

# Covenant

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL & EARLY LEARNING CENTRE



Prospectus  
PRESCHOOL TO YEAR 10



# Welcome to Covenant

We are a vibrant Christian school community committed to providing an education for young people grounded on the teachings and principles taught in God's Word, the Bible. We are a small, caring Christ-centred school which provides a unique and special environment that equips a young person well for further study or to enter the workforce.

A provider of Primary and Secondary education from 1991, we also opened a brand new Early Learning Centre in 2016 catering for preschool ages.

We seek to present the academic requirements of the Australian curriculum from a historic Protestant Christian worldview perspective. Our staff are all committed Bible-believing Christians who regularly attend local evangelical Protestant churches. Their love for God motivates their teaching of the young people entrusted to their care.

Based on the conviction that all people are created in the image of God and that human nature is the same now as it was in earlier centuries, our educational philosophy is therefore oriented towards the more traditional direct instruction approach and aims to encourage the habit of excellence in all areas of life in our students. We seek to lay a solid foundation for later years by providing an intensive phonics reading program (Spalding) from Kindergarten. In numeracy, we have introduced Scholastic's Prime Mathematics programme (based on the highly successful Singapore curriculum).

Thank you for your interest in Covenant. We love the opportunity to show prospective parents around, so please consider booking a school tour. Please let us know if there is any further information we can provide regarding the ministry of Covenant Christian School.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. C. Keast". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Martin Keast  
Principal



# Our Staff

## Principal

Mr Martin Keast was appointed to Covenant as the Principal in 2013. Previously he was the Principal of Hamilton Christian School (New Zealand) for three years and before that at Wainoumata Christian College (New Zealand) for ten years. Mr Keast has an honours degree in electrical engineering and a Diploma of Teaching; he specialises in the teaching of Biblical Studies, Maths and Science.

Martin is a father of six, and attends the Reformed Church of Canberra.

## Director of Studies (Secondary)

Mrs Wendy Lyons worked as a high school music teacher in South West Sydney before taking 8 years off to raise a family. She returned to teaching in 2006 and has since taught Preschool–10 Music, Secondary English and Primary Art, PE & Computing.

Wendy is a mother of four and attends the Lanyon Valley Anglican Church.



## Director of Studies (Primary)

Mrs Sharyn Laughlin joined the school in 2009 and commenced as the Director of Studies for Primary in 2014. She currently teaches the Years 1/2 class.

Sharyn is a mother of two and attends the Woden Valley Alliance Church.



## Mrs Hannah Butcher

Mrs Hannah Butcher is our lead preschool teacher and runs Session A (Mon-Wed) at the Early Learning Centre.

Hannah is a mother of two and attends the Woden Valley Alliance Church.



*All Covenant staff are committed Christians who have regular involvement in their local protestant churches.*

# A Vision for Christian Education

## Christian Education

We have a vision for true Christian Education.

The vision of Covenant has always been to partner with parents to provide a strong spiritual and moral foundation for their children – a foundation from which we seek to develop not just academic achievement, but the building of character in its wholeness – spiritually, mentally and physically.

## Yes, we believe the Bible

Covenant seeks to have a soundly biblical foundation, that students may learn that God is intimately involved in every aspect of life. Our greatest desire is that God will be recognised and honoured in all that we do.

## Yes, we strive for academic excellence

With an emphasis on direct instruction and caring (but firm) discipline, we strive for a quiet, calm classroom environment in which students can become thoroughly engrossed in their learning and be excited about the progress they are making. Our intensive phonics program for reading and writing (Spalding), gives a solid foundation for all students, especially those who may struggle with learning difficulties. We believe that an emphasis on literacy and numeracy in the formative years gives children the best possible grounding for future opportunities.

## Yes, we are a smaller school

Designed as a smaller school community, we are better able to offer a protective and nurturing environment. Our close-knit community enables staff to know all students by name and be concerned with their individual welfare. We also notice when they are struggling and need extra help and support. Your child will not get lost in the system.

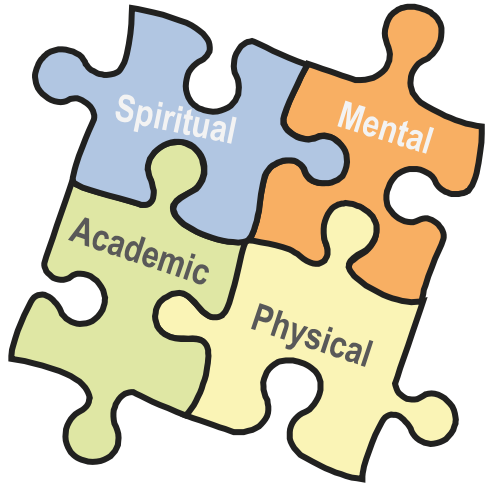
## *Cultural Literacy*

*As well as being our guide for life and salvation, the Bible is an important part of cultural literacy. Familiarity with the Bible is imperative to understanding so many aspects of our Western civilization in literature and the arts, not to mention history.*

# A Holistic Approach

Covenant seeks to partner with parents to develop the whole character of a child – this holistic approach looks at their mental, physical and spiritual welfare, as well as their academic achievement.

