



Nowra Anglican College

Holistic Approach to Christian Education



November 2018

Principal's Foreword

Nowra Anglican College is a vibrant Christian school in the Anglican tradition. I am proud that the Christian ethos is present in our caring philosophy, worldview and our efforts to produce educated leadership.

Nowra Anglican College is known as a place of innovation and academic excellence where all students are supported and challenged.

We strive to be an open learning community that values the contributions of staff, parents, students and the wider community to respond to the challenges of our changing world and its demands.

We aim to be a place that staff, students and parents are proud of – where students feel engaged, valued and confident and use their learning experiences to make a difference in Christ's world.

It is our intent to ensure that our learning community fulfils the Anglican Schools Corporation objective of providing education of the highest quality delivered in a nurturing, caring Christian environment. This Holistic Approach to Christian Education Strategy, is a living document which provides focus and direction to assist us in meeting this objective.

This document has been produced as a result of research identifying positive strategies to impact the lives of our students. We have also networked to identify and brainstorm with like-minded educational institutions. Additionally, we have collaborated amongst our own team at Nowra Anglican College, taking into consideration the views and ideas of teachers, administrators and even our students.

There are a number of recommendations and strategies enclosed, however one of our key messages is that we need to focus on the development of the whole child. Educational activity takes place in the spiritual, intellectual, social, moral, aesthetic and physical spheres. This means that Christian Education needs to intentionally permeate every area of our school in order to impact each student. The foundation of this infusion is through relationships at all levels within the College. Through valuing individuals in the College and broader community, their development and relationships with each other, we will both honour God and each other. In doing this we will offer a holistic approach to Christian Education.

We recognise that there are limitations to what we can achieve as we are a community of sinful people striving to do God's will. However, with prayerfulness and faithfulness we hope to see lives transformed for Christ.

I commend this Holistic Approach to Christian Education to you as a vital foundation to ensure our ongoing success, as a community of learners under Christ. Through the approaches discussed we hope to offer our students, staff and broader community excellence in Christian Education.

Lorrae Sampson
Executive Principal



Table of Contents

Principal's Foreword	1
Our Vision.....	3
Our Mission	3
Our Value	3
Our School Motto	3
Rationale	4
Recognising the Challenges of the Holistic Approach to Christian Education in a Modern School	6
Mission is a team effort at Nowra Anglican College	7
Leadership – The Principal	8
Chaplaincy	9
Staff	11
Philosophy of Christian Education	13
Pastoral Care Program	15
Counselling Services.....	18
Community Engagement with Local Churches	19
Summary	20
References	21

Our Vision

To be a community of learners living and serving in Christ's world.

Our Mission Statement

To provide a high quality Christian education within a welcoming community where all individuals are valued and belong. As a community of learners we strive for excellence, unlocking the potential of each individual, developing confident, active learners who improve their world.

Our Values

Respect, Compassion, Wisdom

We are a respectful community grounded in Christ's compassion learning to live with wisdom.

Our School Motto

In the light of the Cross

Nowra Anglican College displays a badge with the emblem of the Christian cross emblazoned on a royal blue sky, our national symbol the Southern Cross, with the motto: *in the light of the cross*.

This emblem and motto represent the spiritual foundation of this school and the sincere hope of its Christian founders that the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ might shine forth into Nowra and the Shoalhaven.



Rationale

“It takes a whole village to raise a child”

The wellbeing of all students is central to the mission of Nowra Anglican College. Research shows that students who are happy and well connected at school are more successful and find schooling more purposeful. We provide students with opportunities which proactively promote relationships, community connection and personal development. The focus in all areas of Nowra Anglican College is the development of the whole child. This involves the nurturing of their physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

Staff at Nowra Anglican College have the privilege to serve God, each other and the students and families entrusted into our care. This is a great responsibility and one which all staff within a Christian school should embrace with the due level of accountability and professionalism required. The wellbeing of staff is equally vital in the life of the schools.

Our Holistic Approach to Christian Education incorporates an integrated approach to Christian Education which permeates every area of our school. Our Christian values and ethos are embedded in the way we operate and interact with each member of our community. The Christian values and ethos are integral within each subject area, our sporting program, performing arts program, our leadership and service programs, our behaviour management policies, our administrative processes and our relationships with our community.

