

Christian **EDUCATION** FRAMEWORK

Knowledge and obedience in Christ - 1 John 2:3

**FOR FROM HIM AND THROUGH HIM
AND TO HIM ARE ALL THINGS.
TO HIM BE GLORY FOREVER.
AMEN.**

ROMANS 11:36

Table of Contents

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

1 PREAMBLE	4
2 THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH	4
3 THE GOAL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (PURPOSE STATEMENT)	4
4 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT MUELLER (VISION STATEMENT)	5
4.1 Teaching & Learning.....	5
4.2 Pastoral Care & Community.....	5
5 THE GOSPEL	5
6 THE PROCESS OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION (ACTION STATEMENT).....	6
6.1 Theology	6
6.2 Values	7
6.3 Relationships	7
7 ACTIVITIES.....	8
8 VALUE STATEMENTS.....	9
8.1 Every Student Matters Everyday.....	10
8.2 Everyone is Known and Valued.....	10
8.3 Everyone can Grow and Thrive	11
8.4 Everyone Belongs and Can Contribute to Community	11

Adopted by the board of directors on 24th March 2021

Christian Education at Mueller

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

1 | PREAMBLE

Mueller College was started, in faith, by the Redcliffe Christian Assembly, now known as Mueller Community Church. Its first year of operation was in 1990. It exists to “prepare students for life in the world and eternity by applying Biblical principles through excellent education in a distinctly Christian environment.”

The “Christian Education Framework” has been written to support staff, parents, students and other members of the Mueller College community in their pursuit of the mission of the school. Just as a school contains a diversity of people, so there needs to be a range of actions to implement this mission statement. This document is designed to provide a foundation to all College programs and activities and to meet the contemporary challenges of the operations of a Christian school in today’s culture.

2 | THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

Mueller College from its inception has been an exercise of mission outreach to the community. The aim of the local church through the outworking of the College is to present the Gospel to a community of whom many do not realise their need for the Saviour. Recognising that each generation must be won for the Lord, the College aims to complement the teachings of godly parents in Christian homes as they seek to bring their children up in the knowledge of the Lord. As well as the children of Christian parents, the church via the mission of the College seeks to present the Gospel to an unsaved world thereby producing disciples not only within the student body but also their wider family.

Therefore, all staff whether volunteer or remunerated are seen as pastoral workers of the church. While their day to day duties involve teaching, administration, maintenance and the myriad of tasks that make up a school community, the underlying motivation of these workers is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As such, the church endeavours to provide spiritual support to its pastoral staff in appropriate modes. These include retreats, seminars, prayer support, crisis support, growth groups and any other help where it can be applied. These modes of support are largely delivered via the College staff. Pastoral support is a provision for staff as well as the student body.

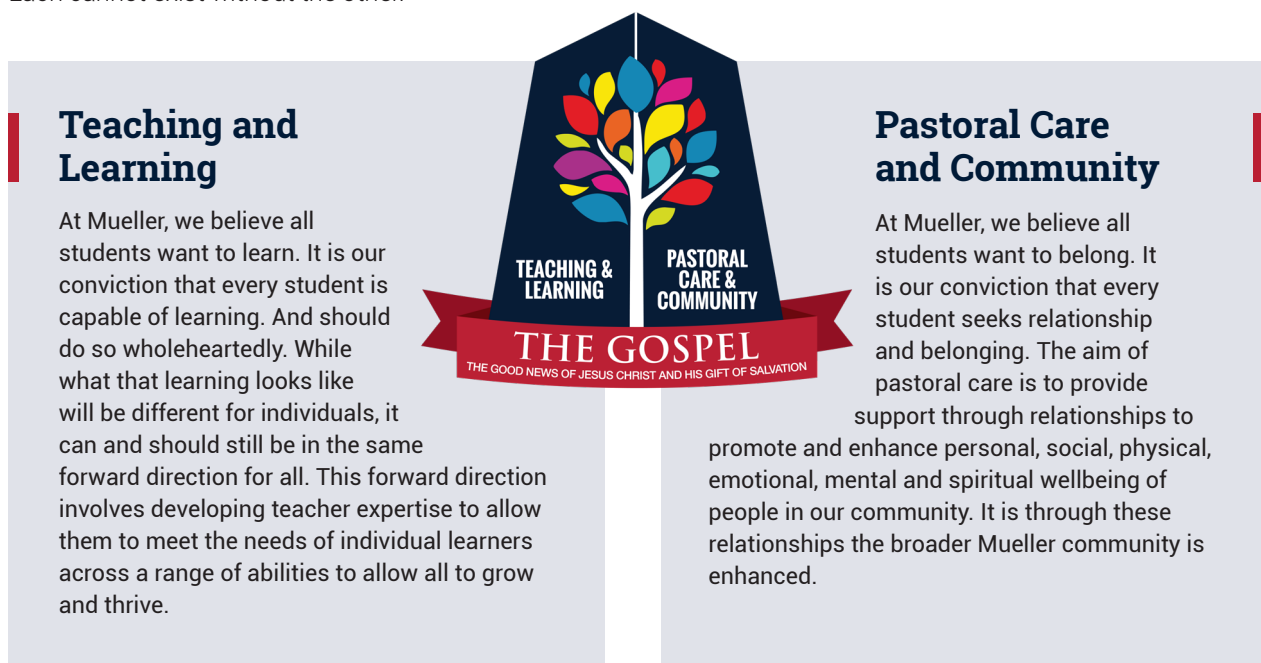
Mueller Community Church prays for and encourages College staff and seeks to be an agent for the Gospel in a world that desperately needs to hear and obey the “Good News”.

