with many going on to tertiary studies. Access to Vocational Education and Training programmes is also available through the Pathways Centre.

Students who require support in their learning are catered for by specialist Learning Support teachers and resources in our multi-functional Learning Support Centre. Students can also access a variety of specialist providers for services which may be outsourced, such as educational psychological assessments, speech therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. A holistic approach is taken to health care with students able to access the school nurse, trained counsellors and family support workers. Integration with mainstream students is a key approach for our Learning Support programme putting into action our belief in equity for all.

### **REFERENCES**

- Tyndale Christian School Constitutions
- H5.30 Code of Conduct for employees
- E1.01 Enrolment Policy

### **REVIEW**

The policy will be reviewed biennially. Review will be conducted by the responsible officer, drawing upon input and feedback from:

- Executive Leadership
- Directors of Learning and Curriculum Leaders
- Interested Parties
- External changes, such as changes to legislation, good practice

**POLICY INFORMATION**

Document title	A2.01 Vision, statement of faith, core values
Classification	A - Management framework
Sub-classification	A2 - Purpose
Approver	Board of Governors
Date approved	01/08/2022
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Officer responsible for this policy	Head of Schools