Frequently Asked Questions

an introduction to mcc
How did MCC begin and who governs it?
Mackay Christian College was begun in 1984 by Mackay Christian Family Church in order to provide a high quality education that would support the values of Christian families. The Directors of Mackay Christian Colleges Ltd are appointed by Mackay Christian Family Church and are responsible for the spiritual, legal and financial oversight of the College. Managerial responsibility for the College’s operations is delegated by the Directors to the Principal.

What is a Christian education?
We believe that a Christian is a person who has made Jesus Christ both Saviour and Lord of their life. That is, a Christian is a person who:
- believes that Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, died and rose again;
- who has recognised their sinful condition;
- who has received forgiveness of their sins through faith in Jesus Christ;
- and who seeks to live their life in obedience to God’s Word. Christianity is, in essence, an ongoing relationship with God – not just a Sunday morning event but a way of life.

A Christian education is an education that supports and promotes Christian faith in the lives of the students. A range of strategies are employed to this end. They include employing teachers who model Christian living, Christian Studies classes, class devotions and weekly Chapels. We seek to encourage our students to study the Scriptures and to know God so that they might be able to see the world the way God sees it. In this way we hope that they might be able to serve the world through their Christian character and to respond with enthusiasm and integrity to the challenges and opportunities that are before them.

Do you have children at MCC from a range of Church backgrounds?
Yes. MCC has students from almost all church denominations. The style of worship at the College is contemporary rather than traditional. As far as possible, students are the musicians, singers and leaders of worship.

Are all teachers at MCC Christians and are they qualified?
It is a requirement that all teachers at MCC are fully committed Christians. We all know that lifestyles are more ‘caught than taught’. Our teachers are able to role model the Christian life for our students. All teachers in Queensland, including those at MCC, must be qualified to teach and be registered with the Queensland College of Teachers.

What is the size of the College and the range of facilities?
Mackay Christian College has over 800 students or 40 to 70 students per year level. The College encompasses Early, Junior, Middle & Senior Years of schooling in order to increase the pastoral care of the students.

King’s Park Campus (9 Quarry Street)
Facilities include:
- Thomas L Evans (TLE) Building
- Florence Young (FY) Building
- Annie Dennis (AD) Building
- Norm L Armstrong (NLA) Building
- Year 7 Purpose Built Classrooms
- The Meeting Place
- Auditorium (Faith Centre)
- Trade Training Centre
- Agricultural Centre of Excellence
- Eric Liddell Field & Running Track
- Multipurpose Sports Courts
- Mountain Bike Skills Park & Bike Hire
- Gymnasium
- Industrial Technologies Workshops
- Lloyd Averill (LA) Information & Resource Centre (Library)

The College also has an arrangement with the Mackay District Rugby Union for the regular use of their ovals.
Providence Campus (17 Ambrose Way)

Facilities include:
- Prep/Year 1 Building
- Year 2/3 Building
- Year 4/5 Building
- Auditorium (Powerhouse)
- Junior Campus Sports Field
- Multipurpose Sports Courts
- Pre-Prep Learning Centre
- All classroom buildings have wet weather covered areas and student facilities.

How is MCC funded?
Approximately 70-75% of our recurrent costs come from the Federal and State Government. The remainder comes from the Tuition Fees paid by parents.

What curriculum does MCC follow and are your programs accredited?
The Pre-Prep Learning Centre Programming Model has been carefully developed to align with the Queensland Kindergarten guidelines (based on the Early Years Learning Framework). In the learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science and History, our Prep to Year 10 programs are aligned with the Australian Curriculum (www.australiancurriculum.edu.au). For all other learning areas Mackay Christian College follow guidelines established by the Queensland Studies Authority; though Queensland Independent Schools have significant freedom to develop curriculum to meet their own needs. MCC uses that freedom to provide our students with what we believe are the best learning opportunities possible. In Year 11 & 12, all of our study programs follow syllabuses published by the Qld Studies Authority. These programs are accredited by the Authority and we participate in regular Quality Assurance and Accreditation processes.

What certificate do students get at the end of Year 12? Can graduates go to University?
Students earn credit points towards a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) by passing their subjects. At MCC we have a variety of subjects at all levels of difficulty to assist students to achieve their QCE. Through subject choices, students may make themselves eligible for an Overall Position (OP Score). This is a significant factor in determining the success of being offered a place at University.