3 | THE GOAL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian education assumes a clear goal – Christlikeness (individually and corporately). This highlights the centrality of whom Christians worship, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Lord of all. As such, Christian education focuses on helping the student to grow in understanding who Jesus is, in order to become like him. This growth process is described, predominantly throughout the New Testament, as one of transformation or maturation (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 12:1,2; 1 John 3:2). It is ultimately about receiving Christ as saviour (justification) and reflecting Christ (sanctification). In Christian education, the ultimate goal is to encourage students to develop a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and to see Him formed in the life of the students who follow him (1 John 2:3).

4 | CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT MUELLER

Christian Education at Mueller College is represented in the below diagram. The priority of Mueller College remains the holistic development of students – spiritual, academic, social, emotional and physical. We seek to achieve this by focusing on two distinct areas – Teaching & Learning and Pastoral Care & Community – all underpinned by the Gospel. The two pillars of Teaching & Learning and Pastoral Care & Community are to be seen as complementary. Each cannot exist without the other.



5 | THE GOSPEL

The Gospel provides the foundation for Christian Education at Mueller College. The Gospel simply stated, is the good news of Jesus Christ and his gift of salvation.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (*John 3:16*)

In spite of humankind's sinful rebellion against God, he has made a way for people to avoid judgement and be reconciled to him. God has acted in history through the person and work of Jesus Christ, where God became a human being (the incarnation).

Through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection, he bore in his body our sin and guilt to redeem and save everyone who turns away from their rebellion and trusts in him.

This extraordinary act of grace and mercy meets us in our brokenness and idolatry to fully restore the image of God marred by our sin.

Genuine spiritual formation must come from God's salvific words and deeds which reach their climax in Jesus Christ.

Christian Education at Mueller

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

6 | THE PROCESS OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Spiritual Formation is a term used to describe the process by which students are introduced to a Biblical worldview whereby they are enabled to make decisions and manage the challenges they will face in life.

Scripture uses at least three different words as both goals for teaching, and measures of maturity. Maturity should manifest itself in how we think of God (theology), how we relate to him and others (loving relationships), and how we determine right and wrong (morality).

Firstly, theology is vital in helping us think rightly about God himself. According to Ephesians 4:11-14, a goal of Christian education is a biblically accurate theology of God based on the knowledge of Jesus Christ as the greatest revelation of God.

Secondly, 1 Timothy 1:5 speaks of love as the intention of Paul's teaching. At Mueller College, we seek to encourage genuine love generously produced in the lives of our students toward others (John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3). This originates in God's love for us (1 John 4:10-11), leading to our response to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31).

Finally, Hebrews 5:14 declares that another goal of Christian education is that Christ's disciples should consistently make wise moral choices which govern our behaviour toward God and others. At Mueller College, we endeavour to teach our students to consistently make moral and life choices according to scriptural teaching. However, we do not want this to become mere legalistic moralism divorced from a relationship with God. Rather this involves a recognition that it is for our benefit to obey what God calls us to do in each situation.

All of the activities included in the Christian Formation programme should seek to promote the following:

A relationship with Jesus Christ and within this relationship to:

- 1. Develop a biblically accurate picture of who Jesus Christ is as our vision of God**
- 2. Demonstrate generous love and grace towards self and others**
- 3. Make life choices that are consistent with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ**

Role of Theology

A robust theology is essential in ensuring Mueller maintains a Christian education. As such, the Bible is the underlying authority to determining not only our doctrine, but also our practice, spirituality and values. These are not disparate disciplines; instead all are connected through what we understand of God through the Bible. Theology is both theoretical and practical, with the ultimate goal being to see students live unto God through Christ.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE BIBLE. The Bible is the inspired word of God, and is the sole authoritative guide in all matters of Christian faith and practice.

