

NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Student Enrolment Information Guide



Glad you're considering Northside Christian College

At Northside, we appreciate that choosing a school for your precious children is an important decision. It impacts your child's life, the family culture and atmosphere, and of course your financial investment in their future.

This information guide has been created to be of assistance to you in making your decision. The topics covered have been included as a result of questions most frequently asked by prospective parents.

We are blessed to have passionate teaching and support staff who work together to go 'above and beyond' to educate, encourage physical health, support emotional wellbeing and nourish the spiritual growth of our students. True to our Vision and Mission Statements, staff are not only committed to providing a leading Christian education, but also in 'making disciples of Jesus Christ, educated and equipped for any future, and to be transformational in their spheres of influence'.

Our parent body continually tell us that "there is something special about the culture/spirit of the Northside community". For this reason, we would encourage you to make an appointment to speak with us. We can arrange a campus tour, give you details about attending an open day to speak with the Principal or key staff, and hear current families' thoughts so that you can begin to experience this for yourself. Of course, you can also peruse our website and Facebook page for further information.

We trust you will enjoy learning more about our community at Northside.

If you have any further questions or wish to submit a Student Enrolment Application, please contact me on +61 7 3353 1266 or via email enrolments@northside.qld.edu.au

Kind regards

*Mrs Jacqui Brown
Enrolments Officer*

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Enrolment Process

Once you have made the important decision of applying for enrolment at Northside, the following process applies to enrolments from Prep to Year 12. If you are unsure which year your child will begin their journey at Northside (e.g. which year they will commence Prep), please refer to the 'Entry dates' documentation available on the enrolments pages of the College website. Due to the demand for places, applicants are advised to apply as early as possible.

STEP ONE:

A completed Application Pack should be submitted, which **must include all** of the following:

1. Enrolment Application (one per child)
2. Pastor/Minister's Reference detailing your family's attendance and involvement within your local Christian Church
3. Copy of Birth Certificate/Extract (one per child)
4. Copies of the two most current Academic Reports (including NAPLAN if applicable)
5. All other information required as requested in the Application Forms (e.g. – medical, specialist, paediatrician)
6. A non-refundable \$50 Application Fee (per child) - which applies to all applications

Additional copies of the Enrolment Application and Pastor / Minister's Reference can be found on the enrolments pages of the College website. Once submitted, your application will generally be acknowledged within ten (10) working days. An application does not guarantee an interview nor enrolment.

STEP TWO:

Application processing commences.

Several factors are taken into consideration when determining if the applicant will be offered a place:

- Availability of a suitable place
- Christian commitment/Church involvement
- Academic and behavioural history, including Educational Support needs
- Capacity to pay fees
- Siblings or previous family enrolment at the College.

STEP THREE:

When the required information is complete and an appropriate place is identified, an interview with the Enrolment Panel may be offered. Alternatively, an applicant is notified that the application is unsuccessful. Interviews typically take place up to two years in advance of anticipated commencement date, except in Prep where interviews are conducted 12 months prior to the anticipated commencement. Additional information and another interview or testing may be required prior to a decision being made. Should an offer of a place result, this will be communicated in writing by a Letter of Offer.

STEP FOUR:

A Letter of Offer is sent to applicant OR letter advising application is unsuccessful. A Student Enrolment Contract provided with the Letter of Offer is to be signed and returned within the specified period along with Enrolment Confirmation Fee. The Placement is then secured.

STEP FIVE:

Closer to the date of your child(ren)'s commencement (usually within 90 days), you will receive further information regarding Family Administration Day (FAD), Uniform Shop, book lists, instrumental lessons, bus routes and fees. An orientation morning for all new starters is scheduled at the beginning of the year of commencement. This program is for new students and all Year students. Also, the Year 9 and 12 students undertake a Leadership Program.

If you have any questions, please contact our Enrolments Office on +61 7 3353 1266 or via email at enrolments@northside.qld.edu.au

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Enrolment Process – Frequently Asked Questions

Is a Pastor/Minister's reference required?

This is a required component of our enrolment pack and provides one perspective used to determine whether or not a student is offered a placement. Through this document, we are seeking to understand whether our future families are committed to their faith in Jesus Christ and a Christian life.