Cairney et al (2001 p. 15) presents one view of the mission of education in a school centred on Christ when he states:

Education must do more than just give knowledge of the world that will empower; it must nurture faith in Christ and knowledge of God that will enable a transformation and freedom that has

eternal consequences... Education as its key purpose must seek growth in wisdom that is evoked by God's wisdom, a challenge to the foolishness of world knowledge.

Education is a relational activity - what is taught and learnt comes from an interaction between the teacher and the learner. Educational activity takes place in a number of ways: spiritual, intellectual, social, moral, aesthetic and physical. Curriculum is only one part of learning. Students learn from who staff are, what they say and what they do. Therefore modelling behaviour, showing care and promoting values are important parts of belonging in our learning community.

The Melbourne Declaration on Educational goals for Young Australians (2008) recognises fundamental changes in how 21st Century students learn, especially with regard to their use of interactive technology and its access to instant information. It is important that we maintain relevance and teach students how to be successful learners, confident, creative and well informed. (Melbourne Declaration pp. 7– 9)

In the process of learning, the breadth of educational experiences is important. We promote a broad educational offering to develop each individual. It is possible to be involved in sport and the creative arts. It is possible to have a flair for mathematics and be able to argue a point in a class debate. It is possible to serve others in Cambodia and learn how to speak a foreign language. Some students will develop their abilities and passion through the study of physics or history. For some the development of their intelligence will be through the creative arts, music and drama. Others will have their intellect challenged and developed through subjects like construction or hospitality. Further, physical capabilities will be stretched and challenged through outdoor learning and sport. Students need to and are encouraged to excel in whatever their



interest and focus in learning. At our schools we value a broad educational offering to develop each individual.

We Value the Individual

God created mankind in his own image (Gen1:27)

We are made in God's image and at the core of Nowra Anglican College is a deep respect for the innate dignity and uniqueness of individual persons. Jesus demonstrates by his own life that we have been created to be – fully human, fully alive and able to participate in the life and love of God.

Our organisation needs to provide for all students, no matter what their capabilities and interests, and we seek to foster in our students a love for learning. We need to provide an environment that is relevant and challenging.

Whether a student enters at Kindergarten or in Year 7 parents need to know that their child will be offered a broad education that aims to develop resilient, resourceful, adaptable, active and reflective learners who will be challenged to develop their interests and abilities through a wide range of learning experiences.

Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy are vital to the development of students at NAC

The world is changing and not always for the better for our young people. The evidence is that a great many of our young people are indeed struggling to cope. A comparison of teenagers' mental health between 1974, 1986 and 1999 documented a sharp decline in wellbeing. More recent studies show that this trend is continuing. (Claxton, 2013)

In a community that provides a strong sense of wellbeing, belonging and security, students are given every opportunity to be affirmed in their dignity and worth,

confirmed in their uniqueness, and assisted to grow to the fullness of their potential.

We need to teach our students to be self-disciplined, to take personal responsibility, to be empathic and resilient. We need to challenge and grow their intellect and promote life-long learning.

We value Relationships

Central to successful learning is the value of relationships between staff, students, parents and the wider community. It is vital that our community is connected to each other. This has been articulated as connectedness with each other, connectedness with learning, connectedness with our school community, connectedness with our physical environment and connectedness with our God.

Vital to being connected are the relationships that we develop with each other. Students who feel safe, happy, welcomed and valued by each other and adults are more likely to be successful with their learning.

The Holistic Approach to Christian Education for Nowra Anglican College will incorporate the following:

- Christian Education will include the teaching of Christian Studies to all year groups in the school, and an integrated approach in all subjects and co-curricular areas.
- strategies for providing pastoral care to staff and students
- strategies for presenting the gospel to the school community
- developing close partnerships and collaborative ministry with local parishes.



Recognising the Challenges of a Holistic Approach to Christian Education in a Modern School

As our school prepares for the future we need to continually evaluate what we do and how we are doing it. We need to ask the questions;

1. How do we assess if we are implementing Christian education effectively?
2. Are there ways to measure the effectiveness of the measures being undertaken both short and long term?
3. What evidence in terms of student outcomes and school culture would reflect this?