GOD. The Godhead is a Triunity of Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, of one essence, "acting in complementary being and life", eternal and infinite.

MAN. God created man in His own image and likeness. Man failed to obey God so that sin entered the human race, separating man from God. Fallen mankind is not able to save himself and remains in this state under Satan's dominion until receiving spiritual life through Christ.

SALVATION. God, in grace, made it possible for man to be reconciled to Himself, by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. Born of the virgin Mary, through the power of the Holy Spirit, true God and true Man, He was sinless in every respect. By His death and resurrection, He is able to save all who believe in Him.

THE CHURCH. The Church is the company of all true believers, formed by the Holy Spirit into one body, of which Christ is the Head.

THE LOCAL CHURCH. There are local expressions of this body termed local churches. The ideal is that they all come together on the common ground of faith in Christ for praise, prayer, worship and witness.

CHURCH ORDINANCES. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are two ordinances of the Church. Baptism is that of believers only and by immersion. The Lord's Supper is commemorated by believers in the breaking of bread, the emblem of Christ's broken body and drinking of wine, the emblem of Christ's shed blood until His second coming.

THE SECOND COMING. The Lord Jesus Christ will return as Lord, King and Judge.

Values

An inescapable aspect of schooling are the values which are instilled in students. Mueller College has an open enrolment policy, welcoming families from all faiths and backgrounds. This evangelical approach provides the challenge to be all things to all people. Christian parents often express a desire for the College to provide discipleship to their children. Parents without a faith background often express their desire for a values-based education.

Instilling values in a student is an important part of their formation. The Mueller College values are not based on an ethical framework, rather they are an outworking of the Gospel on campus. It is our hope that students will not only display these values throughout life, but furthermore students will display these values as an outworking of the Gospel in their own lives.

- **Every Student Matters Everyday**
- **Everyone is Known and Valued**
- **Everyone can Grow and Thrive**
- **Everyone Belongs and can Contribute to Community**

Relationships

Spiritual formation is deeply relational. God himself is in relationship within the Trinity. God created man and woman to be in relationship with each other and Himself for His own glory. Our hearts are restless until they find rest in our Creator. The primary vehicle for the development of a student's spirituality is through relationship. It is both Spirit-led and human-led as students encounter God during their time at Mueller. A student's development is a result of their continuing response to the revelation of God's grace, in a community of faith for the sake of the world.

7 | ACTIVITIES

Apart from relationships, the spiritual formation of students is achieved through various programmed activities. These include curriculum engagement, devotions, Christian Studies, Chapel, lunchtime groups etc. We cannot view these programmed activities as disparate or independent of one another. Some activities focus on theology and doctrine, while others have a purely relational outcome. We must view all these activities as an important part of the overall work of the Holy Spirit in forming our students to live unto God by Christ. In essence, they are an expression of the Gospel in the daily life and culture on campus.

These activities include, but are not limited to:

ASSEMBLY

Weekly assemblies exist to celebrate the life and culture of the College through highlighting the College values in action.

CHAPEL

Chapel exists to glorify God through magnifying the majesty of God so much that young people develop a passion for Him that governs every aspect of their life.

CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Christian Studies exists to proclaim the Word of God to reveal all things necessary to glorify God, and provide instruction on man's salvation, faith and life.

PRAYER GROUPS (STAFF & STUDENTS)

Prayer Groups exist to encourage and uphold the Mueller community in prayer.

SL@M

The Student Life at Mueller Program exists to guide students in life's issues through a Biblical framework.

BUILDERS CLUB/OBY/FLOURISH

There are a variety of Primary clubs which exist to build relationships between different year levels while developing a relationship with God.

YEAR LEVEL CAMPS

Year Level Camps aim to present students with challenges and opportunities at the different stages of their school life. Each camp focuses on age appropriate goals and have a key devotional aspect to present the Gospel.

DEVOTIONS/FORM CLASS

Each Form Class teacher leads their class in devotions. They are aimed at building relationships within the Form Class and encourage students in their daily life.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership Program operates in years 6, 9 and 12, providing students with an opportunity to serve their peers through sacrificial leadership.

Mueller College Value Statements

Every
student
matters,
every day

Everyone
is known
and valued

Everyone
can grow
and thrive

Everyone
belongs & can
contribute to
community

Mueller College Values

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

8 | VALUE STATEMENTS

The Mueller College values are not an ethical framework, rather an outworking of the Gospel on campus. Each value statement is grounded in a systematic theology.