Does your child have to be dedicated, baptised, or christened in the church?

Northside is a Christian school for Christian families, with approximately 100 churches represented by the student body at Northside. Consequently, we respect the differences between various Christian denominations around such matters as infant, child, or adult dedications, baptisms, confirmations or christenings; yet also require our families to respect, accept and encourage your children to participate in the Christian education and practices of the College.

Are students required to be immunised to attend Northside?

Northside recognises the decision to immunise your child is a personal one. We recommend parents speak with their general practitioner and review the Queensland Government's publications on the benefits of immunisation.

Does Northside offer Scholarships?

We have recently laid the foundations to be able to offer this in the future.

Does Northside accept International Students?

Yes - please contact our Enrolments Officer or see our 'Overseas Students and Homestay Policies' page on the College website for further information.

Does Northside provide transport for Students?

Yes - we have our own modern fleet of buses that provide a service to most surrounding suburbs. Please see our 'Bus Services' page on the College website for more information.

Does Northside accept single parents?

Yes, we welcome families of single parents, and even have situations where grand-parents or other sole guardians of children come to Northside seeking a great Christian educational experience for their children.

Benefits of an education at Northside Christian College

- Christian values and worldview that support your family values
- A partnership between home and school
- A safe, nurturing and happy atmosphere
- A caring, disciplined environment
- Continuity of education from Prep through to Year 12
- An excellent academic program
- Attention to the basics and foundations of reading, writing and arithmetic;
- Specific research-based learning frameworks
- A technologically-rich learning environment and excellent I.T. facilities
- Counselling and guidance services
- A College that seeks to connect with and make a difference in local and global communities through meaningful and practical targeted projects
- A family fee structure with discounts for families with more than one student at the College
- An extensive and exclusive transport (bus) service

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An Introduction to Northside Christian College

Northside Christian College was founded in 1985 as a ministry of Nexus Church (formerly Northside Christian Church) in order to provide a high quality education that would partner with and support the values of Christian families.

The Directors of Northside are appointed by Nexus Church and are responsible for the spiritual, legal and financial oversight of the College. Managerial responsibility for the College's operations is delegated by the Directors to the Principal.

Further information on our history is available on the College website.



A Christian Education

Northside provides a Christian education that supports and promotes Christian faith in the lives of its students. We employ staff who model Christian living; whilst Christian Studies classes, class devotions and Chapels are included within normal school routines and the curriculum. We seek to encourage our students to study the Scriptures and to know God, so that they might be able to see the world the way God sees it. In this way, we trust that they might be able to serve the world through their Christian character and to respond with enthusiasm and integrity to the challenges and opportunities that are before them.

We believe that a Christian is a person who has made Jesus Christ both Saviour and Lord of his/her life. That is, a Christian is a person who:

- believes that Jesus Christ, God's only Son, died and rose again
- has recognised his/her sinful condition
- has received forgiveness of his/her sins through faith in Jesus Christ and
- seeks to live his/her life in obedience to God's Word.

Christianity is, in essence, an ongoing relationship with God – not just a Sunday morning event, but a way of life.

Northside has students from many Church denominations, although the majority comes from evangelical, charismatic or pentecostal churches. The style of worship at the College is contemporary. As far as possible, students are the musicians, singers and leaders of worship and chapels.

Staffing

All teaching staff are fully qualified to teach and are registered with the Queensland College of Teachers.

It is an expectation that all employees at Northside are committed Christians and are actively attending a local Christian Church.

We believe that values and lifestyles are more 'caught than taught'. Our staff are able to role model the Christian life for our students.



General College Campus and Facilities Information

Situated on a twelve-acre property in Everton Park in Brisbane's northern suburbs, Northside Christian College has approximately 1200 students enrolled. The College is divided into Junior, Middle and Senior Schools.