As a school operating in an increasingly diverse community we recognise the following:

- Any model of chaplaincy and Holistic Approach to Christian Education must reflect both the ideals of the Sydney Anglican Diocese, the Anglican Schools Corporation and Nowra Anglican College.
- No one person should be required to bear full responsibility for delivering the diverse and increasingly complex services of the Holistic Approach to Christian Education in our organisation.
- The school must recognise that diverse talents, approaches and qualities will be required to serve the needs of our students and their families.
- Chaplaincy must integrate itself through word and deed with the teaching of Christian Studies, Chapel services, the School's Pastoral Care program and the whole life activities of the school.



- It is imperative that the teaching of Christian Studies be performed by appropriately qualified, enthusiastic and professional staff and given priority and status commensurate with its importance in the life of the school.

Mission is a team effort at Nowra Anglican College

It is proposed that a specific team will oversee the development and implementation of our Holistic Approach to Christian Education.

The Holistic Approach to Christian Education team will include:

- The Executive Principal
Mrs Lorrae Sampson
- The Chaplain
Mr Andrew Dane
- Deputy Principal
Mr David Hamaty
- The Head of Junior School
Mr Andrew Thompson
- Assistant Chaplain
Mrs Debra Baker
- Director of Pastoral Care
TBA
- The Coordinator of Pastoral Care JS
TBA
- The Director of Studies
Mr Peter O'Donnell
- School Counsellor
Ms Jodie Humphreys
- Director of the Pre-school
Mrs Bernice Mathie
- Director of Teaching and Learning
Mrs Therese Connor

The Holistic Approach to Christian Education team oversees the running of Chapel, lunchtime groups and camps, Pastoral Care programs and implementation of Christian principles throughout the curriculum.

In addition to this an advisory panel will provide support and advice to the above team. Members of this panel may include local Anglican clergy, members of the School Council and Edcomm. We are in the process of forming the Advisory Panel which, in its inception, includes the following people:

Holistic Approach to Christian Education Advisory Panel

- Rev Geoff Thompson
Rector of All Saints Anglican Church
Nowra Member of the College Council
- Rev Ray Goldman
Rector of Huskisson Anglican Church
Member of the College Council
- Rev Andrew Patterson
Rector of Kangaroo Valley Anglican Church
Member of the College Council

It is anticipated the Advisory panel will;

1. Provide advice regarding the development and implementation of our Holistic Approach to Christian Education strategy.
2. Meet with the Chaplain from time to time to provide support for him and the team.
3. Provide an external/Anglican community perspective for the Holistic Approach to Christian Education team.
4. Identify issues that may need addressing by the Holistic Approach to Christian Education team.



Leadership – The Principal

Leadership at NAC is the positive and supportive guidance towards the Christian spiritual and personal development of the members of our school community by words and actions. Principals of Anglican Schools bear the responsibility for the spiritual leadership of their schools and are charged with the duty to lead and integrate the intellectual and Christian life of their school community. (SASC 2012, Philosophy of Education, p.2)

Graeme Stanton in his exposition on the topic of the spiritual leadership of the Principal in an Anglican school describes this in the following way:

“Some leaders lead by force, others by force of personality; some lead with wisdom, others with wit. To paraphrase Shakespeare, some are born leaders, some achieve leadership and some have leadership thrust upon them. One thing that all leaders share is a lasting impact on those whom it is their privilege to lead, be it in politics, business, family or sport; leaders change things, whether for good or ill. The same is true for spiritual leadership, and particularly so for the spiritual leadership of an Anglican school. While all members of a school community have a role to play in its spiritual life the principal carries a unique responsibility and privilege for its spiritual leadership. The Executive Principal is the Spiritual Leader of the School.” (Stanton, 2015)

Ultimately it is the principal who is accountable for how the school operates in response to the work of the Spirit for the glory of Jesus. Spiritual leadership works itself out in three ways:

1. Spiritual leadership refers to the personal faith and life of the leader.
2. Spiritual leadership of an Anglican school refers to articulating a Christian approach to education;



3. Spiritual leadership involves embedding that educational vision in the life of the school. (Stanton, 2015)

Underpinning the concept of leadership at Nowra Anglican College is the concept of service.

The words of Jesus are integral to the conduct of the Principal; *“if anyone wants to be first they must be very last and servant of all.”* (Mark 9:18)

The Holistic Approach to Christian Education team works with members of the community providing support, guidance and exposition of the Christian faith, values and ideals of the School, the Anglican Schools Corporation and the Sydney Diocese. The Principal will work in partnership with the Chaplain and the Holistic Approach to Christian Education team.