Every Student Matters Every Day

The redemptive story in its entirety is a testament to the truth that Every Student Matters, Every Day. People matter to God therefore they should matter to us. God's work in creation and God's work in redemption are the two main reasons why we can say 'every student matters every day'.

God created male and female (*Genesis 1:27*). The creation of man demonstrates that we matter to God, but not only did God create man, he breathed into him the breath of life (*Genesis 2:7*). The breath of God is in each human, created in His image (*Genesis 1:26*).

Man enjoyed communion with God in the garden. However, man's sin ultimately caused a fracture between God and man. The relationship was broken and is irreparable by any action man could take. God did not forsake man. In Genesis chapter 3, God initiates the rescue plan where He will send a savior, Immanuel (*Isaiah 7:14*).

The fact of Jesus' coming is the final proof that God cares for mankind. Jesus, God's own son, then willingly died the sacrificial death which we deserved to ultimately prove that God's love is so vast, He would give His only Son for us (*John 3:16*).

Everyone is Known and Valued

We are created in God's image and are made to be known by Him and others. The very nature of being created by God places value on each person. After the fall however, mankind hid from God. Sin has caused us shame and a desire not to be known. We can hide away in fear of rejection and ridicule. The Bible teaches that God knows us (*Galatians 4:9*), loves us (*John 3:16*) and is willing to forgive us regardless of our sinfulness (*Romans 5:8*). Being known gives us comfort and being part of a grace-filled community can restore relationships and well-being (*James 5:16*).

God, being God, knows everything. However, there is a difference between God's knowledge of us and Him 'knowing' us. God knows our ways, thoughts, plans, secrets of our hearts and all about us. He knows everything (*1 John 3:20*). God not only knows us, His knowledge of us places value on each person. We are known from the womb (*Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13-14*) and are precious in His eyes (*Isaiah 43:4*).

Being known and valued by God defines the Christian experience. It is by living in the knowledge that we are known and valued by the one who created us allows us to Grow and Thrive (*Galatians 4:8-9; 1 Corinthians 8:3*). Being known and valued provides great comfort in times of need. It reassures us that he has not forgotten us and we can count on his love and care.

Everyone can Grow and Thrive

The ability to Grow and Thrive is our way to engage with God's redemptive plan. God has created us with the capacity to think and feel. We are able to learn about God's creation and enjoy his handiwork. God has revealed Himself to all people through creation (*Psalms 19:1-6; Romans 1:20*).

Adam, the first man, discovered God's creation by naming the animals. His knowledge grew as he discovered all that God had created. Jesus, God incarnate, increased in wisdom throughout his life (*Luke 2:52*). As people created in God's image, part of our life is to grow.

God's creation can be both studied (an aspect of growing) and enjoyed (an aspect of thriving). Much of the common experience of schooling is learning about the world around us. And yet, the knowledge of God's revelation in creation is not sufficient for salvation.

The Bible instructs us to grow and reveals life to the full. True growth however comes about through a knowledge of our own sinfulness and the grace God has extended to us through His son. The Bible challenges us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity (*2 Peter 3:18*). We are to grow in every way into Christ (*Ephesians 4:15*).

God intends us to thrive. Life will not always be easy. We have never been promised a trouble-free life, instead, we have the promise of God's strength to overcome (*Philippians 4:13*). A life which has grown into Christ, will be abundant and full of joy (*John 10:10; 15:11*).

Everyone Belongs and can Contribute to Community

God is a God of community. He exists in the trinity; God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit (*2 Corinthians 13:14*).

It is out of the trinity and in His image that mankind was created (*Genesis 1:27*). We exist to belong within community and created for good works.

It is a biblical norm for people to live in community. God made Eve as the partner to Adam (*Genesis 2:18*) and Abraham was given Israel as his people (*Genesis 12:2*). Relationships are a key to a Christian community. Community is not a human invention, but rather a divine reality.

Mankind did not create themselves. We are God's creation. He designed us and we belong to Him (*Psalms 100*).

Mankind was created to be in relationship with God. Adam walked with God. Mankind's fall brought separation and now we crave a sense of belonging. We search for meaningful relationships and a way to fill the void which the original union with God satisfied. True belonging comes from beyond people and places and truly knowing Christ.

He unconditionally accepts us (*Ephesians 2:8-9*).

A Christian community seeks to welcome all people, just as Christ has set the example for us (*1 John 4:19*). Being created by God, made right through Christ, and because of the grace shown to us, we are called to do good works (*Ephesians 2:10*).

More than a school... a Christian community.



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