



Frequently Asked Questions

HOW IS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TAUGHT?

Every student in Kindergarten to Year Twelve attends age appropriate Chapel services once a week and has a Christian Education lesson. In the Junior School there are regular class devotions and in Senior School the daily Homeroom period provides an opportunity for a short devotion and prayer. There are lunchtime Christian fellowship groups for students in the Junior and Senior Schools.

DO I HAVE TO BELONG TO A CHURCH OR DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE BAPTISED TO ENROL AT THE COLLEGE?

The College has an open enrolment policy, however all students must attend and participate in our Christian Education programs.

ARE VALUES REALLY TAUGHT?

Our College Core Values are explicitly taught each week in Junior School classes and in Senior School Homerooms, often with a specific focus on one of the values.

R – Respect, Responsibility

H – Honesty/Integrity

A – Attitude, Acceptance

C – Commitment, Care, Co-operation

HOW ARE THESE VALUES LIVED OUT?

The students of the College currently sponsor eight Compassion children and a Children's Centre in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In Senior School there is a mission/service trip each year. Our students have built houses in Cambodia in association with Tabitha Foundation, visited the Sunshine Centre for Children in Phnom Penh and conducted voluntary work with Crossroads International in Hong Kong. Senior School students also have opportunities to participate in community service programs including a dedicated Service Week in Term Four and through various activities in the local community. In Junior School, Kindergarten students have established links with Westmead Childrens' Hospital and Stage Two students provide practical support to Anglicare. Senior Citizens are invited to an Easter Chapel and then hosted for afternoon tea, and choirs sing at retirement villages.

WHAT STANDARD IS EXPECTED WITH THE UNIFORM?

The College has clearly defined uniform standards and students are required to follow the dress code guidelines. There are also standards for personal grooming including hair, jewellery, piercing and tattoos.

WHAT WELFARE PROGRAMS DO YOU HAVE IN PLACE?

Student care is a high priority. In Kindergarten to Year Six a program known as 'You Can Do It!' has been implemented. This is Australia's Leading Social and Emotional Learning Program for promoting student achievement and well being. In the Senior School targeted programs are conducted for particular Year Groups in addition to the Homeroom program. Peer Support programs operate every year in both Senior and Junior School.

WHAT PROGRAMS DO YOU HAVE IN PLACE TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP AND WHAT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE PROVIDED?

Every student in Year Five takes part in a leadership and character development program as well as a two day off-site training program for Year Six Peer Support Leaders. Students in Year Six also attend various leadership training days. In the younger years, leadership roles are developed at a class level. Formally recognised leadership in Junior School consists of Junior School Leaders, House Captains, Cru Leaders (Christian fellowship group), Student Representative Council, Peer Support Leaders and Library Monitors.

In the Senior School, leadership opportunities are available within each Year Group in addition to Student Council representatives. Students are taught about leadership values and provided with a range of opportunities to exercise leadership skills in positions such as Homeroom Leaders, Peer Support Leaders, Peer Leaders for Year Groups. Students can also choose to be involved in a range of leadership opportunities within the co-curricular program. Leadership development leads through to the appointment of College Captains, Prefects and House Captains in the latter stages of Year Eleven.

WHAT IS THE APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING AT THE COLLEGE?

The College has adopted the *Dimensions of Learning* approach to teaching that provides a consistent framework for teaching and learning from Kindergarten to Year Twelve. The *Dimensions of Learning* approach is about being intentional in the way in which we plan for learning. There are five dimensions that provide the structure for planning learning in the classroom:

- ✓ Attitudes and Perceptions
- ✓ Acquire and Integrate Knowledge
- ✓ Extend and Refine Knowledge
- ✓ Use Knowledge Meaningfully
- ✓ Habits of Mind

Teachers are trained in the methodologies associated with *Dimensions of Learning*.

DO YOU HAVE AN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

Academic Scholarships are offered for students in the Senior School at Year Seven and Year Eleven, to recognise and encourage academic rigour within the secondary years of schooling. The scholarships are open to students currently enrolled at the College and those applying for enrolment at the College. Scholarship applications close before the completion of Term Four each year. Tests are held in February or March the following year for entry into Year Seven and Year Eleven in the next calendar year. Further information about the scholarship program can be found on the College website.

DOES THE COLLEGE HAVE REWARD SYSTEMS IN PLACE?

Positive reinforcement is emphasised as the most successful approach to encouraging positive outcomes in a variety of aspects of College life. As well as being recognised for academic achievement, students are rewarded and recognised at assemblies for achievement in a wide range of pursuits and for demonstrating service and the Core Values of the College.

WHAT IS THE COLLEGE'S POLICY ON DISCIPLINE AND BULLYING?

Every person at the College has the right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to enjoy positive relationships with all members of the College community. Rouse Hill Anglican College does not tolerate bullying of any kind and, as such, has firm policies and procedures in place to deal with bullying and discipline concerns. Students are taught in class, Homeroom and Peer Support groups what constitutes bullying and how to manage it. Where bullying occurs, prompt reporting is encouraged so that matters can be addressed adequately and appropriately.

