



Aidanfield

Christian School

Prospectus



Faithfulness • Integrity • Excellence • Stewardship



*We are Aidanfield Christian School,
many people, different backgrounds,
healthy differences, shared faith:*

Together we are one school, whole, equal and free.

*We stand together, learning in life,
developing in character, growing in God.*

*Owning our past, exploring our God ordained purpose,
growing in wisdom and stature.*

We are Aidanfield Christian School.





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 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 as well as setting the foundations for 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 excellent, broad curriculum to Year 10 and the assured pathway for preference families 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

Aidanfield Christian School Crest

Each part of the shield represents an important aspect of our school. The crest tells a story about who we are as a school and what we desire for our pupils.

The Bible – the foundation of our school and out of which our curriculum and our understanding of the world around us comes. The tree is rooted in the truths of Gods word.

The Tree – represents the story of growing young people as they move through our school and on into their lives. Growth never stops. Wisdom and stature come as each person puts the roots of their lives deep into the word of God. Strong trees come from being well fed.

The Empty Cross – tells the story of the sacrifice of Jesus and His resurrection that allows us to both come to God in repentance, seek forgiveness and to stand, by his invitation as sons and daughters of God as forgiven and righteous people.

The four stars – represents both the stars of the Southern Cross and also our schools four core values; faithfulness, stewardship, integrity and excellence.

The Pukeko – points to our place in Christchurch. We are situated close to the headwaters of Ōpāwaho (the Heathcote River) and have this waterway on our boundary. The pukeko inhabits the fields of the school. We have reserves on two boundaries of the school which preserves the rural feel to our school in the suburbs of Christchurch.

The Hill – indicates that we are close to the Port Hills. It also tells the story of the need to persevere in our journey in learning and in living. Not everything will come easily.

All together our schools aim is that each person (be they staff or pupils) who spends time as part of our school community will 'grow in wisdom and stature' and in the knowledge of God so they can stand and be confident.



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 nondenominational, 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 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 and school and actively encourage, develop and support a unity between them. We reinforce the importance of the church.
- 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 world view.
- 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:

Quality education based on a biblical Christian worldview – weaving the threads in Christian community:

- Biblical
- Relational
- Transformative

OUR VALUES

The core values that we focus on are:

Excellence	Stewardship
Faithfulness	Integrity

These should be evident in all we do.



Our Structure

HOW ARE WE STRUCTURED?

Aidanfield Christian School is a composite (primary and secondary) state integrated school. The school teaches Year 1 to Year 10 (age 5 years old to 15 years old).

As a *state integrated* school, we are owned by the **Proprietors** of the school not the Government. The Christian Schools Trust (CST) is charged with the protection of the special character of the school. They also own and develop the land and buildings of the school. The CST also own Middleton Grange, Rolleston Christian School, Ashburton Christian School and the Cornerstone Early Learning Centres. 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 the school) and can only be used for the development of the land and buildings.

As a *state integrated* school, we have a **Board** made up of elected parents, appointed Proprietor representatives, a staff representative and the Principal. The Board is charged (by the Crown) with governing the school – setting its direction and ensuring it is meeting all requirements 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.

As you enter the school

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Entrance doors: We enter through the cross on the doorways, which is the defining doorway for us as families and as a school - all things are measured by the truth of God's word. We are called to Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life, through the work of the cross to know and love God.

Side panels: The side panels of glass have the tī kōuka (cabbage) trees and the harakeke (flax), which are plants that have always grown in this area. Kā tiriti o te Moana (the Southern Alps) are represented by the tāniko triangles and define the geographic boundary. The light of the cross radiates across all we do.





WHO ARE WE ACCOUNTABLE TO?

As a state integrated school we are accountable to the Crown and audited 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. This information is freely available from www.ero.govt.nz.

School management, staff and Board 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 Board and to our parents for the achievement of pupils and for meeting the strategic goals the school Board 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 international pupils.

The kōwhaiwhai motif (woven spirals) represents the four winds. Our ACS house system refers to the four winds, acknowledging that the Lord has brought people to our school from all points of the compass.

