



Statement of Faith and Educational Practices

Special Character

The Special Character of Rolleston Christian School is:

- Non-denominational in character.
- Established by the Proprietor (Christian Schools' Trust) to serve the families and wider Christian community of Rolleston.
- Described as follows: (in the Integration Agreement)

“The school is a Christian school in which the whole school community, through the general school programme and in its religious instructions and observances, exercises the right to live and teach the values of Jesus Christ. These values are as expressed in the Scripture and in the practices, worship and doctrine of the wider evangelical Protestant church as determined from time to time by the Proprietor.”

Safeguarding the Special Character

1. The Christian Schools' Trust, the Board of Trustees and all staff endeavour to work out the principles and objectives above in the practices of the school.
2. The Christian Schools' Trust reserves the right to determine from time to time what is necessary to preserve and safeguard the Special Character of the school.

Statement of Belief and Educational Practice

1. We confess belief in the doctrines of the Christian faith as expressed in this Statement of Faith.

1.1 The unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.

1.2 The Sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.

1.3 The divine inspiration and trustworthiness of the Holy Scripture, as originally given and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.



Statement of Faith and Educational Practices

1.4 The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering humankind subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

1.5 Redemption from the guilt, penalty, pollution and power of sin only through the sacrificial death (as our representative and substitute) of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

1.6 The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, His ascension, His mediatorial work and His personal return in power and glory.

1.7 The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.

1.8 The indwelling and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.

1.9 The one holy, universal church, which is the Body of Christ, to which all true believers belong and in which they are united through the Spirit.

1.10 The resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

2. We affirm the sovereignty of God and the lordship of Jesus Christ over all the universe. We recognise Him as the creator and sustainer of all things and that all things exist for His glory. God alone gives meaning to everything. Knowing God is foundational to life and education, and His glory is the chief aim. In the whole of our lives we either serve God or a substitute of our own imagination. Therefore, education is never neutral, but unfolds in obedience or disobedience to the Lord.

It is our desire that all Christians involved in education be increasingly diligent in distinguishing that which is based on Christ from that which is derived from human presuppositions.



Statement of Faith and Educational Practices

3. We affirm the sufficiency of Scripture. It is authoritative in all matters and its principles are applicable to all issues. We believe there is no matter or issue which is merely 'secular'. Rolleston Christian School curriculum will be Christ-centred rather than man- or creation-centred, the foundations of all curriculum should be principles of the Word of God. Rolleston Christian School teachers will seek insight from Scripture as a foundation to all that is taught.

Rolleston Christian School teachers will commit time to review all their teaching practice in the light of Biblical principles. Christian schools need to renew their commitment to pursue an increasingly Biblical Christian approach to all of their curriculum in the content and delivery of instruction, the structure of classes, administrative structures and policies and their relationship to the community they serve.

4. We affirm that mankind was created by God, uniquely in His image, and is given dominion over earth to populate and manage it, as responsible stewards under God. The fulfilment of this task requires us to teach the many ways each part of creation serves Him, discern the way we must personally serve Him, and develop the skills needed to fulfil this calling. This process we have come to associate with the concept of education. Rolleston Christian School will train pupils to work from the basis of Biblical truth and thus be leaders in research and technology which advances the wise management of the planet.

5. In our fallen state, marred by sin, we need to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit to become children of God and mature in our new relationship with God. This includes the renewing of our minds. Thus Rolleston Christian School believes the purpose of the education it provides is to lead children of God and to equip them for serving God in His kingdom both in this age and for eternity.

Rolleston Christian School teachers will align their practice to this goal of assisting students to be strong in spirit and in Godly character.

6. We believe that the education of children is essentially a parental right and responsibility. We do not believe that parents should necessarily be the sole agents of education but that parents should be actively involved in choosing what their children should learn, and where, when and by whom they are instructed. Active administration of the education of their children should be an integral part of the parents' way of life.



Statement of Faith and Educational Practices

Rolleston Christian School desires that Christian parents in Rolleston take up their responsibility to ensure their children are educated Biblically, by personal instruction and should they choose, by delegation to others who will teach them Biblically.

7. We believe Rolleston Christian School is accountable to God to work in the service of parents assisting them to fulfil their responsibility to educate their children, rather than be an instrument which absolves parents of their educational responsibility.

Rolleston Christian School will devise strategies which recognise and give place to the family as the basic social structure in which a child lives and receives nurture and admonition.

8. Rolleston Christian School believes the church has a pivotal role in education. As a covenant community to which families belong the church encourages and assists families to fulfil their responsibility to educate their children in the knowledge of the Lord. The churches leadership can research and teach Biblical principles underpinning the issues addressed in both general and vocational education.

The church can impart to unbelievers and their families some understanding of Biblical principles and can foster the launching of new Christian educational endeavours.

The desire of Rolleston Christian School is to see all churches actively supporting the cause of Christian education.