

## Information for School Counsellor Mount Evelyn Christian School

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Mount Evelyn Christian School (MECS) has a vision to “Seek the Kingdom of God in Education”. MECS is one of the 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 six hundred and twenty 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. Four Executive Leaders (Principal, 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 educational 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 and the work place. 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 school’s [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 on 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 and 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.

The Kindergarten has 4 classes (over K3 and K4) and around 80 children. **Primary School** (F to 6) has around 312 students with eleven class teachers plus specialists in Phys Ed, Music, Indonesian and various other supporting teachers. The **Middle School** (Yrs 7 to 9) consists of around 195 students with nine Cultural Studies/homeroom class teachers plus additional specialists in Phys Ed, Art/Craft, Maths, Language, Music, English and Science. The **Senior School** (Yrs 10 to 12) has around 145 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 our 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 the 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, (Years 7 to 9), functions within the larger school as a sub-team led by the Middle School Coordinator 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 Program; where students are given greater autonomy over their learning program within their Cultural Studies curriculum.

Senior School, (Yrs 10 to 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 & 2 VCE units and Year 12 Units 3 & 4. All senior school students can undertake VET units through the local VET cluster. Teachers not only are 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 developed and guide the biblically informed mind. Teachers are expected to develop biblically informed ‘perspectival’ 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 insight’, 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 a library staff of a teacher/librarian, library technician and library assistants. Further Support is also offered to staff with an ICT Learning and Tech Support Team and a Science Lab Technician. Our Education Support team comprises A Primary Ed Support Coordinator, Secondary Ed Support Coordinator, Primary Ed Support Teacher, Middle School Ed Support Teacher, Senior School Ed Support Teacher and a number of Learning Assistants and Tutors across each of the sections. The Ed Support team work to ensure that our students with additional learning needs, and the staff who teach them, are well supported.

## Application Procedure

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1. Make yourself familiar with the school's [Educational Creed](#) and the outline of the school as described through the questions and answers on the website at [About MECS – FAQ](#).

Your application must include the following documentation:

- Application Form for advertised position.
- 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. Your letter should address the job specifications telling us of your understanding of the role of School Counsellor in a Christian school. Also outline how your Christian faith affects your work.

3. Selection Criteria

A document addressing each of the selection criteria as listed in the job description.

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. Provide a written response to (no more than two pages) to the following two questions:

- How does your Christian faith impact and influence the role of School Counsellor?
- What is the role of a School Counsellor in a Christian School?

5. Once the above materials are received they will be processed by the application panel.

6. Forward your application by 12pm, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

Email your application to Karena Dashwood, HR Coordinator; [jobs@mecs.vic.edu.au](mailto:jobs@mecs.vic.edu.au)