VALUES OF ILLAWARRA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. GENESIS 1:27

In obedience to the teaching of the Bible the Illawarra Christian School is committed to teaching, modelling and encouraging the following values. As a Christian school, we understand that our values are derived from the character of God, as revealed in His Word, the Bible, and perfectly demonstrated in His son Jesus Christ.

**Care & Compassion**
Being thoughtful, other person centred, kind, advocating for the vulnerable, nurturing, empathic, merciful, supportive, encouraging, loving, patient, generous, gentle and having a servant heart.

**Faithfulness to God**
Honouring God in the face of challenges and disappointments, being faithful to God under criticism, aggravation and harassment, resisting temptation, giving God first place in everything.

**Doing Your Best**
Using our God given gifts, exercising stewardship, being content, willing to try hard, persevering, appreciating and valuing excellence, celebrating quality outcomes, valuing one another as a unique creation, not being conceited.

**Respect**
Showing honour and consideration, allowing for others’ points of view, treating others with genuine appreciation as fellow human beings, showing courteousness, protecting the reputation of others, valuing every person as God’s image bearer, making it easier for others to respect us.

**Responsibility**
Being dependable, conscientious, reliable, trustworthy, self-controlled, accountable for one’s own actions, not dominating or contentious, making positive contributions in community, taking care of the environment, willing to uphold the value of law and order in community, obeying those in rightful authority over us.

**Wisdom & Discernment**
Knowing and understanding God’s mind and his purposes, being faithful to God’s Word, weighing issues against God’s Word, being careful, thoughtful and reflective in the face of challenges and crises, being a careful listener, weighing one’s words carefully, speaking the truth in love, discerning good from evil, truth from error, right from wrong.

**Faithfulness to God**
Honouring God in the face of challenges and disappointments, being faithful to God under criticism, aggravation and harassment, resisting temptation, giving God first place in everything.

**Freedom**
Not being dominated or oppressed, not fearful, enjoying rights and privileges, supporting the rights and privileges of others, exercising freedom responsibly, being free to serve God and one another.

**Integrity**
Acting morally and ethically, doing what we say, demonstrating fidelity and loyalty, acting righteously, having courage under pressure, practising forgiveness, maintaining a good conscience.

**Hope**
Living in the sure and certain knowledge that this world is not all there is, enjoying the security that comes from knowing we are kept safe in God’s care from day to day, and looking forward to the day when Christ will return to establish truth and justice, and to bring total redemption for those whose trust is in Him.

**Family**
Promoting marriage and family life, promoting fidelity and integrity in marriage, honouring the rights and responsibility of parents to train their children in godliness and wisdom, and to determine the character of the influences to which their children are exposed, encouraging children to honour their parents, giving effective voice to parents within the life of the school, assisting parents in the nurture and discipline of their children, supporting parents through the challenges of parenting.

**Understanding, Tolerance, Inclusion**
Being peaceful, self controlled, walking in another’s shoes, understanding the basis of differences, being empathic, appreciating cultural differences, respectful, acknowledging differences in beliefs and values, showing courtesy towards people of different beliefs and cultures, fostering mutual trust and understanding, fostering community over individualism, encouraging those who are afraid, helping those who need help.

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

These values include and expand on “Values for Australian Schooling” issued by the Australian Federal Government in 2005. Accompanying explanatory notes and biblical references are available from the school office.