Chaplaincy

As a Christian school in an Anglican tradition we take the revealed word of God contained in the Bible as authoritative, providing us insight into how we come to know God and how to live fulfilled and godly lives. Students from Preschool to Year 12 learn about the central truths of Christianity and how they can come to know and serve God and others.

- The Chaplain, licenced by the Bishop, provides leadership and guidance in religious matters. He provides guidance and wisdom to the whole school team and ensures that the words and actions of the team are commensurate with the vision and values of the School and the Diocese of which it is a part.
- The Sydney Diocesan Education Policy supports the appointment of chaplains to 'assist principals in the provision of spiritual leadership and to faithfully minister the Word to the school community' (SDS 2006, section 2.3.7).

Teaching and Leadership of the Chaplain

An important way in which the Chaplain can exercise leadership is by the manner in which he continues to remind members of the school community of the significance of the spiritual dimension in human experience. This leadership is enhanced further as the Chaplain is a member of the school executive team and has an opportunity, from time to time, to speak with the School Council about issues affecting the spiritual and religious life of the College. This needs to be done in consultation with, and with the approval of the Executive Principal. The Chaplain also provides Christian professional development through facilitating or delivering morning devotions, Professional Development Days and promoting theological education courses for staff.



The Chaplain may exercise a significant teaching ministry by providing professional development for staff in dealing with theological/philosophical/ethical issues as these arise in the curriculum. The Chaplain might also help staff explore the implications of the Christian purposes of the school for classroom practice.

Evangelism and Mission

In various ways the Chaplain will make the gospel of Jesus Christ known and will be responsive and sensitive to those opportunities when students or staff want to talk about issues of faith and commitment. While the principal focus of the Chaplain will be on the school community, from time to time there will be opportunities for the school to exercise a ministry to the local community in which it is set and of which it is a part.

Pastoral Care

The Chaplain has an important pastoral care role in relation to the members of staff, which can be demanding.

At Nowra Anglican College the Chaplain's role currently involves both a teaching load and a load for other chaplaincy responsibilities. The Chaplain has primary oversight of the Chapel services each week.

Chapel Services

Chapel services are engaging and energetic gatherings including Bible talks, interviews, question time, singing, videos, games and prayer. Students are encouraged to participate and lead within Chapel. Chapels are held weekly in Junior School and fortnightly in Senior School. There are also services for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas. Parents are most welcome to attend Chapel Services.

Lunchtime Groups

The Chaplaincy team runs weekly student fellowship groups in partnership with Crusader Union; Club 21 (Stage 1), Club 34 (Stage 2) and Club 56 (Stage 3) for Junior School and Crossroads for students in Years 7-12. A student leadership team organises and runs the Crossroads program. Leadership development opportunities are available for junior and senior students at College and through Crusaders.

In addition to these programs, the College seeks to promote an authentic expression of Christianity in faith and action which is evident in all aspects of College life. From the academic to creative, from sport to service learning, these are all opportunities to taste and see the Christian life in all its fullness and relevance, as we prepare students for life.

Service to Families

Part of the role of the Chaplaincy team that we are currently developing, is the service to families. We are hoping to partner with the local Anglican churches to provide evangelistic opportunities for parents and carers such as providing Christianity explained style events.

In the future the Chaplaincy team may be able to provide services to Alumni in connecting them to our local churches.



Staff

The Board of the Anglican Schools Corporation intends its schools to be more than just educational institutions; their activities are to contribute directly to the mission of the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney. Likewise, all staff, at Nowra Anglican College are more than just facilitators of the educational process with students, important though this is; they are to be agents in promoting the Gospel to their students and to other members of the school's communities.

In particular teachers are:

- to be competent, appropriately qualified teachers for the subject areas in which they teach
- to develop and maintain an understanding of those aspects of Christian and Anglican teaching that relate to their subject areas
- to be committed to regular ongoing professional development
- to contribute actively to the corporate life of the school and the Christian development of students.

