



SENIOR PRIMARY HANDBOOK

Freshwater Christian College
Administered by Cairns Christian College Ltd
CRICOS Number: 01033E

Welcome to Senior Primary

We are happy to welcome your child into a Senior Primary class and we look forward to working together with you as members of the Freshwater Christian College family.

This information book (with helpful hints and requirements) has been prepared to assist you and your child settle easily into school life as we start (or continue) on this new adventure together.

College Mission Statement

At Freshwater Christian College, we believe in the unique gifting of each individual within our community and exist to provide a safe and empowered learning environment that promotes caring relationships and authentic Christian Values

What are the College Values?

We believe that a graduate of the College should be well grounded academically but also display character that honours God.

Our Teaching Objectives

Students who adopt the College values as their own have a great foundation for life. Our four teaching objectives are a reflection of our Mission Statement.

- H** High Expectations
- O** Overt Christian Values
- P** Positive and caring relationships
- E** Empowered learning

Quality Christian Education

At Freshwater Christian College, we teach all classes from a Christian World View and incorporate biblical values as a set of principles to serve our students for life. Our teachers are committed Christians who allow their love of God to shine through their commitment to teach in a Christian College.



Within our Primary School, we also follow the Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science, HASS, Health and Physical Education, The Arts, Technology and Languages other than



English. Christian Living is drawn from our documents incorporating the Christian Worldview.

Our teachers are expected to be life long learners themselves and to keep abreast of current teaching methodologies through ongoing professional development, self-study and reflection on current practices.

Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and men. Luke 2:52

Our Senior Primary program builds on the foundations established throughout the early years. It seeks to contribute to the development of the whole child and includes elements for growing academically, emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually. There is an emphasis on teaching the skills for life-long learning and the application of thinking skills to everyday life. We incorporate chess instruction as part of Mathematics Curriculum due to its many benefits.

Working Together

We are a Christian School where Jesus Christ and His Love are a part of all that we do. Children are encouraged to join in classroom prayer times and chapel services. We would ask each family to take time to pray for your children's teachers. If you have a need for which the class can pray, let us know, as we are all a part of God's family. Feel free to communicate with your teacher and we welcome you to become involved in classroom life.

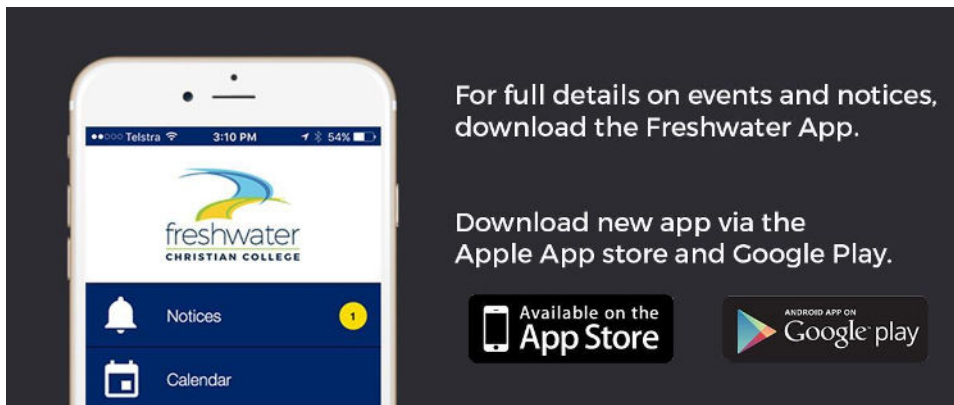
Special Calendar Events

- Cross Country
- Opti-Minds
- College Fair
- Athletics Carnival (off campus)
- Book Week & Book Parade
- Open Day
- Primary Music Night
- Awards Night
- Swimming Carnival
- Interschool Chess Competitions
- Interschool Robotics Competitions

Please refer to the College App for dates and notices (including changes to dates) downloadable via the Apple App Store and Google Play.

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**Camps
and**

Excursions

Years Four, Five and Six each go on an annual camp to an area that complements current classroom studies.

All classes go on excursions and trips to local places of interest. All camps and excursion costs are covered in the school fees.

