

# SENIOR PRIMARY HANDBOOK



**LIFE ■ LOVE ■ LEARN**

## Welcome to Senior Primary

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We are happy to welcome your child/ren into our 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/ren settle easily into school life as we start (or continue) on this new adventure together.

## College Mission Statement

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Life | Love | Learn

## What are the College Values?

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

## Our Teaching Objectives

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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 Virtues
- P Positive and caring relationships
- E Empowered learning

## Quality Christian Education

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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, H.A.S.S., 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, collaboration and continuous professional learning sessions at school linked to personal growth goals.

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 the Mathematics Curriculum due to its many benefits.

## Working Together

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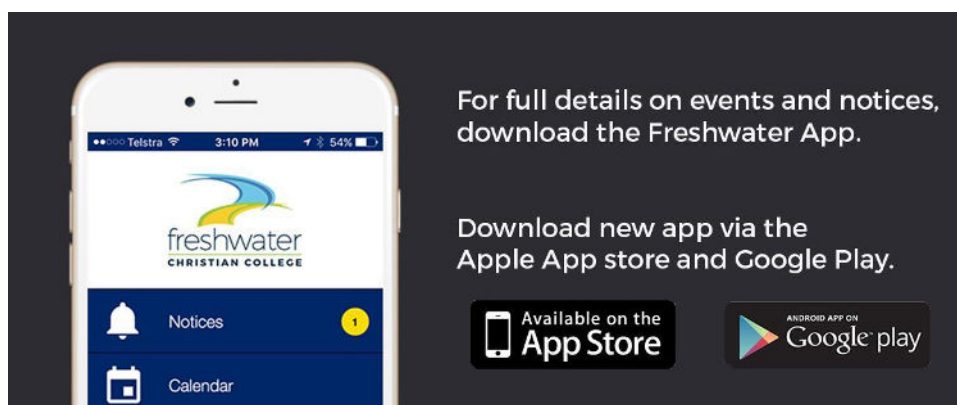
We are a Christian School where Jesus Christ and His Love are a part of all that we do. Children are encouraged to join in classroom prayer times and chapel services. We would ask each family to take time to pray for their children's teachers. If you have a need for which the class can pray, let us know,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

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- ID Photos
- Cross Country
- Opti-Minds
- College Fair
- Athletics Carnival (off campus)
- Book Week & Book Parade
- Primary Music Night
- Awards Night
- Swimming Carnival
- Interschool Chess Competitions
- Interschool Robotics Competitions
- Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Parent Coffee Mornings
- Welcome Night (Class Information Night)

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



## Camps and Excursions

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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

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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

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Our school is Christ-centred and our morning always begins with devotions every day in the classroom and during Chapel which is held in the Church Auditorium.

The Chapel Service 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. Guest speakers input into the lives of our students each week. Parents are welcome to attend and can check with the Primary Office or class teacher for further details on days and times. Please note that social distancing measures may restrict parents from attending.

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

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

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Our foundational goal 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 word 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/PGP

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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 participate in a PGP (Personal Growth Program) each Friday afternoon.

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 offer opportunities for all students to participate in. 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 several teams participating in the local Futsal competition under the school's Freshwater Falcons banner.

Students wear sports uniform on the designated sports days.

## Music

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All students participate 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 will continue learning to read, write and compose music and play the recorder.

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 many categories over several years.

Students may also take part in the College Instrumental Program. Lessons in piano, drums, brass, strings, and woodwind are all available upon request at a fee. Forms are available from the Primary Office.

## Japanese

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Primary classes have weekly lessons in Japanese. 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 and students are eligible from Year 6.

## Computers and Technology

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The College has designated Computer Labs and also portable labs of Ipads 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

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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) as part of the stationery scheme.

## Chess

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Students from Prep to Year Six receive chess tuition every fortnight as part of our mathematics curriculum. Research around the world has proven 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-Curricular option to help advance their skills. Students have the opportunity to participate in Regional Chess Tournaments in Terms 1, 2 and 3.

## School Hours

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

***Please do not 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 Office on the way to class to be marked onto the roll and receive a "Late Slip" for your teacher.

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

Students are collected in the afternoon through the school pick up procedures. If necessary students may go to the buses or Homework Centre

A bus service and out of school hours care (OSHC) is available if needed.

## On The First Day of School

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Feel free to come to the classroom to settle in your child though we encourage parents to quickly say goodbye to allow the children to settle in.

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

## Food for School

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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 recommended in any students lunch, as they can have a negative effect on learning and behaviour.

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

This includes Nutella and Peanut Butter.

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 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. Primary Students are not allowed to purchase lunch over the counter.
- The café is open five days a week for morning tea and lunch.
- 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. Please note this program is not operational during COVID-19 restrictions.

## Stationery

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All Primary stationery supplies are provided by the College. Parents are not required to purchase any.

## Reporting

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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 before 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

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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**

#### **Year 4 – 6**

**Boys:** Freshwater Christian College Boys Primary Shirt and College navy shorts

A wristwatch is the only acceptable accessory.

**Girls:** Freshwater College Primary blouse and tunic

Hair ties must be in the school colours of green, navy and white.

No radical haircuts or colours are permissible.

Earrings (girls only) - studs or sleepers (one per ear) and a wristwatch are the only acceptable accessories.

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 in the Secondary School behind the lockers and open Monday, Wednesday and Friday during school terms:

- Monday: 8.00am – 10.30am
- Wednesday: 1.30pm – 4.00pm
- Friday: 8:00am – 10.30am

## **Parent Volunteers**

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Parent help is always appreciated; to volunteer, we ask that parents complete our Parent Volunteer Form annually. The teachers will advise when they are ready. A Parent Volunteer Induction is held early in Term One to familiarise parents with classroom routines.

## **College Contact Details**

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School Principal: Mr Doug Holtam

Head of Primary/Deputy Principal: Mr Max Natoli

PA to Deputy Principal/Head of Primary: Mr Brett Nel

Ph: 07 4055 1337

Email: [primary@fcc.qld.edu.au](mailto:primary@fcc.qld.edu.au)



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