(Employment of Christian Staff policy, Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation 2003)

In addition to this one of the strategic objectives of the Anglican Schools Corporation is to communicate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ to staff. As such part of the Holistic Approach to Christian Education at Nowra Anglican College is to treat staff as integral members of our Christian learning community. Staff are respected individuals who are serving God in their many and varied roles in our organisation.

The aim is for all staff to be Christians, growing in their faith and attending local churches. As enunciated in our values,

staff endeavour to uphold each other in a respectful community which is grounded in Christ's compassion. We will endeavour to respectfully serve each other as we journey together, learning to live with wisdom.

The Executive staff, Chaplain and the Holistic Approach to Christian Education team;

- seek to enthusiastically and positively meet the pastoral needs of Staff and offer connection with local Churches and community organisations.
- make themselves available and journey with our staff through their joys and difficulties
- Accept that while learning about the Christian faith is important, the experience of faith for all staff is more important.

Staff are supported in their Christian faith through the various activities conducted at NAC and the preschool, including Focus on Faith developed by the Anglican Schools Corporation, staff devotions, chapel services, afternoon Christian staff fellowship and the NAC Family Aid Network (NACFAN).

Staff Devotions

Day-to-day practices say who we are, inform our culture and keep us moving in the desired direction. It is important to view our regular practices to make sure that what we are doing is useful, beneficial and continues to uphold the Christian values and ethos of the College.

Our day-to-day practice involves Staff Devotions. Devotions at NAC are held every morning from 8:20 - 8:30 am and include a five-minute period to announce daily/weekly messages, thank staff for their efforts, announce recent student achievement and give reminders about what is expected from staff with regards to simple school practices. It finishes with a five minute Christian devotion which aims



to encourage and remind staff about Jesus and the Christian mission, vision and values of our school.

The devotion is organised by the Chaplain and is led by various staff members on a voluntary basis. All staff are welcome to lead devotions and generally include the Chaplain, Executive staff, Senior and Junior School staff members and on occasion ministers of the local Anglican Churches. The devotion includes personal reflection on the scriptures, prayer and music. Many staff enjoy this period of Christian devotion and it is seen as a very positive way to start the day.

Our school culture reflects the importance of prayer and reflection in the life of our staff by our daily practice of staff devotions.

All staff are on different points in their Christian experience so what is it that we want to achieve from Staff Devotions?

The aim of the staff devotion is to encourage all in our daily walk with Jesus.

It is important that staff walk out of the meeting with a reminder of God's love and purpose for them that can support each of them through their busy schedule. It is expected that the devotion will impact each staff member in the way they live and treat others in our community.

The staff devotion time is not usually a place to raise controversial issues and topics. This is not to say that we shy away from such issues. However, some topics require more time to unpack the key concepts. Christian education, philosophy and improving Biblical understanding in the bigger picture sense, will be addressed at professional development days, staff meetings, Christian fellowship meetings, Executive/Faculty meetings and in the professional development working groups where more time and chance for discussion is allowed.



Philosophy of Christian Education

Christian teachers have an important responsibility to deliver excellence in education that reveals the glory of God and His creation and to demonstrate compassion, respect and wisdom.

We are endowed by God with the capacity to inquire into and explore His creation. God also endows us with the imagination to use knowledge creatively, to be inventive, to devise ways of caring for the world and to conceive ways of promoting human wellbeing.

Pivotal to this philosophy of teaching are learning and relationships. The concept of connectedness is vital in this process. Connectedness is expressed in three ways. It is vital that we are connected in:

1. Our relationship with God
2. Our relationship with the physical creation and
3. Our relationship with others.

(Professor John Short, Edcomm Conference 2016)

Each of our students, whether they are aware of it or not, are connected to God. Christian teachers are called to teach about God's world. Much about teaching may not be explicitly about God at all. God is present in the classroom even where his name is not mentioned. The book of Esther is an example of this concept. Teaching is not merely to teach subjects. Teaching is about inspiring students to learn. Teachers open doors and students walk through them when they are teaching anything about God's world.

As such the College strives to provide quality education in a range of contexts that enables students to inquire, explore, imagine, create and care. The Gospel should be expressed appropriately in the various College contexts. This expression

should be one in which Biblical truth is explored in a culture of critical inquiry, in an appreciation of its complexity and ambiguity and in subjective, respectful engagement. (Cooling, T. Curiosity - vice or virtue for the Christian teacher?)