What is the QCE?
The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is a qualification awarded to young people at the completion of the Senior phase of learning, usually at the end of Year 12. It confirms a student’s achievement of: a significant amount of learning, a set standard of achievement and meeting Literacy and Numeracy requirements. Students will need to attain 20 learning credit points. The certificate is issued by the Qld Studies Authority.

Students at Mackay Christian College choose 6 elective subjects ranging from more difficult OP subjects to practical Vocational Education subjects. An additional 7th core subject CLEAR thinking also contributes towards a QCE.

What is MCC’s record in OP Scores?
OP Scores are gained by students, and not essentially by schools. The OP record of any school will be significantly determined by the aptitude of its students. Nevertheless, most educators agree that a school plays its part in providing the quality of teaching and the general environment that influences the learning of its students. To this extent MCC is pleased with its record. OP Scores range from 1 (highest) to 25 (lowest). On average, across Queensland, approximately 35% of eligible students gain an OP Score of 1-10. At MCC an OP Score of 1-10 is gained by 50-54% of our students each year. A high proportion of MCC’s graduates are offered tertiary places.

What about students who do not want to go to University?
Instead of pursuing an OP eligible program, Senior students can elect to be part of our well-developed Vocational Education program. They can apply for School Based Apprenticeships, Traineeships, or TAFE courses, each requiring a one day per week off site commitment. These students are still eligible for a QCE which lists the results of their studies including their nationally recognised units of Vocational study.
How does Pre-Prep operate?
The Pre-Prep Programming Model was born out of the Emergent Curriculum Model and it incorporates its fundamental principles. The curriculum has been carefully developed to align with the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines (based on the Early Years Learning Framework) and so encompasses a skilful balance of spontaneous and intentional learning opportunities. This framework recognises children as competent individuals and gives credit for the things they can do while supporting them in areas where they are still developing. The Pre-Prep Learning Centre operates a 5 day week or a 5 day fortnight program starting at 8.30am and finishing at 2.40pm during school terms only. The Pre-Prep uniform is compulsory.

The children are actively involved in activities that include:
- Projects and activities which support early Literacy and Numeracy skills
- Discussion and planning about learning through mind mapping
- Spontaneous experience
- In-depth investigations of topics in which they have shown interest
- Complex reasoning tasks and situations
- Working together in partnerships
- Self-selection opportunities

How does Prep operate?
Our Prep is designed to prepare children for the formal learning that commences in Year 1. The children are engaged in a number of activities throughout the day such as playing with puzzles, art and craft time, listening to stories, ‘creative corner’ and playing in their own Prep/Year 1 playground. All of these activities are deliberately programmed to develop the physical, emotional, social, intellectual & creative aspects of the child. Each Prep class has a Teacher, a Teacher’s Aide, a Specialist Music Teacher and a Specialist Physical Education Teacher. The Prep operates a ‘five day, full day’ program. The day begins at 8.30am and ends at 2.50pm. The Prep uniform is compulsory.

What are the main features of the Junior Years?
The main features of the Junior Years (Prep – Year 5) are:
- An environment in which students can feel safe and cared for
- Spiritual leadership and guidance
- Sequential core curriculum that covers the Key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Computer Studies and Information Skills, Christian Studies, The Arts and Physical Education
- Specialist Teachers for Music and Physical Education
- Support students who struggle with their learning
- A focus on basic Literacy and Numeracy
- Early Years Literacy Program

What are the main features of the Middle Years?
In 1998 MCC began a new programme for the Middle Years, to cater for the unique needs of early adolescent learners (Year 6-9), and to provide a smooth transition from Primary to Secondary education. All too often these young people feel lost or disengaged from the learning process. The Middle Years recognise that they are no longer young Junior children, nor do they have the same interests and needs as older Senior students.

Year 6 students learn their Core Subjects within a team of Year 6 teachers. They also have specialist teachers for Physical Education, Art and Home Economics. Year 7 students select four elective subjects for a Semester in addition to their Core Studies. Year 8 & 9 students study the Core Subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Health & Physical Education. In addition they study three elective subjects.

The main features of the Middle Years include:
- Curriculum designed to engage young adolescent learners in the context of a strongly pastoral, Christian environment
- Specialist Teachers and facilities
- An extension program for all students that recognises different intelligences in the students and that encourages them to pursue their own learning interests
- Opportunities for student leadership
- Support struggling learners
- Opportunities for participation in a range of Creative Arts activities
What are the main features of Senior Years?
All students from Year 10 to Year 12 study six subjects. Core subjects are English, Mathematics and CLEAR. The very extensive list of subjects offered is available separately. CLEAR incorporates Christian Studies, Career Education, Study Skills, Core Skills Test Preparation and a Personal Development Program.

