



Aidanfield

Christian School



Growing in Wisdom & Stature



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



DEAR PARENTS

Thank you for considering Aidanfield Christian School as an option for your child's schooling in the coming years.

Aidanfield Christian School will appeal to families who are looking for a school with a view of the world and everything in it shaped by God's truths and with the Bible as the basis for exploring and understanding all there is to know. We teach from the New Zealand National Curriculum. We are focused on an excellent standard of learning for all our pupils within a context of strong biblical values, family involvement and an emphasis on knowing all our pupils well.

'Grow in Wisdom and Stature, Stand and Be Confident' is our motto. We want our pupils to stand and be confident in the communities they will take their place in. We believe that education is a lot more than just learning facts and figures, or training for employment. The truths of God's word address all areas of life and impact on our response to each child, be it; spiritual, academic, physical, social or emotional. We aim for our pupils to grow in wisdom and in stature as they develop knowledge and skill that will carry them into the future.

We welcome pupils from many nations to our school and, in doing so, we have a learning community that encourages enjoyment and appreciation of the strengths and differences that each of us brings to our lives together.

Our primary years programmes develop into the middle years programmes seamlessly and progressively prepare pupils to do well in any given year while developing them to cope with the years ahead. We believe that our school offers pupils the significant benefits of a local school with a strong community and family environment. Our pathway to Senior College (Year 11 – 13) at Middleton Grange School, with its specialisation for NCEA, gives pupils who grow through our school the best of both worlds!

I encourage you to explore the opportunities our school has to offer and to contact us if there is anything you wish to discuss. We look forward to your call.

Yours in His service
Mark Richardson
Principal

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT?

Aidanfield Christian School serves families who are looking for a school with strong biblical values and world view as the foundation of their child's school experience.

We offer education for Years 0 to 10 and a pathway to Middleton Grange School at year 11 for preference families. We are based in the south west of Christchurch and welcome pupils from many nations to our community.





OUR SPECIAL CHARACTER



Our special character is defined in our agreement with the Crown. Our special character means that:

- We are non denominational, having families from a wider variety of Christian churches. The condition is that the church and family have a statement of faith similar to the school's.
- We can freely deliver the New Zealand Curriculum based on a biblical world view.
- We employ committed Christians to work as part of our staff.
- We believe that education is ultimately the responsibility of parents. We work in partnership with them and we are dependent on their involvement.
- We recognise the importance of the inter-relationship between home, church and school and actively encourage, develop and support a unity between them.
- We seek to provide an environment where pupils, parents and staff can experience Godly relationships.
- We rely on the Holy Spirit and the Word of God,
- We acknowledge that truth must be revealed by the Holy Spirit and knowledge measured against Biblical truth.

THE FOUNDING MISSION OF THE SCHOOL

When the school was started the mission was to provide quality education based on a Biblical Christian worldview enabling each child to fulfil their God-given destiny. This remains our focus today.

WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

Our approach to education is holistic, seeking to address the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical needs of our pupils.

As a staff, our aim is to nurture pupils who are:

- The recipients of excellent Christian education.
- Compassionate towards the needs of others.
- Determined to live lives of honesty, justice and righteousness.
- Confident in the knowledge that God has His hand on their lives.
- Developing a Biblical worldview.
- Genuine and enthusiastic about sharing their developing faith in Jesus Christ.
- Confident that they are accepted by God and are prepared to develop all the abilities He has given them.

This is summarised through the school Vision, which states ...

Aidanfield Christian School is to serve and work together with families in equipping children in a Biblical community to:

- Pursue excellence in academic learning.
- Understand their identity.
- Become discerning thinkers.
- Be faithful in service to God.

OUR VALUES

The core values that we focus on are:

- Excellence
- Stewardship
- Faithfulness
- Integrity

These should be evident in all we do.