The front panels: The waharoa (the main entranceway) is designed to greet and welcome people to Aidanfield. The spirals in the top corners represent Ngā Hau e whā (the four winds) and are symbolic of being a meeting place for all peoples from everywhere - reflective of who we are as a school! The vertical spirals beside the doors represent seeds being spread across the land.

The peak: Our school crest sits at the top and captures what is our foundation - the Word of God, the power of the cross, our geographic place, the challenge of learning and our call to grow in wisdom and stature so we can stand and be confident.





Curriculum

Laying the Foundations

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 – Year 2

As the gateway to your child's school based 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 getting Reading, Writing and Mathematics firmly underway. Small class numbers are a significant 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 3 – 4

These are important years for developing confidence in being at school and in school routines. Children in these years are developing greater independence in the classroom. The programme at this level has a strong emphasis on basic understandings in all curriculum areas.

GROWING IN SCHOOL

Year 5 - 6

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

Explorations into identity, excellence and aspects of personal faith become a greater focus as children exhibit their individual personalities and strengths across curriculum areas.

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 consider how Christ is an integral part of life. At this level of the school we invite families to celebrate learning that is part of life and take full advantage of opportunities that tie into the strengths and giftings of individual pupils. After school activities (ballet, football, baking, church involvement, cultural interests and studies etc) are celebrated as an integral part of our homework to allow families to have the time to discover areas that their children are passionate about without excessive amounts of traditional style written homework.



Across the School

Te Reo

We are committed to nurturing an understanding of New Zealand's bicultural journey. We teach Te Reo as a specialist subject throughout the school. We encourage our pupils to see, understand and appreciate the richness and beauty of Māori culture through a biblical lens.

Extension and Challenge

Our extension / fostering strengths programmes throughout the school invite pupils to be challenged beyond the curriculum and grow in areas of interest and talent. These programmes include but are not limited to:

- Cantamaths
- Junior Mathematics Challenge (through Otago University)
- Kiwi Competition (through Canterbury University)
- ICAS (out of Australia)
- Online learning-focused sites with multiple differentiated programmes

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 www.aidanfield.school.nz or contact the School Office.





Curriculum

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 curriculum opportunities are as wide as any high school in the city and include “option rotations” in the Arts, Technology and Language curriculums. The New Zealand curriculum requires Year 9 and 10

pupils to take options in each of these areas.

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, Te Reo, a Language 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.

Year 9 and 10 pupils have limited choice in subjects in all high schools. They are required to include Technology, Arts and Languages in their options. At Aidanfield Christian School, we provide a wide range of options in these curriculum areas.



Options and Modules

In addition to the academic core, we provide a range of subjects. Visual Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Māori, multiple languages, Business Enterprise, Careers, EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom), and Technology options at either Hillmorton (Year 7-8) or Middleton Grange (Year 9-10). Based on biblical truth and motivated by the call to love God and to love others as we love ourselves, we promote social responsibility, good citizenship and ethical behaviour through our Foundation Studies, Life Skills and a general focus of service in and to our communities. The biblical imperative to love others leading to serving others is infused through all opportunities.

Service projects connect the school with the community, fostering a partnership between the two. We focus both locally and internationally.





Pathways for Learning



SENIOR COLLEGE (YEAR 11 TO 13)

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 transition to MGS), there is a pathway to Senior College at Middleton Grange School. Year 11 pupils have the maturity to make this transition well and our teaching programmes prepare pupils 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 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.



AIDANFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PROVIDES A CURRICULUM THAT:

- Is consistent with Biblical truths.
- Complies with the NZ Curriculum Framework.
- Encourages excellence in all we do.
- 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.



Supporting a Diverse Range of Needs

All pupils benefit from high levels of individual instruction. 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 (Year 1-10) with specific abilities by challenging them in a myriad of different ways based on their gifts and strengths.

Our Learning Support teachers oversee 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, Pastoral Support team and Teacher Aides work closely with our teaching team to look after our pupils.





International Education at ACS



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. We offer both full year and short term study options.

FULL YEAR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Come for a full year or more.

Our website www.aidanfield.school.nz has all the information you will need. Please click on the 'International' button. Here you will find what we offer and also fees information for study.