The main features of the Senior Years include:
- A strong pastoral program, Christian environment
- Curriculum accredited by the Queensland Studies Authority
- Specialist Teachers and facilities
- Support struggling learners
- Opportunities for student leadership
- Career guidance
- Strong links with the Mackay Conservatorium of Music
- A Vocational Education program including work placement, School Based Apprenticeships, School Based Traineeships and school based subjects where appropriate

What sport is available for MCC students?
- Prep-Yr 9: Physical Education specialist classes
- Year 10-12: Physical Education elective classes
- 9yr-Open: Interhouse Athletics Carnival
- 11yr-Open: Interhouse Swimming Carnival
- 11yr-Open: Interhouse Cross Country Carnival
- Club sports competition incl. Basketball, Futsal, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Soccer & Volleyball
- Opportunity to represent the College at District, Region & State in Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming
- Opportunity to compete in Adventure Race Challenges
- MCC is an accredited Mountain Bike School of Excellence - opportunity to compete in various races

What extra-curricular opportunities does MCC offer?
Extra-curricular opportunities for students include:
- Adventure Race Challenges
- Anzac Day Ceremonies
- Australian Academic Competitions
- Bands & Orchestras
- Blood Bank Supporters
- Buddies Program
- Cattle Show Team
- Chapel Band
- Chemistry Titration Competition
- Chess Club
- Choirs
- Crystal Growing Competition
- Drama Productions
- Eisteddfod Participation
- Festival of Fashion Competition
- F1 in Schools
- Light & Sound Teams
- Mathematics Team Competition
- Missions Market
- Missions Trip
- Multimedia Camp
- Music Camp
- Prayer Meetings
- Remote Controlled Aero Club
- Robotics Club
- RUOK? Day
- Science Olympiad
- Senior Mentors Program
- Titration Competition
- Tournament of Minds
- Year 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 Camps
- Young Chefs Competition

Do you stream your classes?
Some classes are ability streamed where it is believed that it will result in improved outcomes for all learners.

What support is available for struggling learners?
Support is given to students with learning difficulties. Teacher Aides provide assistance through support in the classroom setting.

Do you have an Instrumental Music Program?
Yes. Students can learn a range of instruments as well as Vocals, Communication Skills and Speech & Drama on a fee-for-service basis. These lessons can occur before or after school, during morning tea or at lunch time. They can also occur during class time.
What is the Trade Training Centre?
Mackay Christian College Trade Training Centre is a project funded by the Australian Government's Trade Training Centre initiative. The MCCTTC is staffed and managed by Mackay Christian College on behalf of a consortium of Independent Schools in Mackay including Whitsunday Anglican School and Carlisle Christian College. The MCCTTC is a facility that allows students to build their skills and enhance their opportunities to access employment and training in both the Engineering/Manufacturing and Building/Construction Industries.

MCCTTC Trade Pathways students will graduate with a Certificate I in Construction and a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways. In addition to these nationally recognised qualifications, MCCTTC Trade students will work together with MCCTTC staff to secure a future in the students preferred trade area through an Australian School based Apprenticeship (ASbA). MCCTTC Single Subject Students are those seeking an OP score for University entrance who would like to add some foundational practical understanding and abilities to their skills set during the Senior schooling experience. These students may choose to undertake either a Certificate I in Construction or Certificate II in Engineering Pathways as one of their subject electives.

Is technology part of your curriculum?
Network access for all students at Mackay Christian College is a priority, providing a valuable educational resource. Our students are already connected to a global community through their technology. The Apple iPad extends our students’ ability to learn, connect and create. MCC is an eSmart school.

Do I need an iPad?
An Apple iPad is a compulsory part of the Student Needs List (items provided by parents) for all students in Year 5-12. Please refer to the College website at www.mccmky.qld.edu.au/elearning for the latest specifications for Electronic Learning Devices. The minimum recommended requirements for an iPad to ensure compatibility, performance and reliability for use at MCC for 2018 will be a full sized iPad (5th Generation) 32Gb Wi-Fi. (It MUST NOT be older than 3 years or an iPad mini). Parents can decide whether to supply a 32, 64 or 128 GB iPad. Alternatively the iPad Pro as a WiFi model is slightly faster but more expensive. Students in Year 5 - 12 will need to have a number of Essential iPad Apps loaded onto their iPad for the start of school. A list of these Apps for each Year level is located on our College website.