Current facilities include:

- A Block: Early Year Classes and an Educational Support Centre
- B Block: Upper Primary classes, Junior School Reception, and Educational Support Centre
- Preparatory Centre
- C Block: Science Laboratories, Senior School classrooms, Senior School Reception, Student Services and Careers Office and Vocational Education Office
- Upper C Block: computer rooms



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- Lower D Block: College Administration, Principal's Office, Enrolments Office, Business Office, Development Office, Student Health Rooms, College Café and Uniform Shop
- Upper D Block: Middle and Senior School Library and classrooms
- F Block: Middle School – Years 7-9 classrooms, Educational Support Centre
- G Block: Years 7-9 classrooms, Middle School Reception and Student Welfare Office, Sports Office
- H Block: Home Economics (Kitchen and Textiles Rooms), Lecture Theatre and Instrumental Tuition Rooms
- I, J & K Blocks - classrooms
- L Block - Drama Rooms
- The White House: Art Rooms and Design Technology Workshop
- Junior School Library and I.T. Laboratory
- Library Square
- Multipurpose College Hall
- Oval, Hard Courts and use of 1000 seat Auditorium



The College has an agreement with the Brisbane City Council for the use of Teralba Park, Mitchelton for a range of sporting activities, as well as accessing a wide variety of other sporting, swimming pools and co-curricular venues using our own dedicated bus fleet.

Capital Works

Northside is committed to providing our students and staff with leading educational facilities. We are very excited to be commencing our Centre for Innovation and Creativity project worth approximately \$13 million, across three stages.

Prior to this over recent years, other capital works projects have included:

- The Prep Centre
- College Hall, Junior School Library, Library Square, Junior IT room and other classrooms
- The Senior Terrace



Curriculum

From Prep to Year 10, our curriculum aligns with the requirements of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA), including implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

In Years 11 and 12, all educational programs are developed from syllabuses accredited and published by the QCAA and are moderated by the QCAA or by a Registered Training Organisation delivering a Certificate Course of Study.

Students are issued with a Senior Education Profile in December of Year 12, which may vary according to a student's course section. All graduates receive a Senior Statement issued by the QCAA, listing the results in the student's studies over Years 11 and 12.

Most students will also receive a Queensland Certificate of Education. Those who qualify also receive a Tertiary Entrance Statement issued by the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC), giving each student's Overall Position (OP Score), which is a significant determinant for being offered a university placement.

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Northside's record in Overall Position (OP) scores

Whilst there are many measures of student success, attainment of high OP scores is important for students wishing to gain access to post-secondary tertiary education via QTAC.

Northside Christian College is proud of its students' OP results. OP scores range from 1 (highest) to 25 (lowest). In Queensland, approximately 35% of eligible students gain an OP score of 1-10. At Northside, an OP of 1-10 is gained on average by at least 60% of our graduates each year. A high proportion of those students are offered tertiary places in their first preference course.

Vocational Pathways

In Senior School, the College caters for students who do not require an OP to pursue their future career aspirations. Many students who are considering tertiary education at TAFE, completing an apprenticeship/traineeship or gaining direct entry into the workforce may benefit from following a non-OP pathway through their years of senior schooling. Also, not all students will achieve a direct link from school to the tertiary course of their choice. An alternate post-school pathway may be necessary to reach their goals.

A Vocational Pathway offers to students these possible elements during senior:

- up to 6 vocational education subject offerings
- a Structured Workplace Learning program
- the possibility of a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship
- enrolment with the Brisbane North-West Trade Training Centre
- enrolment in a nationally recognised VET course.

Northside Prep

Preparatory is based on active learning and investigations. It is the first year in the Early Phase of Learning, which spans from Prep to Year 2.

Our Prep classes share access to Junior School resources and participate in specialist classes such as Physical Education, Music and Library.

Being part of school life on a full-time basis, the curriculum content, teaching methodology and learning environment provide a smooth transition between informal pre-schooling and the start of the formal schooling phase of education for the children.

The Prep Curriculum provides opportunities for children to:

- listen, respond to and give directions
- develop their oral language, literacy and numeracy skills
- become independent thinkers and problem solvers
- learn how to cooperate with others, and
- develop physical coordination skills.



