



**Emmaus  
Christian  
School**

# Educational Overviews

Preschool

Primary School

Secondary School

Updated July 2018

## Preschool Overview

### 3 and 4 Years of age

The preschool at Emmaus Christian School Canberra opened soon after the school was established and has been an integral part of the Emmaus learning journey ever since. We offer 3 and 4 year old children their first experience of engaging, enjoyable and exciting learning at Emmaus, providing both a holistic preparation for school and a smooth transition to Kindergarten.

### Our Educational Approach

We believe that play based learning inspires and enhances the natural curiosity, creativity and imagination of early learners, providing endless opportunities to create a rich and varied learning environment, full of opportunities for active engagement in exploration, discovery and learning. This in turn helps build healthy dispositions towards learning, laying a foundation for future school success. By basing our program on the interests and ideas of the children, we promote the high levels of involvement and intrinsic motivation that result in 'deep level' learning and enhanced learning outcomes.

We consider meaningful relationships both a gift from God to be treasured and an essential component of effective early learning. By cultivating close and caring relationships between staff, parents and children, we aim to build a community of early learners where children feel loved, safe, secure and appreciated. The high value we put on ensuring the wellbeing of children also includes helping them to develop the social skills that enable them to thrive in a group environment, an absolute essential for school success.

We believe that play based learning requires an unhurried approach that allows children to become immersed in their play experiences and a relaxed atmosphere where children can operate at their own pace.

### Our learning spaces

We are blessed to operate in some of the best spaces on the ECS campus, a light and generously spacious preschool room and a naturally beautiful, shady playground with many big trees. We consider both the indoors and outdoors as equally valuable and inspiring learning spaces and offer the children the opportunity to make maximum use of both, including in all weather conditions (we provide children with high quality wet weather play suits for rainy days).

Active engagement with and exploration of the wider community becomes a major aspect of our preschool life as the children get older and move into our 4 year old group. Regular excursions by small groups of children both in the local area and further afield (using both Action and hired buses for transport) widen the learning horizons of the children, providing enriching experiences. Our excursions include regular visits to local bushland for 'Natureplay' sessions.

### Child care fees

We are an approved long day care service provider which means that eligible families will have access to government assistance. There are certain requirements that must be satisfied to be eligible to receive child care assistance.

Families need to apply for these government payments through Centrelink. More information can be found at [www.familyassist.gov.au](http://www.familyassist.gov.au) **All families not claiming Child Care Assistance will be charged the full fee amount.**



## Primary School Overview

### Kindergarten (Year 0) to Year 5 co-educational

Emmaus Christian School Canberra utilises the Australian Curriculum, within a Christian worldview, promoting Christian values and learning from the Bible about God's created world. Our Primary School aims to work with parents to holistically equip children academically, socially and spiritually to enable them to engage with and navigate their world. We set high standards academically and socially, are not afraid to have fun, and provide a caring, supportive community.

### English

We use a phonics program as the core component of our Kindergarten to Year 2 English curriculum. This provides opportunities for practising these skills on an everyday basis until pupils achieve the automaticity required for fluent reading and spelling. It is a complicated process ... no wonder it takes hours of practice to perfect!

Understanding and rich comprehension of text also requires direct teaching and a great deal of time and practice. Teachers at Emmaus Primary School integrate reading comprehension skills across subject areas to ensure these skills are developed in the context of relevant subject material.

At Emmaus, we start the writing process from the beginning of Kindergarten, with work becoming progressively more complex as students develop their thinking and reasoning skills, as well as their proficiency with language and spelling. Learning to write includes learning to vary the formality of language for the intended audience as well as learning to vary structure and style with the purpose of the text.

### Mathematics

Over the course of their time at Emmaus, we work with students to develop their skills in problem solving, logic, and spatial awareness as well as a deep understanding of basic number concepts.

We use the Go Maths program through to Year 4. The program's strength is in helping students understand what they are doing before teaching written algorithms for solving problems. By Year 3, students are learning three digit addition and subtraction with regrouping of tens and ones. Year 3 is also a great year to aim for having times tables memorised, as Year 4 and 5 move on to more complicated multiplication and division.