CURRICULUM

In Senior Primary our students' social and literacy development continues as their preparation for Secondary School begins. We also provide extra-curricular programs for our students.

Our students are encouraged to engage in language, camps, music, sport and performing arts programs. These combined with our literacy and numeracy programs help to develop them as a whole person. There is a focus on leadership and Christian character development and we encourage them to be examples to their fellow students in Junior Primary.

- Devotions

Our school is Christ-centred and our morning always begins with devotions every day in the classroom and also on Tuesday's during Chapel which is held 11:50am to 12:30pm.

The Chapel Service on Tuesday is led by our Chapel Praise Team. Students from Years 5 and 6 choose to be a member of this team and must honour their commitment. Invited guest speakers input into the lives of our students each week. Parents are welcome to attend.

Students take time to learn Bible verses, hear Bible stories and discuss how to apply them to life. Scripture Memory is the trophy every student can earn on Awards Night, except Prep students.

It is our firm belief that the development of a child's spiritual being is important for their life journey and future success.

- Literacy & Numeracy



Our foundational target is for students to be able to read and write with confidence and to think mathematically in the appropriate situations.

Students learn to read by applying semantic (general knowledge), syntactic (grammar conventions) and phonological (letter sounds) cues as well as developing an extensive sight vocabulary. They learn to construct different texts using appropriate forms of genre. Effective and explicit teaching of reading, comprehension skills is standard practice. There is an emphasis on the correct use of Language conventions, including grammar and spelling. Listening and speaking skills are also emphasized. Students build on their current knowledge and skills and are encouraged to progress at their own pace. Formative assessments guide teachers to create programs to cater for students learning needs. Ongoing intervention support enables students to reach their potential.

Skills in Literacy underpin all key learning areas. Students are expected to use the specific literacy (genre, comprehension and vocabulary) associated with each subject area.

There is a sound emphasis on using mathematical strategies, understanding place value and patterning and being able to apply mathematical knowledge to different situations. Students enjoy learning by doing through an inquiry based hands on approach where appropriate, and using their skills in relevant real life situations, especially through problem solving.

- Sport/ Physical Education

Physical activity contributes to the development and well-being of each child. Students have a weekly PE lesson where the emphasis is on learning skills and using them in a game situation. Students are encouraged to take part to the best of their ability and to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Students from Years 4 to 6 participate in a sports afternoon each Friday.

The program includes swimming, cross country running, athletics (track and field) and ball games.

The College has an annual swimming carnival, cross country race and athletics carnival which all offer opportunities for all students to participate. Capable students are encouraged to continue on to represent the College at a higher level in their chosen sport. Sporting teams compete at local competitions. We have a number of teams participating in the local Futsal competition under the school's Freshwater Falcons banner.

Students wear sports uniform on the designated sports days.

- Music

All students join in the school music program. There is one formal lesson per week though music and singing are also a part of many classroom lessons. Students learn to read, write and compose music and to play the recorder from Year Three.

The Senior Primary College Choir was established in 2005 and has contributed to many College and community events. They have always performed well in the Cairns Junior Eisteddfod, winning during 2013 and 2014 and 2016.



Students may also take part in the College Instrumental Program. Lessons in piano, drums, brass, strings, voice and woodwind are all available

- Japanese

Primary classes have weekly lessons in Japanese excluding Prep. These include conversational and written Japanese as well as insights into Japanese culture. Every 2nd year our College takes a small group of students to Japan for a cultural experience and to apply their learning. We also host short term students from Japan at our college.

- Computers and Technology

The College has designated Computer Labs and also portable labs of I-pads and laptops to go from room to room. All Primary classes are allotted computer time and students are encouraged to develop computer skills, build documents and presentations and conduct research through I.T.

- Library

Students have a library lesson each week and may borrow 2 books per week. All students require a school library bag (available from the College). Reading is celebrated in our College with a certificate for each time they read for 25 nights.

- Chess

All students from Prep to Year 6 will receive chess tuition every week as part of our mathematics curriculum. Research around the world has proved that chess benefits students in their learning and our college is investing in this process through the use of our chess coach. We also offer Chess Club after school for students as an Extra-Curricula option to help advance their skills.