THE CURRICULUM



AIDANFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PROVIDES A CURRICULUM THAT:

- Is consistent with Biblical truths.
- Complies with the NZ Curriculum Framework.
- Encourages excellence in all we do.
- Extends and challenges the pupils to continue to learn and explore their changing world.
- Contributes to pupils preparation to be fully functional and caring members of society.
- Helps pupils to discover their God-given gifts and future direction.

HOW ARE WE STRUCTURED?

Aidanfield Christian School is a composite (primary and secondary) state integrated school.

As a state *integrated* school, we are owned by the *Proprietors* of the school not the Government. The Proprietors are a trust who are charged with the protection of the special character of the school. They also own and develop the land and buildings of the school. The attendance dues charged by the Proprietors are a compulsory fee that all parents must pay each year. This fee goes to the Proprietors (not the Board of Trustees) and can only be used for the development of the land and buildings.

As a *state* integrated school, we have a *Board of Trustees* made up of elected parents, appointed Proprietor representatives, a staff representative and the Principal. The BOT is charged (by the Crown) with governing the school – setting its direction and ensuring it is meeting the expressed intentions through good stewardship of the resources the school has.

As a Special Character school, we are committed to the concept of community. The primary function of the *Parent Association* of the school is to develop community among the families associated with the school. This group is made up of parents who volunteer their time and energy to ensure the school is strong on relationship. The Parent Association also develops links with the wider community and are involved in fundraising for the school.

WHO ARE WE ACCOUNTABLE TO?

As a state integrated school, we are accountable to the Crown and audited regularly by the Education Review Office (ERO) who ensure the school is providing education to a high standard and that the school is managed effectively. ERO provide feedback to the parent community on the quality of the schooling at Aidanfield Christian School.

School management, staff and BOT are accountable to the Proprietors in terms of the development and maintenance of the special character within the school.

School staff and management are accountable to the BOT and to our parents for the achievement of pupils and for meeting the strategic goals the school Board of Trustees has set.

As signatories to the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students we are accountable under the code. This holds us accountable to high quality pastoral care and educational opportunities for our pupils.





LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

BEGINNING SCHOOL

Years 0–2

Each pupil entering school comes with a variety of learning experiences and these are drawn together to create a unique start for your child's education. Developing strong understandings in these beginning years, along with Biblical concepts in each curriculum area provide the basis for a strong foundation for school life.

New Entrants–Year 1

As the gateway to your child's education, new entrant classrooms provide a stimulating environment where children are introduced to routines and learning habits, which will stand them in good stead for their future. Teachers welcome each pupil, building skill development and basic understandings in all curriculum areas. Small class numbers are an irreplaceable advantage for each pupil and time is spent exploring, and working, with different learning styles to ensure the best possible start for each pupil.

Year 1–2

These are important years for developing confidence in being at school and in school routines. Children in these years are developing greater independence and can usually hang up their own bags and manage their own belongings independently in the classroom. The programme at this level has a strong emphasis on getting reading, writing and basic numeracy firmly underway. The developmental programme is a feature of this level.

GROWING IN SCHOOL

Years 3–6

With many foundational concepts becoming established, these years in school allow for the introduction of more challenging activities, both social and physical.

Year 3–4

As children gain more independence, they are taught skills in working co-operatively with each other. These skills are developed in all areas of the curriculum at different times.

Year 5–6

An increasing independence in academic work is expected at these levels. Individual strengths in a wide range of academic and extra curricula areas are recognised with success being celebrated regularly. It is a time to challenge the pupils to think creatively, consider alternative ways of solving problems, and to aim high in whatever they do. Pupils are encouraged to become more active in service opportunities around the school and to look at how Christ is an integral part of life. These years consolidate the foundations for successful middle school involvement.



EMERGING ADOLESCENTS AND SCHOOL

LEARNING IN THE MIDDLE YEARS – YEARS 7 TO 10

This part of the school includes intermediate and junior high school pupils. The middle years are unique in themselves. Tailoring learning programmes to meet the unique needs of this age group helps pupils to stay focused and engaged with schooling at a time when they are most likely to lose this focus. Our programme introduces the pupils to increasing levels of independence and specialisation in their subjects over the four years of middle school. In this way we teach pupils how to succeed in a high school environment while ensuring they remain focused and engaged.