The Junior School (Years 1-6)

The main features of the Junior School include:

- an environment in which students can feel safe and cared for
- active partnership with parents
- spiritual leadership and guidance
- sequential core curriculum that covers the Key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Computer Studies and Information Skills, Christian Studies, The Arts and Physical Education
- learning includes development of:
 - Christian thinking



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- Communication
- Collaboration
- Creative thinking
- Civics and Citizenship
- Character

and includes foundational literacy and numeracy

- specialist teachers for Music, Physical Education and Library
- CHUMS – a buddy system within Junior School
- a Junior School Music Room
- a Junior School Technology facility
- Junior School Educational Support Centres to support students who face challenges with their learning, and to enhance the learning of gifted students
- enrichment opportunities for gifted students such as targeted extra-curricular activities, external competitions, higher order thinking opportunities, and problem solving teams
- regular on-going assessment and reporting to parents on student progress
- camping program – Years 3-6
- participation in inter-house sporting carnivals and at an interschool level
- participation in interschool sport for Years 5-6
- participation in Inter-Collegiate Sporting Carnivals from Years 3-6



The Middle School (Years 7-9)

The Middle School caters for the unique needs of early adolescent learners (Years 7-9) and to provide a smooth transition from primary to secondary education.

The Middle School recognises that these students are no longer young primary children, nor do they have the same interests and needs as older secondary students.

The main features of the Middle School include:

- a curriculum designed to engage young adolescent learners in the context of a strongly pastoral, Christian environment
- a Leadership Program – Teacher and student-led programs providing social interaction and development opportunities
- Life Skill lessons in social and personal development
- specialist teachers and facilities
- Middle School Educational Support staff available to support identified students requiring assistance
- design thinking program and challenge based learning
- opportunity for participation in a range of academic competitions (e.g. ICAS International Competitions and Assessments for Schools for computing, mathematics and science)
- dedicated Middle School form room
- gender streaming across Year 7 and some subject areas
- separate Middle School chapels
- regular assessment and reporting to parents
- participation in inter-house and interschool sporting carnivals
- participation in the Inter-Collegiate Sporting Carnivals



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Year 7 students are taught core subjects in their home room by their form Teacher and one or two other teachers. They also have specialist teachers for, Music, Physical Education, Drama, Innovation and Discovery (Art and Computing), Home Economics and Design Technology.

It is similar for Year 8 students, except that they have a slightly expanded curriculum that includes languages, for example, French and Japanese.

Year 9 students study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, and Christian Studies. In addition, they study six elective subjects (for one semester each), such as Business and Information Technology, Challenge Based Learning, Design Technology, Information and Software Technology, Languages, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Science Extension and Visual Arts.

The Senior School (Years 10-12)

Northside believes that Year 10 is an important preparatory year for Year 11 and 12 studies. Consequently, the Year 10 program is structured identically to the Year 11/12 program. This gives the students more time in each subject and greater choice over their study program than is usually the case.

All students from Year 10 to Year 12 study Christian Foundations, Life Skills, plus six subjects or qualifications. Christian Foundations and Life Skills incorporate Christian Studies, Career Education, Core Skills Test Preparation, study skills and social skills development.

The main features of the Senior School include:

- a strong pastoral care program, and Christian environment
- curriculum accredited by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
- specialist teachers and facilities
- career guidance
- a Vocational Education program including work placement, school-based apprenticeships and school-based traineeships
- flexibility to study TAFE courses or Certificate courses either at school or off site
- inter-house and interschool sporting carnivals
- opportunity to participate in Inter-Collegiate Sporting Carnivals
- weekly team sport for Year 10 with other team sport opportunities for Year 11/12 students
- opportunities for participation in a range of external academic competitions



Textbooks

Northside operates a textbook lending scheme for Years 7-12, which saves parents the expense of purchasing texts. Textbooks are purchased by the College and loaned to Middle and Senior School students according to their subject needs. A number of textbooks are now available in a digital format which can be downloaded onto Chromebooks.

Educational Support

The Junior School and Middle School Educational Support Centres provide support to students with significant learning difficulties. Teacher Aides provide other assistance through various support programs. Students with Special Needs are identified and supported through case-managed adaptations to learning and have access to the range of curricular offerings at Northside including OP and vocational pathways through Senior School.

