



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 Christian families in the south west of Christchurch who are looking for an education based on strong Biblical virtues and worldview at the heart of their child's school experience.

We believe that education is a lot more than just learning facts and figures, or training for employment. Education is about laying down foundations for life based on the truths of God as revealed in His Word. These truths speak to the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs of our children. 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 are committed to teaching pupils in age appropriate ways with a focus on the primary and middle years. 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 (Years 11–13) at Middleton Grange School, with its specialisation for NCEA, gives pupils who grow through our school the best of both worlds!

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

Yours in His service

M Richardson
Principal

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT?

Aidanfield Christian School serves Christian families in the south west of Christchurch who are looking for a school with strong Biblical values and worldview as the basis 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.





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 wide 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 from a Biblical worldview.
- We are able to seek only committed Christians to work as part of our staff.
- We believe that education is ultimately the responsibility of parents and we are dependent upon 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.

The Board of Trustees confirmed this focus through the 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

We aim for these to be evident in all we do.





OUR SCHOOL



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 our special character and 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. This Board operates in the same way that any other state school does. The BOT is charged (by the Crown) with governing the school and allocating the operational money and staffing received from the Government for the running of the school.

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.





LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS YEARS 0 – 6

BEGINNING SCHOOL

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

As the gateway to your child's education, we provide a stimulating environment where children are encouraged in developing social skills and 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 advantage for each pupil and time is spent exploring and working with different learning styles to ensure the best possible start for each pupil.

Years 1 – 2

These are important years for developing confidence in being at school and in school routines. Children in these years are encouraged to develop social skills, greater independence and can usually hang up their own bags and manage their own belongings in the classroom. The programme at this level has a strong emphasis on getting reading, writing and basic numeracy firmly underway. There are a number of learning support programmes in place to ensure pupils are developing the foundation they need.

GROWING IN SCHOOL

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

Years 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.

Years 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 YEARS 7 – 10

LEARNING IN THE MIDDLE YEARS

Pupils at this age are becoming more independent. They are developing abstract thinking skills and have a greater capacity to express themselves creatively. Pupils are developing and exploring their own identity. Middle School pupils seek to explore new experiences and test boundaries. They can find life very complex, and question their identities and their roles in the real world. As pupils progress from concrete thinking to abstract thinking, they often make personal moral judgements and recognise ethical values. Middle School pupils are developing in their faith, sometimes through questioning what they have always been told. They are prepared to ask difficult questions, seeking more than anything else, truth and authenticity. These are years of great change. It is an exciting time!

Core Subjects

The core academic programme of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Foundation Studies, Physical Education, Health and Sport is important for all pupils. We have a focus on critical thinking, problem solving and experimentation.

Class discussions can be rigorous at this age. Teachers increase expectation in terms of reasoning and evaluation. Teachers also set and model high expectations for their pupils and academic challenge plays an important role.

YEAR 7 & YEAR 8	YEAR 9 & YEAR 10
English	English
Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Science
Social Studies	Social Studies
Foundation Studies	Foundation Studies
Physical Education/Health	Physical Education/Health
Sport	Sport





Rotation Subjects

In addition to the academic core we provide programmes that promote social responsibility, good citizenship, personal health care, and ethical behaviour. Foundation Studies and Word in Action courses play a significant role. Our pupils also engage in visual art, dance, drama, music, a second language, Maori and ICT.

Service projects also connect the school with the community, fostering a partnership between school and community and provide pupils social and citizenship responsibilities. Our “Word in Action” course provides opportunities for pupils to serve the community. Technology subjects like hard materials, soft materials, graphics, art, electronics and food technology (to name some) are catered for weekly.

NCEA

Pupils in Year 10 may begin to gain Level 1 NCEA credits through our close working relationship with Middleton Grange School.

Values and Opportunities

Our school values are Excellence, Integrity, Faithfulness and Stewardship. Our Middle School pupils are given numerous opportunities to pursue academic excellence and sporting excellence through participation in various city wide competitions, events and opportunities in academic, cultural and sporting fields.

SENIOR SCHOOL YEARS

Aidenfield 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





PATHWAYS FOR LEARNING YEARS 11 – 13

MGS), there is an automatic right of entry 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.

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 parents and church. For families choosing this option we are able to link pupils with Christian youth workers in any of the high schools in town.
3. Families and pupils may choose to apply to any of the schools around town for which they are not zoned or to move to a private school.

Learning Support at Aidenfield

Pupils in both the primary and the middle years have distinct needs. Our Guidance Counsellor, Learning Support Coordinator and Teacher Aides work closely with our teaching team to look after our pupils. Our Fostering Strengths programming gives pupils with particular gifts or talents an opportunity to be extended in these areas. All pupils benefit from high levels of individual attention. Our pupils enjoy being in a school with a strong sense of community and collective care.

School Uniform

At Aidanfield Christian School our parents have decided that a smart yet affordable school uniform is positive for our community as:

- It gives a sense of school community among the pupils.
- A good school uniform adds a certain style to the school.
- It stops the competition for the 'coolest' clothes among pupils.
- It ends any battles between parents and pupils as to what to wear to school, thus reducing the morning stress levels.

It is for these reasons that 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/uniform.htm> or contact the school office.



WHAT DOES ALL THIS COST?

The answer to this question may surprise you in a very pleasant way. We are committed to high quality Christian education while keeping financial costs to our parents and caregivers as low as possible.

Apart from the usual uniform and book costs associated with any school there are a number of costs that parents must be aware of:

Attendance Dues

These are the compulsory charges that all parents must pay each year that they have children at the school. Attendance Dues are paid directly to the Board of Proprietors. As the 'owners' of the school the Proprietors are responsible for development of special character and all land and building developments. These are the only things that these 'dues' are able to be spent on.

The Proprietors of our school believe that Christian education should be available to all who desire this option for their children. The attendance dues structure compares very well with other Christian schools.

2011 ATTENDANCE DUES CALCULATION SHEET					
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED	2011 ATTENDANCE DUES	REGULAR INSTALMENT			
		WEEKLY 41 instalments	FORTNIGHTLY 21 instalments	MONTHLY 10 instalments	TERMLY 4 instalments
1	\$1,075	\$26.22	\$51.19	\$107.50	\$268.75
2	\$2043	\$49.83	\$97.29	\$204.30	\$510.75
3	\$2903	\$70.80	\$138.24	\$290.30	\$725.75
4	\$3655	\$89.15	\$174.05	\$365.50	\$913.75
5	\$4300	\$104.88	\$204.76	\$430.00	\$1075.00
6	\$4838	\$118.00	\$230.38	\$483.80	\$1209.50

The Proprietors reserve the right to review and adjust the level of attendance dues at any time.

Activity Fee

The school administers an activity fee each year to cover the cost of small incidental expenses. It is the responsibility of the parents or caregivers to ensure this activity fee is paid in the year it is charged. Activity fee payment will vary from pupil to pupil depending on activities they participate in and stationery they buy from the school. An average estimated amount is \$80.00 per pupil per year. This does not cover big events like camps or ski trips, which may be additional costs through the year.

At the end of each term parents are sent an activity fee statement showing the amount due. Payments can be made through cheque, cash or internet banking into the school bank account.

Voluntary Donations

Unlike many schools, Aidanfield Christian School does not currently ask parents for voluntary donations. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to review this each year. Having said this, the new tax laws that allow rebates on charitable donations makes the school an attractive place to make voluntary donations as these will be tax deductible for parents at the end of the tax year. The school gratefully receives any donations and will provide suitable receipts for tax purposes.