### Science

Science should be fun! At Emmaus, we follow the sequence of the Australian Curriculum, using the Academy of Science's Primary Connections program. It allows us to offer students from Kindergarten to Year 6 a unit of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth Sciences each year, and helps students to see the connections between science and everyday life. The experiments that make science fun for kids are included from Kindergarten right through the primary years.

### How we Extend and Assist our students by enriching their learning

On top of classroom differentiation, we have a diversity of Music opportunities. Year 4 students engage with percussion and theory lessons. We have an instrumental music program in which all students in Years 5 and 6 participate, including group tutorials and a band. An extension band is also currently offered for students who excel at music.



Students in Year 5 are given opportunities to utilise the Secondary School food-technology room.

Every second year, students participate in a whole school Musical Performance. Students, from Year 3 up, audition for cast roles, and to sing with the choir.

Maths Olympiad and extension groups for English (which include over a two year cycle; Public Speaking, Debate and (supported) Independent research tasks) are offered to students who are identified as needing to be challenged.

Our Learning Assistance team works with parents and teachers to devise individual programs for students who require extra assistance.

## Community

On a weekly basis we have House, a whole of Primary School activity, with 3 teams (or 'Houses') that compete. We aim to build friendships and strengthen community across the Primary School. Our Carnivals and Fun Days are for Kindergarten to Year 10, with positive interactions between a range of age groups fostered. Students stay in the same houses from Kindergarten through to Year 10, and are in the same house as any siblings they have at the school.

Students are encouraged and enabled to be kind to each other and to resolve conflict. We use 'Brave Talk,' a program that assists students in verbalising what is frustrating them, apologising and moving on.

## Leadership

All the Year 5 students are expected to be leaders of the Primary School, and are provided with opportunities and training to enable them to show this leadership. They spend time assisting and caring for their Kindy Buddies, run a 'Trading Room;' where equipment is lent to primary students, mediate and problem solve for peers and assist at the front office.

From students seeking to fundraise for The Leukemia Foundation, to wanting to start an inclusive board-game club, we seek to empower and encourage students as they seek to make a difference.



## Secondary Overview

### Year 6 to Year 10 co-educational

Secondary education at Emmaus is offered from Year 6 to Year 10. Secondary is divided into two sub-schools including a Middle School (Years 6 – 8) and a Senior School (Years 9 - 10). Secondary School is an exciting time of change for students as they mature from childhood to young adulthood; our staff count it a privilege to travel this part of the journey with them.

Our curriculum is approved by the ACT Department of Education, follows the Australian Curriculum (formerly known as the National Curriculum). Our staff are committed to providing excellence in education and have constructed the curriculum to present an even-handed Christian worldview. Our aim is to have students prepared for the next phase of their academic and social experience in their College years.

***We are currently investigating the viability of Years 11 and 12 at Emmaus and will keep you posted on developments.***

Students are pushed academically to achieve their personal best in an environment of high academic standards and accountability. This is achieved while maintaining a positive and caring atmosphere throughout. Students recognise their responsibility to assessment work and are encouraged and challenged to produce detailed and thoroughly researched assignments. The students are taught to develop as independent learners but staff will not abandon the importance of direct teaching as a balance between didactic instruction and learning through research and experience is valued. The school desires to see students able to wrestle with some of life's perplexing issues, but also to be instructed on the way to move forward in their lives in a Christ centred environment.

As students move from Year 6 to Year 10, the school seeks to develop a greater awareness of the academic challenges confronting us all, while maintaining a solid Christian worldview. How does a Christian school deal equitably with the rise of other major religions without compromising the message of love and hope in Jesus? It is a challenge, but one that can't be swept under the carpet.

### Courses Offered

#### Core Subjects

English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography, PE/Health. Computer technology (ICT) is incorporated into the curriculum through the core subjects.

#### Elective Subjects available for Year 9 & 10

Sport Science, Music, Woodwork, ICT, Art, Agriculture, Drama, Food Science & Cooking, Japanese, Extension Maths, Extension English, Extension Science and Design & Technology.

#### BYO Device Program

Digital Technology at Emmaus is an integral part of our curriculum and we are committed to ensuring that our practices are current and relevant to the students' educational needs. As part of our Digital Technologies program, secondary students commencing at Emmaus will be required to bring a fully charged laptops to school with them daily for their use in the classroom.