EAL – Students who have English as an additional language are identified and supported.

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Computers and Technology

The Junior School has a Technology Facility and uses desktop computers as well as Notebooks, Chromebook and Interactive Whiteboards to deliver I.T. lessons and tasks in day to day activities.

Education for Middle and Senior School students has a 1-1 learning program focus with each student in Years 7-12 provided with a College-owned laptop. For specialist subjects Film and Television, Arts and Graphics, classrooms with specialist computers and software are provided. There are also a number of desktop computer labs available to complement key learning areas.

Our technology focus includes:

- preparation for students to be highly confident and competent in technology-rich workplaces
- provision for equitable access to educational resources and learning opportunities
- fostering creativity and innovation.

This aligns with Marzano whose research-based evidence suggests that people learn best when they are actively involved in the process.

Our DELL Chromebook 11 touchscreen laptops provide:

- a "school tough" designed laptop
- touchscreen capacity providing a device that meets creative and contemporary expectations
- a vendor with a proven record of support for faulty devices, with a next business day repair guarantee
- an accidental damage protection insurance policy that provides for accidental damage repairs once yearly
- an economical technology program.



As part of our College mission statement, we aim to develop a culture of acceptable and responsible technology use within the College. At Northside, this involves developing young people who:

- use technology in an acceptable and responsible way
- are discerning
- have ability to shape and influence the future use of technology in our society.

Whilst 'Securly' provides world leading 24/7 cyber-safe protection for our students, we have also developed a number of resources to help both students and parents make the most of learning opportunities whilst staying cyber-safe. The College's "Google Tute" guides students through a developmental and innovative course in cyber-safety and digital citizenship, and our e-Quipped website (<http://e-quipped.com.au/>) provides parents with tips and necessary information for parenting a digital generation.

Goals of Digi-Discipleship are developing students into masters of technology who have:

- The ability to self-monitor (gauging quantity and quality)
- The self-control to stop and change activities without dramas
- The discernment to recognise and the mastery avoid unwholesome, inappropriate content
- The desire for life balance and holistic (covering all 5 domains) health
- Inspiration to use media for good, such as the furthering of God's purposes

The College campus has an excellent network infrastructure in place. A high quality dedicated internet connection provides fast internet throughout the College. Each building is connected by fibre-optic cable allowing maximum connectivity and network access. All College computers are networked and students enjoy using the high capacity and high speed wireless internet for Chromebooks, Netbook and Laptop use both inside and out of the classroom.

Code of Conduct

The College aims to be a Christian community, which emphasises love for God and love for one's neighbours as oneself. In particular, our students are expected to act responsibly, to maintain a Godly standard of living, to take full advantage of the educational opportunities afforded them through the College and to adhere to guidelines set down for them.

These expectations are published and made available through College policies and Student and Parent Handbooks. The College refers to these expectations and guidelines as The Code of Conduct, which is worded age-appropriately depending on the age/year level of students.

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Extension, Enrichment and Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Some examples include:

- Battle of the Minds
- ICAS Competitions for Mathematics, Science and Computing
- Maths Team Challenge
- Maths Engineering Challenge
- University courses (for selected Senior students as an enhanced studies program)
- Extension classes in some core subject areas
- Physics, Chemistry, Biology Olympiads for Senior students
- Introduction to Liberal Arts – “Path to Wisdom”
- Chess club, writing club, language club, debating, musicals, Arts Festival
- Public speaking competitions such as Rostrum Voice of Youth and Queensland Debating Union Competitions
- Robotics
- STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering Mathematics) – integrates concepts of critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration together with knowledge into real life applications
- Curriculum-based approaches
- Curriculum compaction and grade-skipping may be considered for some students (Junior School only)
- The curriculum in Key Learning Areas (KLAs) is being modified to incorporate strands for academically gifted students

Camping Program

All year levels from Year 3 to Year 12 have an annual camp.