School Hours

School hours are from 8.30 am to 2.50 pm with the first bell ringing at 8:25am.

Please do not to be late as this upsets essential classroom routines. If circumstances arise which result in the student being late to school, we ask that you check-in at the Primary Reception on the way to class for a "Late Stamp".

Likewise, if students are leaving early during the school day, they must be signed out at the Primary Reception.

Students are collected in the afternoon through the school Stop/Drop/Go procedures. If necessary students, may go to Prep pick up, buses or Homework Centre



A bus service and homework Centre are available if needed.

On The First Day of School

Feel free to come to the classroom to settle in your child but quickly say goodbye as the children go to assembly at 9 am.

If there are any special needs on this day, please write them down and leave the note on the teacher's table. They may not be able to give you their full attention between 8.30 am and 9.00 am.

Food for School

Diet is important for young growing bodies. Please limit the number of "treats" and the amount of pre-packaged food in your child's lunchbox. For morning tea, we recommend you choose from crackers or fruit, a sandwich, cheese, yogurt or a healthy snack. We encourage your children to drink water. Lollies, chocolate and high sugar processed foods are not allowed in Prep.

Our College is a ***Nut Free School***. We ask you to refrain from including peanut products because of the allergic reactions which can be experienced by some children already in the College.

This includes Nutella and Peanut Butter.

Also, please ensure your children have an adequate breakfast before coming to school so that they are at maximum learning capacity to start the day.

We have fridges in classrooms and please ask that you use a lunchbox, not an insulated bag.

Food Purchases

- FCC Cafe orders can be written on a brown paper bag or orders placed online via the website Flexischools. Orders are delivered to the classroom. Students have no need to purchase lunch over the counter, which is not allowed.
- The café is open five days a week.
- Cake stall is held every second Wednesday at morning tea. Classes take it in turn to supply the home baking. Children purchase goodies for 50c and funds raised support overseas children and community projects. Cake stall is held on every even week of a term, starting from Week 2.

Stationery

All Primary students is provided by the College.

Reporting

Reports are written to current student outcomes at that Year level and incorporate a 5pt marking system. Formal written reports are issued for Semesters One and Two. Parent/Teacher interviews



are held prior to the Easter and September holidays. This is a time for parents and teachers to discuss student progress, hear the good things that are happening and decide on ways to work through areas of concern.

Parents are encouraged to make an appointment to speak with the teacher/s if they have important information about their child or are feeling concerned in a particular area.

School Uniforms

All students are expected to be in the correct school uniform at all times. Hats are an essential part of the uniform and the rule is:

NO HAT, NO PLAY

Primary Students – Year 1 – 6

Boys: Freshwater Christian College Primary Shirt navy College blue shorts

Girls: Freshwater Christian College blouse and tunic
Hair ties must be in the school colours of green, blue or gold.
No radical haircuts or colours permissible.
Earrings (girls only) - studs or sleepers (one per ear)
N.B. Please no other jewellery as loss causes distress.

Shoes & Socks: Black polishable shoes with navy blue socks (No boots please)

Sports Uniforms (worn on designated days):
Sports shirt navy blue shorts
Joggers predominately black or white with navy socks

Winter: A school jacket is available for winter.

Please name EVERYTHING

Please save us and your child the distress and embarrassment of having to deal with an incorrect uniform.

Our uniform shop is located on campus next to our Tuckshop and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday during school terms on school days:

- 7.30am-8.30am
- 3.00pm-4.00pm

Parent Help



Parent help is always appreciated. The teachers will advise when they are ready. A parent night is held early in Term One to familiarise parents with classroom routines.

College Contact Details

School Principal: Mr Doug Holtam

Head of Primary/Deputy Principal: Mr Max Natoli

Primary Office Administrator: Mrs Margaret Baxter

Ph: 07 4055 1337 Fax: 07 4055 1930 Email: primary@fcc.qld.edu.au

Absentee Email: absentee@fcc.qld.edu.au