Whole School Teaching and Learning Framework

In this light, curriculum at Nowra Anglican College aims to promote teaching and learning within a Christian world view that:

- Glorifies God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Affirms the intrinsic worth of all people

We are currently developing a whole school teaching and learning framework which reflects the teaching and learning of Christian principles. The teaching and learning framework will have a whole school focus flowing from our Vision, Mission and values and will emphasise



Respect, Compassion and Wisdom.

Part of the whole school teaching and learning framework includes the explicit focus on the Christian concept of Restoration.

Under this banner, staff will choose key Christian virtues which will be modelled and explicitly emphasised in lessons.

All students, whether they see themselves as part of God's plan of Restoration, are encouraged to grow as people of grace, kindness, compassion, humility, justice, self-control and patience. All students are encouraged to seek justice for the oppressed, to be ready to make sacrifices so that they might be a blessing to those around them.

These values will be mapped from K-12 as a Cross-Curricular priority, similar to those already established in the National Curriculum.

Christian Studies

Christian Studies is an opportunity to systematically explore the Bible and its relevance for life today. Students learn about the key themes of the Bible, focussed Old Testament and New Testament studies, Jesus: His life, death and resurrection, world religions and biblical approaches to apologetic, social and ethical issues. Student questions are warmly invited and contribute to a stimulating learning experience. Contemporary learning and teaching strategies are utilised, providing a differentiated approach, encouraging students to explore and create as they learn.

A Reformed, Evangelical theology underpins our belief and practice. Study of the content and message of the Bible takes a central place in Christian Studies. We aim to help students explore their own beliefs and worldview and to consider how this relates to their growing understanding of Christianity.



In Years K-6, students have Christian Studies lessons weekly. In addition, classes have morning devotions with their class teachers, prayer before lunch and a weekly chapel in stage groups.

In the Senior School, all Year groups participate in Christian Studies classes and Chapel.

Pastoral Care Program

One of the main reasons people seek to enrol their children at Nowra Anglican College is because we offer genuine and effective Pastoral Care for our students and their families. We strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment that promotes and enhances learning. Moreover, we teach students life skills that are grounded in Christian values that will empower them to live healthy, positive and purposeful lives.

Pastoral Care at Nowra Anglican College is based on the key principle of Restoration and the underlying virtues of Grace, Kindness, Compassion, Humility, Courage, Self-Control, Justice, Forgiveness and Patience. These are seen as integral to Christian education.

Homeroom teachers and Junior School teachers play a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of our Pastoral Care, which contributes towards making the school a safer, happier and more caring place.

What is Pastoral Care?

It is our belief that Pastoral Care is a shared responsibility involving each member of the school community in caring and in being cared for. It is based upon the belief that all people are created by God in His image and are worthy of respect and dignity. The relationships that we develop with our students should promote the Christian virtues that we espouse. Students from diverse abilities and cultures are welcomed and integrated into the life of the school. Students are also given opportunities to serve others.

We believe that a sound pastoral program should provide for:

- The physical, emotional, social, spiritual, moral and academic well-being of students.
- A positive safe and supportive school culture and environment.
- Care and support for students and their families including provision of opportunities for parents to engage in workshops and seminars to help them in their parenting role.
- The care and guidance of students in regard to personal development matters.

The Coordinator of Pastoral Care oversees the Pastoral Care system and works closely with the Coordinator of Pastoral Care – Junior school.

In the Senior School all students are allocated to a Homeroom Group. This is the first point of contact for any student well-being concerns.

The role of the Homeroom teacher in Senior School and the Classroom teacher in Junior School is to:

Know each child

Each teacher will take a keen interest in not only a student's work at school but their interests, their family, their friends and their strengths and weaknesses. Their role is to encourage and support but also to ensure each child complies with the College's expectations in regards to behaviour. They are sensitive to shifts in mood, behaviour and appearance and provide a support for the student and liaise with other teachers and the parent should there be concern.



Foster relationships

Teachers are keenly aware of the importance of a support structure. They will foster relationships both between each child in their class/homeroom and themselves as well as facilitate the interaction of the entire group.