We strive to maintain a “culture of grace” for our students, which shepherds and directs children as they learn to become more self-managed and self-disciplined in their behaviour as they mature.



## We seek to guide students to:

- See creation as the handiwork of God, and treat it with respect in the ways we seek to use and preserve it.
- See the hand of God in all history as it unfolds.
- Understand that our knowledge has limitations, and we must seek to live by faith and trust in God.
- Interpret modern life in the light of God’s Word.
- Seek to obey God in every thought, action and word, with a view to developing true wisdom so that they love what ought to be loved and reject what is worthless.
- Reclaim education for God and seek to use it for the service of both God and man.
- Develop Christian Scholarship, with a commitment to understanding how culture and society can glorify God in every area.
- Aspire to excellence in Sports; caring for the body and developing its physical abilities.
- Aspire to excellence in the areas of Visual Arts, Music and craftsmanship, so that the works of both the mind and hands reflect the glory of God.

# Direct Instruction

## What is the Direct Instruction method?

Teachers at Covenant use the more traditional Direct Instruction model (teacher-centred). This means students are clearly directed and instructed in knowledge, rather than being expected to direct their own learning (child-centred).

The real power of direct instruction comes from the careful analysis of each skill taught. The skill is broken down into its component parts, then each component skill is taught to mastery. Afterward, the skills are combined into a larger context where different skills are utilized across settings, resulting in generalized fluency.

***Factual knowledge must precede skill.***

Trying to teach students skills such as analysis or synthesis in the absence of factual knowledge is impossible.

**1 I do**

The teacher tells students what they need to know, and shows them how to do a new skill.

**2 We do**

The teacher and students practise working through the new skill together.

**3 You do**

Students do the work for themselves, with monitoring and feedback from the teacher.

***The memorisation of core facts at an early age provides the best foundation for further learning.***

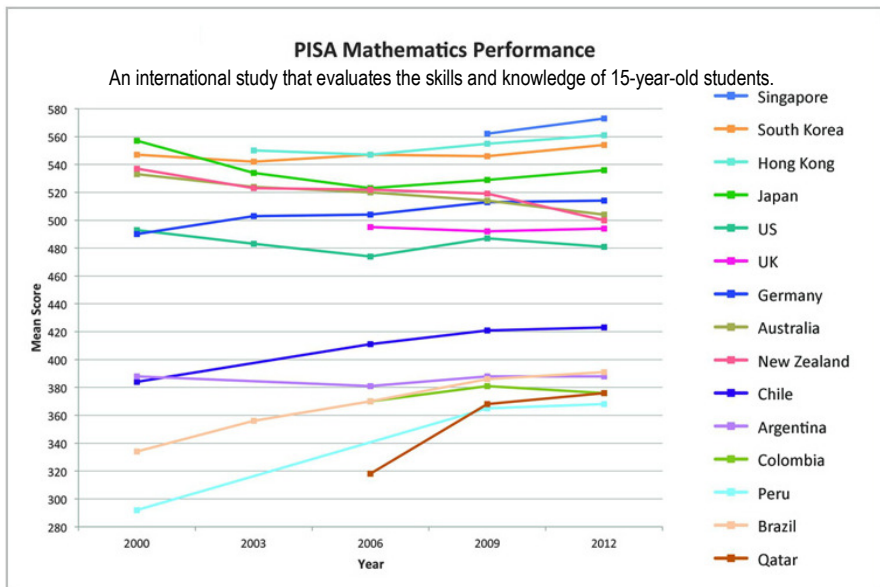
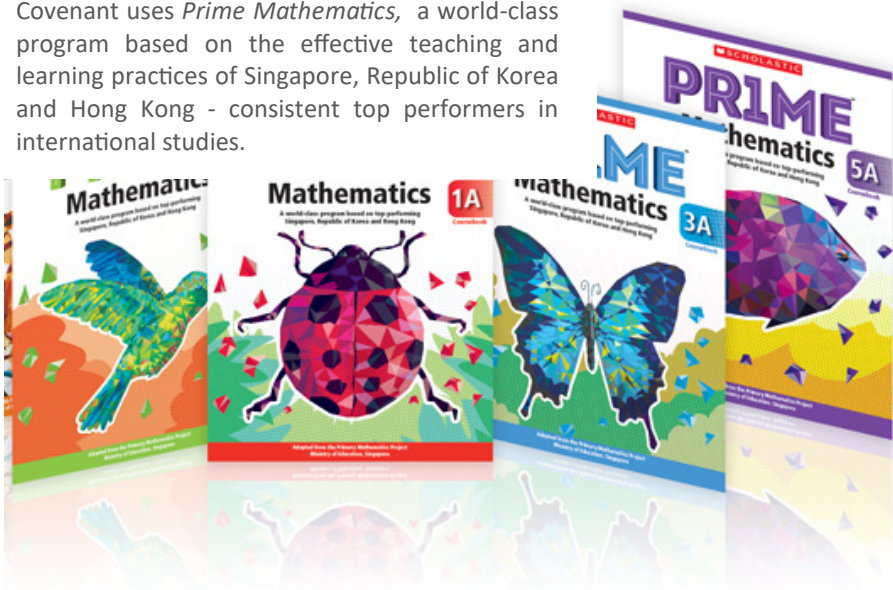
***Students thrive in an environment where they know they have the ability to master their work, and are being set up to succeed.***