What does having an Apple iPad mean for your child?
Your child will:
- Be able to connect to the College Network while at the College to access filtered Internet sites
- Be able to connect between home and school via the password protected College Portal website
- Become responsible for general care of their iPad and associated routines eg. charging batteries
- Become responsible for backing up their data
- Bring their iPad to the College on a daily basis and
- Comply with the Student Network User Agreement and CLEAR Standards of Conduct

What opportunities are available for parents to be involved in the education of their children at MCC?
Mackay Christian College welcomes the involvement of parents in the education of their children. Many parents also help out in the Junior School classrooms, attend excursions, help in the grounds with cleaning or in the Tuckshop. Various ‘Friends of the College’ groups fundraise for special projects on a regular basis.

We hold a Meet the Teacher night for all Prep - Year 5 students during Term 1 each year. At this time parents have an opportunity to meet together in an informal setting with their child’s classroom teacher. We also hold a Middle School Meet the Teacher night and Senior Learning Information Night for parents to meet with our staff and find out more about the teaching program at MCC.

What does the College expect of its parents?
The greatest expectation that the College has of its parents is that they show an interest in their children's learning and associated activities such as attendance at concerts, special events and sports days as they are able. Parents are expected to supervise homework (without doing it for the child), even up to the Senior years. We also ask that parents support the standards and procedures of the College and that parents raise questions and concerns with the staff of the College as required.
What discipline strategies are employed at MCC?
The most common discipline strategies employed at MCC are the firm, fair and consistent guidelines set down and reinforced by teachers in the course of each day. These include a word of correction, a stern look, or physical proximity. Students who do not respond to these strategies face sterner measures such as some withdrawal of privilege or detention.

The Behaviour Management Process of the Early/Junior Years and the Middle/Senior Years outlines the consequences for students involved in serious misbehaviour or repeated misbehaviour. These may include suspension and/or expulsion by the College. While expulsion is clearly a last measure, the College is unable to indefinitely continue the enrolment of students who detract significantly from the good order of the College and well being of its students, particularly their opportunity to learn.

Are text books supplied?
Mackay Christian College operates a Textbook Hire Scheme which saves parents the expense of purchasing texts. However, parents may be required to purchase some texts especially e-books.

Do students go on camps and excursions?
School camps are held annually for Year 6 to Year 12. An annual Missions Trip to the Torres Strait Islands and regular Missions Trips to Africa, Nepal and Thailand are also held for Staff and Senior Students. All Junior and most Middle/Senior Year students regularly go on excursions related to their studies.

What are the Prep – Year 12 enrolment procedures?
An enrolment form and all requested documentation including a birth certificate and a recent school report from your child’s previous school, must be received as an expression of interest before an enrolment can be processed. The Enrolment Officer will contact you after receiving your application. Junior School students will be required to attend a testing session and the Enrolment Officer will contact you to schedule a convenient time. If a vacancy is available, an interview will be scheduled for the prospective parents and child/ren to meet the Principal or the relevant Head of School.

What are the Pre-Prep enrolment procedures?
A Pre-Prep Enrolment Form should be completed and submitted to the College Office along with your $150 deposit. Proof of age (birth certificate or passport) and proof of immunisation must be supplied for enrolment. Once your application has been processed, an interview with the Director of the Pre-Prep Learning Centre will be organised. If your child’s enrolment is successful, an offer of placement will be made a short time after the interview. Please Note: Submission of the Enrolment Application and $150 deposit does not guarantee placement in the Pre-Prep Learning Centre.

Does MCC offer Outside School Hours Care and Vacation Care?
MCC Outside School Hours Care (OSHCare) is designed to provide a caring, safe and fun environment for your children (Pre-Prep and above) where they can learn through play and social interaction. Our Centre’s are structured around the government-designed frameworks for Early Childhood and School Age Care. MCC OSHCare harnesses the ethos of the College providing quality child care in a Christian environment. Our goal is to provide children a place where they feel valued as unique individuals, and their talents and interests are developed in a fun and relaxing environment.

Students at MCC benefit from:
- An excellent academic program
- A strong focus on Christian values
- Diverse cultural experiences
- Advanced IT integration
- Vocational Education involvement
- Australian Schools Competitions
- Involvement in Australia wide testing
- Available bus services to most areas of Mackay and surrounding districts
- A caring disciplined environment
- A supportive family atmosphere
- Counselling and Guidance services
- A family fee structure
- Continuity of education from Prep – Year 12
- Internal & external sporting opportunities
If you have any additional questions or would like anything clarified please phone our Enrolments Officer on (07) 4963 1100.