Lead the Pastoral Care program

Whilst Homeroom time involves certain daily routines and administration, for example, roll marking, uniform and diary checks, reinforcement of school rules and policies, it is also the platform for our pastoral care program. The scope and sequence of this program is varied depending on the age and development of the group. Topics include Cybersafety and responsibility, Resilience, Study Skills, Body Image, Safe Partying, Work/Life Balance, Peer Support, Manners and Social Skills, Respectful Relationships and Stress Management.

Communicate and follow up

Communication is a vital part of the class/homeroom teacher's role. It is important for the leader to relate well with the students in their group and to respond promptly to messages and inquiries from parents. They are the person to contact in the case of extended absence and to arrange for work if appropriate.

Outreach to the Local Community

Our values Respect, Compassion and Wisdom are an expression of the mission and vision of Nowra Anglican College. Service is promoted at the College in order to develop well-rounded, Gospel shaped individuals. Students are encouraged to serve others.

Acts of service are promoted throughout the College and students are encouraged to participate in activities that lead to improved outcomes for those who are less fortunate.

The Year 10 Camp is an opportunity for our students to serve the homeless in Sydney, providing a vital experience for our

students to develop empathy and compassion for those less fortunate.

The College supports international, national and local charities including the local Anglican Charity, All Saints Community Care.

It is our aim that students will learn that donating to a charity fundraiser does not necessarily mean that they will receive something in return for their money eg. A pen, food, or the ability to wear mufti. Students will be encouraged to serve others by giving of their time and effort without a tangible reward for their act of service.

Some of What We Do

- Staff Chapel services and Daily Devotions
- Chapel services K-12
- NAC FAN (Family Aid Network)
- Rock and Water
- Student Christian Groups
- Seasons for Growth
- Mindfulness Program
- Operation Christmas Child program
- Christmas Hamper drive
- Service learning program
- Performances
- Girls groups
- Leadership groups
- Staff welfare and counselling
- Counselling referral and support
- Year 12 Retreats
- Staff retreats
- Mission/Service trips - Cambodia Vietnam
- Visiting mental health speakers
- NAC FAN
- Robyn Hayton High Tea
- Mothers and Daughters Service
- Fathers and Sons BBQ
- Services at local Anglican Churches
- Staff wellbeing initiatives
- P and F initiatives to build community
- Environment/Gardening Club
- Interact
- Clubs and Co-curricular activities



Annual Year 11 Service trip to Cambodia and Vietnam

Each year, Year 11 students are offered the opportunity to participate in a service trip to Cambodia and Vietnam. This recent article from the College newsletter regarding this trip highlights why this trip has become an integral part of College tradition.

"I was indeed fortunate to visit Cambodia and Vietnam with Year 11 students during the recent holidays. Our world is indeed a diverse and interesting place. I was fortunate enough to see the temples of Angkor Wat in Cambodia. I was challenged by the macabre history of this country, visiting the S21 Prison and the Killing Fields. The Remembrance Museum in Ho Chi Minh also showed the Vietnam War from a different perspective. Our trip had a service component and the group helped to paint a school and built a shelter shed. We planted fruit trees and visited two orphanages, donating enough money for rice for the children for a year.

I didn't realise how fussy I was with my food and I struggled with the heat and humidity. I found the cities immensely contradictory with wealth and poverty

existing side by side. However, I would take the students again in an instant as the trip impacted so greatly on each member of our party.

I realised that we are indeed very fortunate being amongst the wealthiest and privileged countries on earth. Yet one of the best experiences was the playing of soccer on the last day of the tour with the locals. This simple activity surpassed the language barrier and the joy on all the students' faces was evident. I know that this tour has helped me to have a greater appreciation for those people from other races and religions; something that is so greatly needed in our world today.

May you also take the time to show your children what we have in common with peoples from other races and cultures and help them to develop into compassionate individuals."

"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." James 1:27
Lorrae Sampson Executive Principal



Counselling Services

Within our environment students may experience a wide range of behavioural, emotional, social and psychological issues that, if left untreated, may jeopardise their wellbeing and learning. Examples include mental illnesses, friendship difficulties, family breakdowns, relationship issues, eating disorders, bullying, traumatic events, alcohol and substance abuse, self esteem and identity difficulties.

Nowra Anglican College provides professional counselling services to assist students and their families deal with issues that may hinder their development. The role of the counsellor is crucial in our Christian organisation and our counsellor is a member of the Holistic Approach to Christian Education team.