Our specialist secondary trained teachers design programmes which prepare pupils to engage in courses of study at year 11 in any high school in the city. Our well developed academic programme prepares our pupils to succeed in the senior years of high school. Our close links with Middleton Grange School ensure a smooth transition for pupils that seek to graduate into year 11 at that school.

Our strong emphasis on pastoral care ensures we know each pupil well and can respond to where they are at. Our leadership opportunities encourage a range of pupils as well as our year 10's to take leadership roles that would usually go to older pupils in larger schools.

Core Subjects

The core academic programme of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Foundation Studies, Physical Education, Health and Sport provide a strong foundation for all pupils. We have a focus on critical thinking, problem solving and experimentation. In the middle years, teachers increase expectation in terms of reasoning and evaluation and model high expectations for their pupils. Academic challenge plays an important role.





PATHWAYS FOR LEARNING

Rotation Subjects

In addition to the academic core, we provide a range of subject rotations. Visual Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Maori, French, Technology options (including: hard materials, graphics, digital media, soft materials, food nutrition, electronics, arts) at either Manning (Year 7/8) or Middleton Grange (yr 9/10) are part of the programme. Programmes that promote social responsibility, good citizenship and ethical behaviour include Foundation Studies, Life Skills and Word in Action.

Service projects connect the school with the community, fostering a partnership between the two and provide pupils social and citizenship responsibilities. Our "Word in Action" provides opportunities for pupils to serve the community.

Primary and Middle School

Our pupils are given numerous opportunities to pursue academic and sporting excellence through participation in various city wide competitions, events and opportunities. We participate in zone and interzone competitions.

School Uniform

At Aidanfield Christian School, our parents have decided that a smart yet affordable school uniform is positive for our community. The school uniform is compulsory. Parents who enrol at our school agree to accept and abide by all the uniform requirements of the school throughout their child's involvement with us.

We have endeavoured to design a uniform that is smart, allows for some sense of individuality, that is reasonably priced, and that is readily serviced.

For a copy of the full uniform details please see the school website at: <http://www.aidanfield.school.nz> or contact the School Office.



SENIOR COLLEGE (Y11 TO Y13)

Aidanfield Christian School has established pathways of learning within the Christian Schools Network for our graduating Year 10 pupils. These create exciting opportunities in terms of personal growth, spiritual challenge, maturity and academic development.

At the end of year 10 pupils and parents have a number of options:

1. For families who are able to confirm they are 'preference' (as defined by Middleton Grange School and at the time of the transition to MGS), there is a pathway to Senior College at Middleton Grange School. Year 11 pupils have the maturity to make this transition easily and our teaching programmes prepare pupils well for this move. Senior college pupils benefit from the breadth of curriculum and the extra curricular opportunities offered at Middleton Grange.
2. Families and pupils may choose to transition to their local state high school. This option allows pupils to transition into the secular world while still under the umbrella of home and parents. For families choosing this option we are able to link pupils with Christian youth workers in any of the high schools in town.

Supporting a diverse range of needs

All pupils benefit from high levels of individual instruction afforded by good class sizes. Our pupils enjoy being in a school with a strong sense of community and collective care.

Our **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** programme supports pupils who come from the many cultures and countries that are represented in the school. For international pupils we provide one on one, small group and in class support as required. The programme works to foster the development of English as the language of learning in the school while encouraging international pupils to continue to develop their abilities in their first language.

Our **Fostering Strengths** programmes look to extend pupils with specific abilities by challenging them in a myriad of different ways based on their gifts and strengths.

Our **Learning Support** teacher oversees programmes to support learners who are struggling in various areas. With the support of teacher aides and working with class teachers interventions are put in place and monitored.

Our **Guidance Counsellor** and **Teacher Aides** work closely with our teaching team to look after our pupils.