SUMMER STUDY – SHORT TERM STUDENTS

Come for 1 week or more.

Please refer to our website www.aidanfield.school.nz and click on the 'International' button. Aidanfield Christian School is a Signatory to the Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice 2020.





The Historical Background of the School and Vision

Our school, now known as Aidanfield Christian School, began its life as Canterbury Christian College (CCC) which was a merger of two smaller Christian schools in the city. Avon Christian College had pupils but no permanent school grounds nor buildings in the city. Kings Christian School had managed to purchase a large parcel of land in the South West of Christchurch with a significant and old triple brick 1930's building in a rundown state on the land. This providential purchase occurred just prior to the announcement of the development of the Aidanfield subdivision. The subdivision would turn farmland into the suburbs that now surround the school. Kings College had few pupils but a large building. It seemed reasonable to all at the time to merge the two schools and as a result Kings and Avon closed and the resulting merger of the two schools was named Canterbury Christian College (CCC) in 1996. The Kings Christian Schools Trust (KCST) was the proprietor of the new school and owner of the land and buildings. The school was integrated into the state school system in 1999. This meant the Government picked up the cost of running the school while the proprietor remained the owner of the land and buildings and responsible to protect the special Christian character of the school.





At the outset, CCC (now ACS) was founded on a strong commitment to Christian values. The school's integration agreement with the Government captures the heart of the founding fathers and states the main aim was,

"to provide an education centre where pupils could progress towards wholeness. The school's approach to education is holistic, seeking to address the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical needs of all pupils...the school's mission is to provide quality education based on a biblical Christian world view enabling each child to fulfil their God-given destiny."

Aidanfield Christian School's founding leaders had a strong sense of responsibility to faithfully provide a Christian education to all those who desired it. In the early years of this journey as a private school, the challenge was to weave the ideals of integrity and faithfulness with responsible stewardship of resources, as well as excellence in academic and social outcomes. This presented challenges.

Through the years from private school to integrated school, the Board of Proprietors (KCST) were challenged to update the school property to state-school standard. With limited funds, this was not achieved. The challenge of excellent stewardship of resources became daunting. Equally so, the increased expectation and audit by the state, who agreed to fund the operations of the school through integration, challenged the structures and capacities of those involved in what had been a small private school. The Board of Trustees and school leadership found the journey of school improvement overwhelming. In 2006, facing a dropping roll along with growing concerns from the MoE, the Proprietor Board approached neighbouring Christian schools for assistance.

The Christian Schools Trust (CST - the trust owning Middleton Grange School, Ashburton Christian School and latterly Rolleston Christian School as well as the Cornerstone Early Learning Centres) became involved with the KCST with a view to lifting the quality of education and building stock of the school - and so began a journey of school improvement. New personnel were added to the Proprietor ranks, the Board of Trustees, and staff.

In 2009, CCC was renamed Aidanfield Christian School to mark significant changes and better place it in its new and growing community inviting a new perception in the community to develop. The new name reflected the place of the school geographically in the growing community that surrounded it.



The New Zealand National Curriculum speaks of a vision to see our young people; confident, connected, actively involved and lifelong learners. In a survey of the local community in 2007, special character families of the South West of Christchurch told the school Board they wanted a school that;

- had strong Christian values and character,
- developed the individual child as a whole person with consideration of each child's unique giftings, abilities and talents,
- provided for access to special character high schooling
- had a quality curriculum and robust academic achievement and high quality teaching by well trained teachers
- had top quality facilities in a well resourced school
- was a place where their children could have a strong sense of being a part of a community
- had a good reputation and positive image in the wider community
- had effective and transparent governance/leadership
- had close proximity to projected housing growth



Over a decade later, it is safe to say that this community desire has been fully met in the school that we have today. The buildings are fit for purpose and inviting, the academic standards remain high and challenging, the pastoral support for pupils is strong, learning and growing thrives and Christian faith is the heartbeat of the school.

Welcome to Aidanfield Christian School.



Growing in Wisdom & Stature
Stand and be Confident



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2 Nash Road, Aidanfield, Christchurch, New Zealand
Phone: +64 (03) 338 8153
Email: international@aidanfield.school.nz
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