- Year 3 Overnight sleepover at the College
- Year 4 Camp Warrawee (2 day/1night)
- Year 5 Tallebudgera Outdoor Recreation Centre (3 day/2 night)
- Year 6 QCCC – Mapleton (3 day/2 night)
- Year 7 Canberra and the snowfields
- Year 8 Edmund Park Outdoor Education Centre
- Year 9 Noosa North Shore
- Year 10 Mt Barney Lodge and National Park
- Year 11 Leadership Camp and Work Experience
- Year 12 Kingfisher Bay, Fraser Island

Camps target a range of aims over the years. All camps seek to develop: positive relationships between students and their peers as well as staff, team work, resilience, responsibility, confidence, positive attitudes, health and perseverance.

Students regularly attend excursions related to their studies.

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Co-Curricular Opportunities

The College offers many opportunities for students to be involved in co-curricular activities. These may vary from time to time:

Some examples are listed below:

- Chess
- Debating
- Robotics
- Choirs
- Bands
- Dance
- Musical Theatre
- Peer Support Programs
- Mentoring programs
- Language Club
- Writing Club – ‘Inklings’
- Technical Team Training – Lighting, Sound, Audio Visual and Event Management
- Northside Newsroom Project – production of monthly College community “video newsletter”
- Junior School Lunchtime activities
- Middle School lunchtime activities
- ‘Acoustica’ – Senior School lunchtime activity
- School visits (Primary) – Boys without Dads
- Aged Care Home visits
- Valley Street Ministry/Outreach
- World Vision involvement
- Overseas cultural and Missions Trips (some destinations, New Caledonia, Korea, China, Uganda and Europe)
- Overseas sporting fixtures
- Additional sports coaching, training and competitions
- G2T – Garden to Table Club
- Artist in Residence program
- Engaging with visiting performers and artists (e.g. History Week)



Sport at Northside

Students are encouraged to begin life-long habits of healthy living. Staff seek to assist students to maintain an adequate level of physical fitness. The College’s Physical Education and Sporting programs are designed to foster these aims and to encourage students to pursue individual sporting goals.

The College’s programs include:

- Prep to Year 8: Physical Education specialist classes
- Year 9-12: Physical Education elective classes



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- Prep-Year 12: Inter-house Athletics Carnival
- Years 3-12: Inter-house Swimming and Cross-Country carnivals
- Years 5-10: Interschool Teams sport
- Opportunity to represent the College, District, Region and State in Athletics, Cross-Country, Swimming and many team sports. Northside students have achieved representation at all these levels, in a wide variety of sports
- Participation in CSSA (Christian Schools Sporting Association) carnivals
- Participation in Inter-Collegiate Sporting Carnivals (Swimming, Track and Field, Cross-Country)



Instrumental Music

Students can choose from a wide range of instruments as well as voice and speech and drama on a fee-for-service basis.

Lessons can occur before or after school, during morning tea or lunchtimes, or during class time on a rotational basis, where the parents and teachers agree that the student will be able to cope with the disruption to their classroom learning.

Fees are payable directly to music tutors, in advance.



College Café

Northside's College Café is a self-service cafeteria style facility, providing a comprehensive range of healthy food items. Options include salads, soups and wraps all prepared fresh on the premises daily by our chef and team of volunteers.

As well, there is a convenient streamlined online pre-ordering system (Flexischools) available for students and staff.

Parental Involvement

Northside welcomes and actively encourages the involvement of parents in the education of their children. Prep Parents choosing to be involved can be rostered to assist with a variety of activities each term. Many parents also assist in Junior School classrooms, special events, catering, on excursions and camps.

College Expectations of Parents

The greatest expectation that the College has of parents is that they support the College and show an interest in their children's learning and associated activities, such as attendance at concerts, special events and sports days as they are able. Northside believes that it partners with parents to see students provided with a safe, happy and dynamic learning environment.

Parents are expected to supervise homework (without doing it for the child), even up to the Senior years.

Parents from throughout the College assist in the College Café. The 'Coffee Club' (a parents' group) fundraises for special projects on a regular basis.

Each family is asked to either provide a worker for two Saturday morning Working Bees each year or pay the annual Working Bee Levy.

We also ask that parents support the standards and procedures of the College including the College's Reputation Policy.

Parents are asked to fully support the College's uniform requirements for students.