# Strong Foundations - Numeracy

## PR1ME Mathematics

Covenant uses *Prime Mathematics*, a world-class program based on the effective teaching and learning practices of Singapore, Republic of Korea and Hong Kong - consistent top performers in international studies.





# Strong Foundations - Literacy

Covenant uses **LEM Phonics**, an Australian, intensive phonics literacy program.

This program aims to teach *all* students to spell, write and read. The success of LEM Phonics with diverse students, including those who have learning disabilities or are learning English as a second language, is in large part due to the integration of scientifically-based content and methodology.

Students first learn to read and write the phonograms representing the 26 letters of the alphabet (the Single Phonograms). They then proceed to master the multiple letter phonograms.

## *How Does LEM Phonics Work?*

*The program begins by teaching students to recognise the written symbols for the 42 sounds which make up the English language, rather than teaching the names of the letters of the alphabet. The letter symbols representing these sounds are called phonograms. Phonograms may consist of a single letter or a group of letters.*

*This enables students, within their first year of education, to master the foundational building blocks of the English language.*

*Students are then able to pronounce almost every word they encounter when reading, and are also able to spell and write words they hear.*



*LEM Phonics integrates five disciplines: listening, speaking, reading, writing and spelling.*

*Students see, hear, say and write, using all channels to the brain to enhance retention.*

# Secondary Education

Students trial electives by term or semester in Years 7-8, with options broadened as students move into Years 9-10.

A few additional core units are also added in Years 9&10 to enhance student knowledge:

**Study Skills** is provided on an elective line for students who would benefit from extra time and small group support in core subjects. They are accountable for bringing work and recording their use of time, with support always available for undertaking assigned work.

**Business Studies** includes economics, business terms & concepts, principles and entrepreneurship; managing risk; standard of living; globalization and interdependence.

**Thinking Skills** seeks to develop students' ability to develop logic, construct meaningful argument, and understand fallacies.

**Language** - Students may study any language they wish via our correspondence study partners. Lessons are done via phone link, under teacher supervision.

## ELECTIVES

Electives offered may vary depending on demand.

- **Digital Technologies**
- **Drama**
- **Food Technology**
- **Industrial Technologies**
- **Language**
- **Music**
- **Outdoor Education**
- **Study Skills**
- **Textiles**
- **Visual Arts**



# Visual & Performing Arts

## Music & Drama Festival

An annual event showcasing the talents of our musicians to invited parents & guests in a small, intimate environment.

## Floriade Performance

Students have the opportunity to perform at this annual public event.

## Evening of the Arts

Annual whole school event with all students participating in a performance item.

## Spring Fair

Many of Covenant's music ensembles perform at our bi-annual Spring Fair.

## Thanksgiving Evening

Students perform items at the annual presentation night, an evening of thanksgiving for God's provision throughout the year.



Students can also elect to participate in:

- Junior School Choir (Primary)
- Worship Band (Secondary)

Private piano lessons are offered to students during the school day.

