



# Araluen Christian College

## Education for Life

Choices - we all face them. Some choices are easy to make. Other choices can affect the rest of our lives - or the lives of our children.

At Araluen Christian College, we believe that one of the most important choices parents face today is where to educate their children. On the one hand, a quality academic education is essential, but is it the only consideration? Will a solid academic education necessarily instil in your children the values which you believe are important?

We believe that a choice does not have to be made between the two. At Araluen Christian College, we offer the best of both perspectives: an affordable, quality education, incorporating a commitment to Christian values.

While strongly advocating a Christian world view, we cover all aspects of the Australian Curriculum and the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework.



## Open to the Whole Community

We welcome families from all walks of life and from all areas in the community.



Araluen Christian College is non-denominational. It is not linked to any particular church. Our students are encouraged to express their views; to think for themselves; to inquire; to explore issues and to build upon the basic Christian values which we provide. Our staff, while being committed Christians come from a range of denominations. We trust that by our example of valuing individuals, students will learn to value others in the same way, and treat them with kindness, respect and dignity.

## Christian Staff

What qualities do you look for in a teacher? Think about your own time at school. Who were your best teachers?

As committed Christians, our staff consider their profession as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the children with whom they interact. They believe that students are individuals and endeavour to love, nurture, help, protect and educate them through positive teaching.

Some people imagine Christianity can be taught like Maths. Beliefs and values are “caught” as well as taught. Teachers develop warm relationships with students which are similar to those expressed at home. Our hope is that students will observe these relationships and put them into practice with those around them. God is a God of love, and we desire to create an environment at Araluen where love abounds.



## Foundation for the Future

We recognise that in a rapidly changing world, educational standards must keep pace. As a Government-recognised College, we have our finger on the pulse of change, continually monitoring educational best practice. None of us, however, know all the changes we will face in the future.

Education alone will not provide us with the wisdom to make right choices in a changing world. Because we recognise that God is the source of all wisdom, we are committed to providing a quality education based upon timeless values of courage, perseverance and resilience which can weather the storms of change.

# What makes our College unique?

## Parents as Partners - At all Levels



Our distinctive approach to education encourages involvement – your involvement! We believe parents are the primary educators of children and we want to help you in this vital role. Parents are welcome in classrooms and assist with a wide range of experiences. This indicates to your child that you are interested in his/her learning.



We appreciate that many parents work, so we offer opportunities outside of “work hours” for you to be involved. We also find many parents are able to attend special events, given notice of up-coming events. We want you to share our commitment to assist young people to reach their potential and to become responsible, productive citizens.

## Relationships and Learning

Imagine a world without relationships. It’s pretty difficult isn’t it? It is often said that we can only understand our identity, or who we are, through our relationships.

The Christian faith says that as individuals, we were created to be in relationship with God and with each other. As committed Christians, our teachers recognise this truth and that is what makes our College unique.

If you like, you could say that for us “Relationship” is the fourth “R”. While the three “R’s” (Reading, ‘Riting’ and ‘Rithmetic’) are of utmost importance, they must be supported on the framework of caring relationships.

Our College is a strong community. As part of the Araluen community, children feel they are cared for and that they belong. Cross-age relationships are natural, and at Araluen age, gender and Year Level present no barrier to relationships.

Relationships between staff and parents are equally important. The best outcomes for children are possible when parents and teachers work well together.



## Building a learning Community

One of the foundations of our College is its commitment to relationship building. We recognise that for children to get the most out of their education, everyone in the community needs to work together in harmony to promote a sense of belonging, discovery and challenge. Here are just a few examples of areas in which children are supported and challenged:



- ✦ Self-esteem and resilience
- ✦ Team building
- ✦ Anti-bullying strategies
- ✦ Personal health and fitness

Our staff are life-long learners. Some possess, or are working towards, a Masters degree. NT Christian Schools provides teachers with Professional Development and teachers pursue their own professional development to ensure teaching practice is relevant and the best for our students.



## Parent – Teacher Communication

We are a community in which teachers, students and parents all play vital roles. Community is built up through active communication. We seek to promote this communication at various events throughout the year:

Parent Information night at the beginning of the year



- ✦ “Knowing me knowing you” Parent/Teacher conversations in Term 1
- ✦ Comprehensive written reports Terms 2 with interviews offered
- ✦ Parent/Teacher Interviews in Term 3
- ✦ Student led conferences where parents are encouraged to visit classrooms and chat with students and a written report in Term 4

- ✦ An Open Door policy with the Principal

# Meeting our Students' Total Educational Needs

Our goal is to offer a comprehensive education which supports children and young adults to discover and develop to their potential. It is one thing to talk about a total education, but what does it mean?

