

Caring, Committed, Christ-Centred



PRESCHOOL TO YEAR 10

PROSPECTUS

Covenant Christian School



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Welcome to Covenant



Dear Prospective Parents/ Guardians,

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 that 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 since 1991, we also opened a brand new Early Learning Centre in 2016 catering to 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 young 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 orientated towards the tried and true methods of teaching such as the use of direct instruction and teacher-centred learning. We aim 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 (LEM Phonics) from Kindergarten. In numeracy, we maintain a strong emphasis on the development of basic skills through mastering mathematics facts in the Primary years.

Thank you for your interest in Covenant. We love the opportunity to show prospective parents/guardians 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,

Martin Keast
Principal

Meet 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 Graduate Diploma of Teaching; he specialises in the teaching of Biblical Studies, Maths and Science.

Martin Keast



Director of Studies (Secondary)

Mrs Wendy Lyons acts as Director of Studies (DOS) for Secondary as well as teaching Secondary Music and English. As DOS Secondary Wendy co-ordinates many co-curricular activities for Secondary students, including the Student Representative Council (S.R.C), T.A.G Quest (the student talent show), Secondary Leader's meetings and Evening of the Arts, to name a few. Wendy has enjoyed teaching at Covenant since 2006.

Wendy Lyons



Director of Studies (Primary)

Mrs Sharyn Laughlin joined Covenant in 2009 and commenced Primary Director of Studies duties in 2014. Sharyn currently teaches in Primary School and not only heads up the Primary Staff but also runs many of the Primary School events. Sharyn particularly enjoys organising the Medieval Feast for upper Primary and the Yr 6 Graduating Dinner.

Sharyn Laughlin



Head Teacher (ELC)

Mrs Hannah Butcher is our lead preschool teacher at the Early Learning Centre. Hannah has been co-ordinating Preschool since its establishment in 2016. Hannah enjoys seeing her students thrive and learn both inside the classroom and in the great outdoors. She also enjoys photography in her spare time and has taken up teaching the Secondary Photography elective.

Hannah Butcher



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/guardians 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 (LEM Phonics) gives a solid foundation for all students, especially those who may encounter 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 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 civilisation in literature, the arts and history.

A Holistic Approach

Covenant seeks to partner with parents/guardians 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:

Aspire to excellence in Sports; caring for the body and developing its physical abilities.

See creation as the handiwork of God, and treat it with respect in the ways we seek to use and preserve it.

Aspire to excellence in the areas of Visual Arts, Music, Drama and craftsmanship, so that the works of both the mind and hands reflect the glory of God

Understand that our knowledge has limitations, and we must seek to live by faith and trust in God.

See the hand of God in all history as it unfolds.

Interpret modern life in the light of God's Word.

Develop Christian Scholarship, with a commitment to understanding how culture and society can glorify God in every area.

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.



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 utilised across settings, resulting in generalised fluency.



I Do

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



We Do

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



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

Mathematics

Covenant emphasises the development of basic skills in mathematics. That includes the memorisation of basic mathematics facts including addition and subtraction facts and multiplication tables. We use both Cambridge and Signpost Mathematics texts in the Primary years and the Cambridge Essential Mathematics series is used in Years 7-10.

We believe that the Creator embedded mathematical structures into the very fabric of the whole universe. We, as His image bearers, are called to glorify Him through discovering and using mathematics as a tool in our calling to subdue and rule over this creation for our good (Gen 1:28). We do so as stewards aiming for sustainable use of all that He has given us.

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 an additional 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.

LEM Phonics

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.

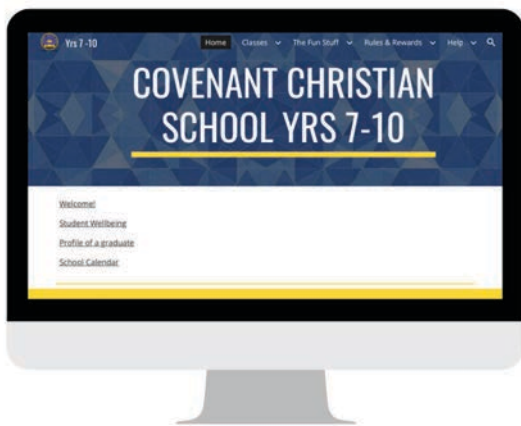
Students see, hear, say and write, using all channels to the brain to enhance retention.



Secondary Education

When you enrol a child into Secondary (Yr 7-10) your child will be given access to a specifically designed website for Secondary students. This website provides new and existing Secondary students with information regarding:

- Teachers
- Timetables
- Maps
- Google Classroom
- Secondary Camp
- Electives
- Co-Curricular
- Creative Events
- Fundraising
- Sports Houses
- Sports Competition
- Rules
- Rewards Program
- Uniform
- Student Wellbeing
- Homework Hacks



Secondary Electives

In Years 7 & 8 students trial a series of electives before selecting a range to study further in Years 9 & 10. Elective choices are dependent upon staffing and student selection.

