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# CHRISTIAN GROWTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY

REVIEWED: 2011

NEXT REVIEW: 2016

*Grow in Grace  
and Knowledge*

2 PETER 3:18

PRINCIPAL: MR NEIL CAPPS  
BOARD CHAIRMAN REV GEORGE AYOUB

A MINISTRY OF THE CASINO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - SINCE 1995

## CASINO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Christian Growth & Development Policy

### Rationale

God, in His sovereignty (1 Chr. 29:11) commands parents to raise their children in a Christian manner (Deut. 6:6-7). Christian parents enroll their children at Casino Christian School in part to fulfill this responsibility. This school then supports parents and seeks to obey God by encouraging the children to grow in their knowledge of, and their relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 4:15)

Growth and development occurs spiritually, physically, mentally and socially. Although these areas are interdependent, this policy will focus mainly on the spiritual and social areas.

As children mature they assume increasing responsibility for their growth and development. Whilst the school anticipates this self-responsibility, it sets a discipline code commensurate with the general school aims.

This school's aim is to equip our students to grow to spiritual maturity under the Lordship of Christ and the wider community.

Our objectives are that the students will:

- Understand the principles upon which the Christian life is developed;
- Have opportunities to surrender their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ;
- Value and develop a Christian lifestyle of regular Bible study, worship, prayer and service.

## Policy

- Pastors, teachers and chaplains will provide regular and systematic teaching from the Bible in assemblies and programmed lessons;
- Teachers will relate incidental situations to the truth of God's Word;
- Teachers will provide opportunities for students to respond positively to the Word of God through things such as:
  - regular and incidental prayer times;
  - whole school and department worship times;
  - presentation of the gospel to the wider community;
  - serving and caring for others generally;  
(As their maturity develops, students will be given increasing freedom and responsibility to develop these activities)
- Teachers will develop and enforce a student discipline code of minimally acceptable behaviour for those students who do not respond to God's Word positively;
- All staff will strive to provide an exemplary model in Christian lifestyle.

*These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deut. 6:6-7)*

*Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. (1 Chron. 29:11)*

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him, who is the Head, that is, Christ. (Eph. 4:15)*

## **Implementation**

### **Assemblies:**

- This term is used because of its Biblical meaning – the bringing together of the school to worship God corporately;
- Primary assemblies occur weekly and Secondary assemblies occur fortnightly; Whole school assemblies may occur at opportune times to celebrate events;
- Parents and friends are welcome to attend and/or participate;
- Various staff, students and visitors may participate in the school assemblies;
- Assemblies will usually have singing (including the national anthem), prayer, Bible reading, student encouragement awards, interviews, and devotions/ Bible teaching;
- Assemblies are to be learning experience for the students, conducted with reverence, but also enjoyed.

### **In Class Opportunities:**

- Classes should begin and end the day in prayer, led by either the teacher or a student. Students should have the opportunity to raise matters for prayer;
- Primary classes will usually have time in the morning for devotions/ praise led by their teacher. This may also be led by one of the school chaplains at times.

### **Incidental Times of Teaching & Witness:**

- When the Pastor or Principal or staff consider it appropriate, a special period of specific teaching will be given by staff or invited speakers;
- If opportunities arise for the students to be involved in organized outreach activities, the Pastor or Principal will decide if the school should accept the invitation. At other times the Pastor or Principal will initiate outreach activities which will help the students to proclaim their faith in ways appropriate to their age.

### **Daily Christian Lifestyle Teaching:**

- The day-to-day moment-by-moment interaction of staff and students is a particularly important aspect of a Christian school;
- Our students should be encouraged to be people of prayer by praying for all types of daily occurrences in the life of the school;
- Teachers should be alert in their playground supervision and intervene to help students resolve differences and difficulties through Christ-centred discussion;
- General classroom and playground behaviour standards should be such that students relate to authority obediently, and to peers with respect, kindness and thoughtfulness.
- At all times, students must be made to respect their parents. Books and other material which do not uphold this will not be used, nor will they be placed in the library.

### **Programmed Bible Study:**

- Years 9 and 10 have a timetabled Bible period once per week to study what God's Word has to say about the issues that are important in life. This course is programmed and registered;
- Primary teachers are encouraged to teach their class from God's Word in an organised and systematic way using material that has the Principal's approval;
- Secondary classes have the opportunity to hold weekly Bible study sessions with their class/ roll teachers. Sometimes these can be held at lunchtimes, but they may also be held before or after school;
- Secondary students will have consecutive, organised teaching on fortnightly assemblies from a gifted teacher on staff.