- ✚ offering a broad range of experiences
- ✚ understanding individuals
- ✚ being sensitive to the changing educational needs of students as they mature and develop.
- ✚ providing care
- ✚ a protective environment
- ✚ helping children to learn how to be free from bullying
- ✚ being treated by everyone as being special.



This involves:

- ✚ A strong biblical basis which flows through our curriculum
- ✚ A purposeful focus on reading, writing, maths
- ✚ Quality programs delivering all areas of the curriculum
- ✚ Careful assessment of student progress
- ✚ Extra help for children with specific areas of need
- ✚ Built in extension for children with special gifts and talents.



Integrated technology across the College equips students for life today and prepares them for tomorrow's rapidly changing technological world.

Fitness, P.E. and a Perceptual Motor program that ensures students are physically fit. There is involvement in interschool sporting activities from Years 5-9.



We have a strong Active After School Activities program led by teachers and coaches this provides:

- ✚ physical fitness for primary aged children
- ✚ leadership opportunities for our Middle School young people
- ✚ opportunities to learn and develop in particular sports
- ✚ an avenue to further develop social skills for life

A total education includes teaching children and young adults the skills of 'how to learn'. We want students to leave our College not merely with a head full of information, but with the skills, attitudes, critical thinking ability and faith to continue growing as young people of integrity, with the capacity to keep on learning as they move on to Senior Secondary College.

**After all, isn't that what a Transition to Year 9 College should be about?**

## Standards

Araluen Christian College has a history of high teaching and learning standards. In the 2013 National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy, most of our students scored above the National Average, with some achieving extremely well.

Regular College-based assessment alerts us to the special needs of students and enables the implementation of early intervention strategies. In Transition there is full assessment of all our students in February. This helps to pick up early if children are experiencing difficulties. For all of our students on-going assessment continues throughout the year.



Learning Support Assistants, guided by our Learning Support coordinator and in consultation with teachers, give care and support for students with special learning needs. This helps us ensure individual learning needs are met.

## Our Middle School – Years 7 – 9

(See separate flyer)



Our Middle School is a place for growing up, where young people are challenged to take further responsibility for themselves and others as they mature toward adulthood. We have a terrific Middle School teaching team who love spending time with our young adults!

Middle School at Araluen is a unique experience. It is a safe, secure, known environment where students are well understood. They have amazing learning opportunities.

ACC Middle School students succeed as they are encouraged to make informed decisions and learn about their own identity in the context of relationships in community.



While boundaries are clear, independence is nurtured, and students are expected to take greater responsibility for their own learning.

We are extremely proud of the young men and women thriving in Araluen's Middle School.



## How are we Governed?

### We come under the banner of NT Christian Schools

- This legal entity, with a biblical basis statement and an educational mandate, oversees the operation of eight Christian schools in the Northern Territory and some additional entities.
- The Parent Council of Araluen Christian College and the Principal are accountable to NT Christian Schools.
- NT Christian Schools is governed by a Board made up of Christians committed to providing Christ-centred quality education.
- NT Christian Schools supports the local Parent Council who are responsible for the College's local governance, policy, direction and vision.
- NT Christian Schools opens membership to all Christians who subscribe to the biblical basis statement.

### Araluen Christian College Parent Council

- In collaboration with the Principal and Teacher representative, the Council is responsible for developing the Strategic Direction of the College and to develop various policies to guide the functioning of the College.
- Council members are involved in employing staff,
- The ACC Parent Council is comprised of up to eight elected parent members, all of whom agree with the NT Christian Schools biblical basis statement.
- The Council supports the Principal and staff in their various roles at the College by prayer and collegial support.

Araluen Christian College is part of a national network of approximately 80 Christian Schools and Colleges throughout Australia. Known as Christian Education National – CEN – this body is our voice at Government level when it comes to funding and issues of equity, and puts forward our perspective in decision-making which affects education and in particular, the education of students in Christian Colleges.

## Parents can ...

- become members of NT Christian Schools by subscribing to the biblical basis statement
- be elected to the Parent Council by subscribing to the biblical basis statement, offering their services as a Council member and standing for election.
- contribute to the direction and policy of the College by communicating with the Parent Council
- communicate openly with the Principal on all matters of College policy and operation
- communicate with their children's teachers regarding day to day class matters and their child's happiness and progress
- use their expertise to contribute to the College
- contribute to College community events by helping out or just attending
- assist in their own time with grounds care, classroom help, working bees, covering books, assisting with Canteen or the Uniform Shop, additional cleaning, helping in the Library and praying for the College, the Staff, College families and students
- Let others know all the advantages of having children at Araluen Christian College!



*Parent helpers at work!*

## Vision Statement

Araluen Christian College partners with families guiding each child's journey of living and learning, providing hope, in Christ, for their future.