The counsellor for Nowra Anglican College is a registered school psychologist who is employed to apply their psychological and educational experience to assist students, parents and siblings, teachers and school administrators to achieve the most beneficial outcomes for students.

Engagement with our Aboriginal Community

The indigenous heritage of the Shoalhaven is rich. We recognise the importance of this heritage in the life of our College. One of our strategies is to grow and promote cross-cultural engagement in a spirit of reconciliation with our indigenous community.

Our Aboriginal Education Mentor (AEM) works to assist our Aboriginal students develop their skills and talents and to support their engagement with culture.

Engagement with our Defence Community

Nowra is known as a Defence town and is home of HMAS Albatross, the largest operational Naval establishment and the Navy's only Air station. Approximately 10% of the College's students are from Defence families.

The Defence School Transition Aide Program provides support to students of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families, particularly during their transition into and out of a school on posting or during parental absences due to deployment, exercises or courses.

Our Defence School Transition Mentors provide assistance to ADF children and families. This may include:

- Assisting young people from Australian Defence Force families integrate into the school community.
- Co-ordinating appropriate welcoming and farewelling strategies for young people of Australian Defence Force families.
- Supporting students to develop their self-confidence and resilience.
- Assisting young people manage the challenges of transitions.
- Supporting young people at school during times of parental absence from home for service requirements.
- Raising awareness of Defence related issues facing students such as parental absence due to service requirements.

Our two Defence mentors are highly respected and regarded by our community.



Community Engagement with Local Churches

Relationships with local churches is an important aspect of the Holistic Approach to Christian Education and is promoted and guided by the Chaplaincy team and College Executive. The College is a member of the Southern Shoalhaven Anglican Mission Area and regularly hosts meetings and events for this network. Local ministers are frequent visitors and participants in our ministry program. The Chaplain also occasionally speaks at local churches promoting Christian Education and the College. We look to pray for, promote and participate in a variety of ministries.

Our local Anglican churches are supportive of the staff and families of Nowra Anglican College. Harmonious relationships exist between the College and local churches and we work proactively to promote the Gospel. Examples of initiatives include prayer points in local church

bulletins, promotion of youth group and family activities, promotion of Easter and Christmas services, invitations to local clergy to speak at College events such as Crossroads and Christmas Chapel. College facilities are accessed by local church groups to run events such as Beach mission and conferences such as the Shoalhaven Men's Convention.

Currently three local Anglican rectors serve on the College Council.

To further promote student engagement with local Anglican churches, services are held at Bomaderry Anglican Church for our Year 7 cohort as part of the Christian Studies program with opportunity for similar services for other Year groups at other local parishes.

The College regularly supports the All Saints Community Care program, an initiative of Anglicare in the local environment, with collections of food and the Christmas Hamper drive each year.



Summary

The authors of this document believe that a Holistic Approach to Christian Education has evolved at Nowra Anglican College that is proving to be effective, relevant and engaging.

We also believe that as the school grows, we will need to invest further time and resources into the Holistic Approach to Christian Education Team.

Nowra Anglican College is determined to maintain the integrity and sustainability of its Holistic Approach to Christian Education in order to serve both its students, their families and the broader community.

We will:

- Seek guidance from the Bishop of Wollongong/his representatives in the continuing evolution of our Holistic Approach to Christian Education.
- Continue to support the Holistic Approach to Christian Education Team members in their ongoing professional studies in Chaplaincy and Theology.
- Continue to support the ministry vocation among our young people by investigating the options for a Youth Ministry for suitable NAC graduates within the school.

- Develop strategic transitions plans and depth of Christian leadership capacity that will allow the school to continue to provide an excellent Chaplaincy service.

The success of the NAC Holistic Approach to Christian Education, including its pastoral care and chaplaincy, has been made possible by the founders of the schools, the local Anglican churches, staff and past chaplains. The Holistic Approach to Christian Education has also benefited from the oversight of the Nowra Anglican College Chair and the School Council. Their presence and guidance have made it possible for the school to take both a strategic view of what a Holistic Approach

to Christian Education can achieve and have the confidence to create a model that works for our schools

We believe the model that we are developing, not only serves the local community but meets the specific and general needs of our school community.

We believe that the model not only serves us now but has the capacity to continue to evolve to meet the needs of the College in the future.



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