## Art Club

*Open to all Secondary students, Art Club is held one afternoon a week after school during Terms 2 & 3. Students are introduced to painting techniques, particularly focusing on oils.*

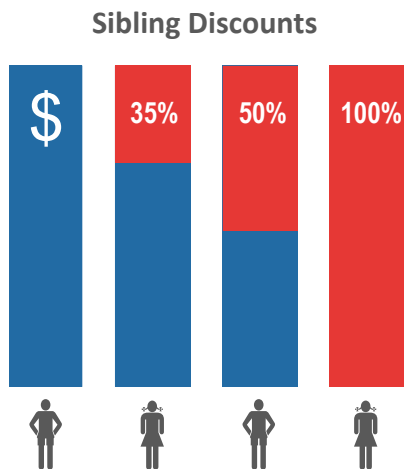


S Easterby-Wood, Year 8

# Fees & Levies

*The tuition fees cover virtually all student costs eg. text books, exercise books, excursions.*

*Generous sibling discounts apply (where siblings are attending simultaneously).*



## Fees & Levies Comprise of:

Tuition	Listed fees per term includes sibling discounts
Capital Levy	\$110 per term per family
Working Bee Levy	\$165 (only payable if duty is not undertaken)
Cleaning Levy	\$200 min (only payable if duties are not undertaken)
Swimming Lessons	\$110 min per Primary student
Secondary Camp	\$380 min per Secondary student
Electives Levy	\$50 per term per Secondary student for Food Technology & Outdoor Education electives.
Building Fund Donation	\$50 per term recommended tax-deductible donation (voluntary)

## Tuition Fee Subsidy

Some families may be eligible for a discount on fees based on their income. To see if you are eligible, please go to the Tuition Fee Calculator located at: [www.covenant.act.edu.au/tuition-fees/](http://www.covenant.act.edu.au/tuition-fees/)

# Structure & Governance

## **Q: Is Covenant run by one particular church?**

**A:** No, Covenant is incorporated under the ACT Associations Incorporation Act and is separate from any particular church. The Association's membership includes a fellowship of Christian people who are actively involved in their local Protestant Church and are united in their commitment to education at Covenant.

## **Q: Who manages the school?**

**A:** The general affairs of the Association are governed and managed by a governance body, known as the Council. The Council is responsible for high-level decision making, strategic planning and policy development and consists of up to nine members, all of whom are members of the Association.

The School Executive manages the day-to-day operations of the school and is accountable to the Council. The School Executive includes the school's Principal and Business Manager.

The professional teaching staff and the School Executive are responsible for the day-to-day education at Covenant.

## Overseas Students

The School is registered for Overseas Students. Full terms & conditions are available at: [www.covenant.act.edu.au/international-students/](http://www.covenant.act.edu.au/international-students/)

## Early Learning Centre

The School operates an Early Learning Centre for preschool aged children with a Preschool Program from 9am—3pm each day. Please see the Early Learning Prospectus for more information.

## Long Day Care & Vacation Care

The School is registered for Centrelink's Child Care Subsidy. Before & After School Care, as well as Vacation Care, is contracted to Camp Australia, and operates from the Early Learning Centre. For more information please see [www.campastralia.com.au](http://www.campastralia.com.au)

# Aiming High

- Education with a distinctive Christian perspective
- An orderly learning environment
- Caring but firm discipline
- Excellence in education & academic achievement
- Breadth of creative expression
- A clear moral and spiritual foundation
- Staff accredited in Spalding Literacy
- Strong community spirit

## CEN Partnership

Most Christian schools in Australia belong to a wider association of Christian schools. Covenant is a member of Christian Education National (CEN), a community of school communities unified around the common goal of authentic, Bible-based, Christ-centred education. A community committed to demonstrating a vibrant biblical faith which permeates every aspect of learning, community life, policy, and practice in its associations and schools.

CEN is a not for profit public company that is structured around a National Board and State Councils with a National Office providing administrative and managerial support. Find out more at [www.cen.edu.au](http://www.cen.edu.au)



# Enrolment

Please submit an Application for Enrolment form for each child at the Covenant Office.

Application submission fee:

- **\$75 per child;**
- **\$150 for two or more children**  
(non-refundable administration fee).

Subject to an interview and a letter of offer, places are granted to students in Kindergarten to Year 10.

A number of criteria are taken into consideration before an interview takes place and a position is offered. One full term's notice of withdrawal must be given in writing or a term's fees are payable in lieu of notice.



## ***Completing your Enrolment Form:***

- *Forms are available from the School Office; or*
- *Use the **Online Enrolment** link on the website to complete your application online:*  
***[www.covenant.act.edu.au/application-process/](http://www.covenant.act.edu.au/application-process/)***

Covenant Christian School and its Early Learning Centre are entities of Covenant College, Tuggeranong, A.C.T. Association Incorporated

ABN 80 161 716 452      CRICOS No. 02943C



1 Woodcock Drive, Gordon ACT 2906  
Ph 6294 2455 Fax 6294 2456  
[admissions@covenant.act.edu.au](mailto:admissions@covenant.act.edu.au)  
[www.covenant.act.edu.au](http://www.covenant.act.edu.au)



Caring ♦ Committed ♦ Christ-Centred