

Information about Mount Evelyn Christian School

Mount Evelyn Christian Schools (MECS) has a vision to “Seek the Kingdom of God in Education”. MECS is one of sixty-six Christian Education National (CEN) schools throughout Australia, and has been operating in its current bush setting in the outer suburbs 40km east of the Melbourne CBD since 1973.

MECS has over 720 students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The school is governed by a Board of Directors whose members are elected by parents who are members of the school association. Five executive leaders (Principal, Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning, Assistant Principal Primary, Assistant Principal Secondary and Administration Manager) have been appointed to care for the daily running of the school.

The school community endeavours to have all areas of life within the school actively respond to the revelation of God in the Bible. The school helps young people develop their gifts and find their purpose in life, as well as to prepare them for service in whatever pathway God is calling them to. The school assists parents to raise self disciplined, responsible and adaptable citizens who are aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the society in which they live. The school seeks not to be exclusive but to provide places for the children of every family, particularly Christian families, who seek a Christian education for their children.

Over the years MECS has developed its own approach to the education task. Much work is done to develop an integral curriculum that spans from Primary School through to Year 9. The school has a heavy emphasis on learning beyond the classroom, which includes excursions, camps in the workplace. Research skills, confidence and the use of the 30,000 item resource centre is more important at MECS than textbooks. The staff seeks to exercise discipline that is formative of the responsible individual rather than merely conforming to a set of rules. The school has a dress code rather than a uniform. The school is structured to deter teachers from working in isolation and encourages teamwork.

MECS seeks in its curriculum and teaching methods to take seriously what is revealed in the Bible about God, his creation, the nature and purpose of mankind, community, the effects of the fall, and the life, death, resurrection and Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. As a Christian teaching community we approach the popular principles and practices of humanist and rationalist educators very cautiously, seeking to evaluate them in the light of the biblical revelation. This means that members of our teaching team need to be committed Christians and active in their respective churches. They need to share the same basic evangelical Christian beliefs as the school as stated in the schools Educational Creed.

It also means that the teaching team needs to possess skills and insights to equip it for this work. To this end, all members of our teaching staff agree an appointment to undertake specialist studies through the National Institute for Christian education. Usually teachers take up these studies after a year of settling into the school. The school provides financial support and generous study release time to encourage teachers in fulfilling this obligation. Teachers who have fulfilled the obligation receive an additional increment to their salaries. All teachers new to Mount Evelyn Christian School are involved in an orientation an induction process early in the school year.

The school is divided into Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary. There is a Director of Kindergarten and an Assistant Principal Primary and Assistant Principal Secondary. There is also an Assistant Principal – Teaching & Learning working with staff across the school.

The Kindergarten has four classes [over K3 and K4] and around 80 children. Primary school [Prep to 6] has around 250 students with eleven class teachers plus specialist Physical Education, Music, Indonesian and various other supporting teachers the Middle School [Yrs 7 to 9] consists of around 200 students with nine cultural studies/homeroom class teachers plus additional specialists in Physical Education, Art/Craft, Maths, Language, Music, English and Science. The Senior School [Yrs 10 to 12] has around 140 students with a number of full time and part time teachers across a range of subjects the Middle School and Senior School both come under the leadership of the Assistant Principal Secondary.

The school works in line with the Victorian Curriculum. Ensuring that standards for learning are met in the development of a biblically informed integral curriculum. We call it “integral” as it attempts to reflect the reality that all things created by God have reference in all the so-called subject areas.

We believe that when a child explores the creation, it is better not to artificially divide that study into separate categories, which are more appropriate for adults. We try to relate the skills work done to the topic the class is exploring in its core studies, at any given time. Such an approach to curriculum allows great freedom but demands creative and cooperative work from our teachers.

Middle School, [Yrs 7-9] functions within the larger school as a sub team led by Year Level Coordinators and the Assistant Principal Secondary. Each year level is divided into three classes, with a Cultural Studies teacher appointed to act as an advocate and pastoral support person for the students. Year 9 offers a slightly different approach to learning with the Open Village programme, where students are given greater autonomy over their learning programme within their cultural studies curriculum.

Senior School, [Yrs 10-12] functions within the larger school as a sub team led by the Senior School Coordinator, VCE Coordinator and the Assistant Principal Secondary. It comprises the three year levels, with year 10 being introduced to Senior Secondary education and undertaking some early VCE units. Year 11 generally undertakes Units 1 and 2 VCE units and year 12 units 3 and 4. All senior school students can undertake VET units through the local vet cluster. Teachers are not only expected to professionally and competently teach their allocated subject load, but are also expected to serve in a pastoral and devotional leader role.

The SS curriculum whilst teaching within the prescription of the VCE also seeks to develop and guide the biblically informed mind. Teachers are expected to develop biblically informed perspective insights into their subject areas and ensure that impacts their teaching. Such insights are not developed alone, but within the school staff team context. Further to teachers guiding 'perspectival insights', students are compelled to undertake Christian perspectives based subjects in each of the three year levels.

Our support and administration staff make up a substantial and important part of our staff team. All sections are supported by library staff, ICT Learning and Tech Support team, and a Science Lab Technician. Our learning support team comprises our Learning Support Coordinators, learning support teachers, and a number of learning assistants and tutors across each of the sections. The learning support team work to ensure that our students with additional learning needs and the staff who teach them are well supported.

For more information about MECS please make yourself familiar with the [MECS website](#).

Application Procedure

1. Your application must include the following documentation:
 - Application Form (downloaded from MECS website).
 - Resume (Curriculum Vitae) should include the following information:
 - a) Personal details (name, address, telephone numbers).
 - b) A summary of the work you have completed, beginning with the most recent. Include dates and give details of the type of tasks that were required in each job.
 - c) Details of your involvement in Church activities.
 - d) Your education and training achievements. Include any education you are currently undertaking.
 - e) Any activities you have undertaken outside of work which are relevant to the application.

2. **Covering Letter**
The covering letter is an introduction to your application. You may wish to summarise your application and emphasise your strongest points and achievements. Also outline how your Christian faith affects your work.

3. **Referees**
Referees should be contacted for approval before listing them in your application. Provide names, work addresses and contact telephone numbers of referees. Referees who are able to comment on your work experience and church involvement should be included.

4. **Forward your application paperwork to Karena Dashwood, HR Coordinator;**
jobs@mecs.vic.edu.au