Enrolment at Rouse Hill Anglican College is a privilege, not a right, and if at any time a student's or parent's co-operation with the College authorities is not in keeping with requirements, the College reserves the right to terminate at its discretion, the enrolment of the child.

HOW ARE STUDENTS EXTENDED IN THEIR LEARNING?

In the Junior School teachers provide a differentiated curriculum under the guidance of the Learning and Enrichment Team. This curriculum imbeds higher order thinking and Habits of the Mind. Enrichment co-curricular activities of chess, debating, public speaking, Maths Olympiad and music ensembles are also part of this program.

In the Senior School many classes are graded to allow for targeted extension and enrichment of students within the regular class environment; again with a differentiated approach to planned lesson activities. Additionally, the Senior School has established a program called *E Teams*, where students nominated for their strengths in various areas of learning have the opportunity to participate in a range of exciting and challenging initiatives.

WHAT IF STUDENTS NEED HELP WITH THEIR LEARNING?

The College has a Learning and Enrichment Team, providing specialist support across the College. This team includes learning support teaching staff, literacy and numeracy support staff, teachers' aides and counsellors. The College does not have a Special Needs Learning Support Unit.

In the Senior School teaching staff frequently run open tutoring sessions for students after school each week including Homework Help which runs in the Library. Maths tutoring also operates weekly.

WHAT DOES THE COLLEGE PROVIDE IN THE WAY OF MUSIC?

Specialist Music staff lead the Music program across all year levels at the College. Music is a compulsory part of the curriculum from Kindergarten through to Year Eight and students are taught by specialist staff for the compulsory program. From Year Nine to Year Twelve, Elective Music is also provided as an academic subject.

The College also provides rich opportunities for co-curricular music through recorder groups, choir ensembles, jazz band, chapel bands and concert bands, and string ensemble. Students perform outside the College in eisteddfods, festivals and other performance opportunities.

The College also provides a program for individual music tuition by arrangement between parents and tutors. Students are able to receive individual tuition on a wide range of musical instruments during school time.

WHAT SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

The College has specialist Sport staff and a well developed program of in-school and interschool sporting events. The College has membership of the Christian Schools Sports Association and the Hills Zone Sports Association. These memberships allow students access to a wide range of competitions with students from other member schools during school time or after school. Talented students are able to progress to higher levels of competition, including NSW All Schools and National competitions.

Timetabled sports lessons at the College provide an opportunity for skill development and game play using a combination of College and offsite facilities.

Sports activities include, and are not limited to: swimming, athletics, cross country, basketball, cricket, hockey, softball, netball, soccer, Futsal, AFL, rugby, golf, triathlon, tennis and an annual snow sports weekend.

DO YOU PROVIDE OUT OF HOURS CARE?

The College provides out of hours care for students from Kindergarten to Year Six through the services of KTOOSH, a private service operating on the College premises from 6.45am-6.30pm. KTOOSH are a registered provider and

Federal Government Child Care Benefits may be claimed by parents who meet guidelines. More information can be found at <http://www.ktoosh.com.au/enquiries/>

WHAT PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE IN THE AREA?

Busways and Hillsbus provide dedicated school buses to the College. Up to date information on bus routes can be obtained from their websites (www.busways.com.au and www.hillsbus.com.au). We have a bus bay on the College grounds and the students are supervised after school at the bus bay.

We also provide a supervised parent pick-up service after school for Junior School students.

DO YOU HAVE AN OPEN DAY?

Every day is an Open Day at the College. If you would like to see the College in operation, please telephone our Registrar, Mrs Debbie Elliott, on (02) 8824 5844 to arrange a tour at a mutually convenient time.

THE ENROLMENT PROCESS

An open enrolment policy exists at the College. Families need not be Anglican, but must be supportive of the College's philosophy and principles.

Our main intake years are Kindergarten and Year Seven with some additional places available for entry at the beginning of Year Three. Entry to other non-intake years is by way of casual vacancy. Due to rapid growth in the area and the demand for enrolments at the College, it is recommended that applications for the intake years are made no less than 18 months before the scheduled start date. *It should be noted that placement on the waiting list does not guarantee a place at the College.*

Priority is given to siblings of students currently attending the College, siblings of past students, and children of staff, but those applications **must** be received at the Office by **30th November**, almost 14 months before the year of enrolment.

Enrolment interviews are conducted in the year preceding the desired year of enrolment and are offered in order of application date after the sibling priorities have been provided.

Offers of enrolment are made on the basis of:

- Sibling(s) currently attending the College
- Siblings or children of past students or staff
- Date of application
- The family's willingness to be supportive and encouraging of the College's, philosophy, endeavours and disciplines.

A non-refundable application fee is payable when submitting an Application for Enrolment. This is an administrative fee and does not guarantee a place or an offer of enrolment.

We require the original signed Application to be forwarded to the office together with payment of the application fee. The College accepts cash, cheque, EFTPOS, Visa or Mastercard.

A non-refundable acceptance fee for each student is payable at the time of returning an Acceptance of Offer of Enrolment following the enrolment interview process.

Further enquiries may be made by contacting our Registrar at the College Office.



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