Year 9-10 Electives

- Music
- Outdoor Education
- P.A.S.S - Physical Activity & Sport Studies
- Geography
- Textiles
- Drama
- Food Technology
- Design and Technology
- German
- Visual Art
- Photography
- Toast Masters - Youth Leadership Program
- Legal Studies
- Online Languages
- Information & Software Technologies
- Legal Studies



School Events + Opportunities

Creative & Performing Arts Events/ Opportunities

- Primary Arts Festival
- Secondary Arts Festival
- Primary T.A.G Quest (Talent Show)
- Secondary T.A.G Quest (Talent Show)
- 9/10 Drama performance (if elected)
- Junior Choir
- 9/10 Worship Band
- Floriade Performance
- Secondary Art Club



Sporting Events/ Opportunities

- Swimming Carnival
- Cross-Country Carnival
- Athletics Carnival
- Interschool Sport Gala Days (Eg. Futsal, Basketball, Table Tennis)



Academic Events/ Opportunities

- Secondary Debating
- Ethics Olympiad
- Chess Club

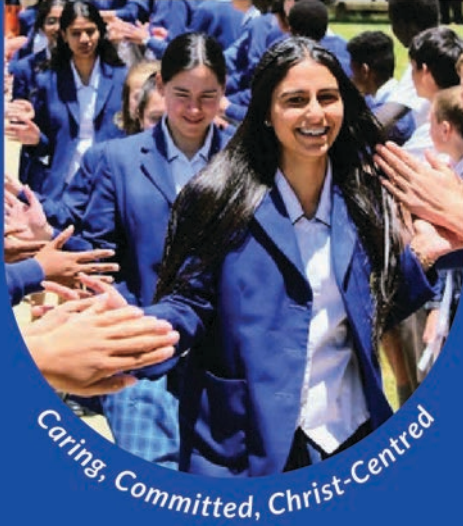
Student Groups/ Leadership Opportunities

- Primary CRU Group
- Secondary Boys Encouragement Group
- Secondary Girls Encouragement Group
- SRC - Student Representative Council
- Secondary Leaders
- Primary Leaders

Music Lesson

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





PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

We aim to develop our students to:

LOVE OF GOD

- Be equipped with a knowledge of God
- Seek to know the heart of Christ and be transformed into His likeness
- Understand his/her place in God's narrative of history
- Recognise, honour and submit to God's authority
- Treasure, appreciate, and uphold what is true, good and beautiful
- Understand and love God's Word

PURSUE EXCELLENCE TO GOD'S GLORY

- Exhibit excellence in all pursuits to the best of their ability
- Encourage others to do their best

LOVE THEIR NEIGHBOUR

- Dignify and respect all people
- Actively serve his/her church and community
- Pursue servant-leadership in vocation, family and community
- Speak words of truth and hope to others
- Honour authority in thought, word and deed
- Protect the weak and oppressed

BE A GODLY SCHOLAR

- Embrace challenging subjects and topics
- Pursue learning and truth throughout his/her lifetime
- Read carefully and critically
- Delight in the written and spoken word
- Listen carefully and discerningly
- Think clearly, precisely and creatively
- Embody and practice discernment
- Understand the relationship between faith and learning
- Evaluate worldly wisdom and truth according to biblical wisdom
- View every subject as integrated in and through Christ



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 who 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 under the leadership of the Principal are responsible for the day-to-day education at Covenant.

Overseas Students

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



Early Learning Centre

The School operates an Early Learning Centre for preschool aged children with Preschool Program from 8:45am-3:15pm each day. Please see the Early Learning Prospectus for more information.

Before/After School 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 Extend Before & After School Care, and operates from the Early Learning Centre. For more information please see: www.extend.com.au

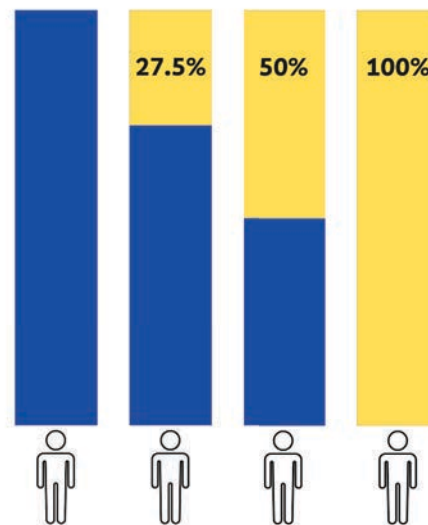


Fees & Levies

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

Substantial sibling discounts apply (where siblings are attending simultaneously).

Sibling Discounts



Fees & Levies Comprise of:

Tuition	Listed fees per term includes sibling discounts
Capital Levy	per term per family
Working Bee Levy	(payable if duty not undertaken)
Swimming Lessons	per Primary Student
Secondary Camp	per Secondary Student
Electives Levy	per term depending on electives chosen (Years 9 & 10 only)
Building Fund Doncation	per term recommended tax-deductible donation (voluntary)
Year 10 Trip	per Year 10 Student

Tuition Fees 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/



Aiming High

We aim for...

- 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 trained in LEM Phonics
- 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



Enrolment

Enrolment

Please submit an Application for Enrolment form for each child electronically.

Application submission fee:

- **\$75 per child**
- **\$150 for two or more children**
- **\$250 per international child**

(non-refundable administration fee)

Subject to an interview and a letter of offer, places are granted to students in Preschool 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 fee are payable in lieu of notice.

Completing your Enrolment Form:

Use the Online Enrolment link on the website to complete your application online:

www.covenant.act.edu.au/application-process/



Enrol Now!





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

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www.covenant.act.edu.au

