



**Emmaus
Christian
School**

Prospectus
2025

Growing Together in
Faith, Love & Wisdom



Welcome To Emmaus

Welcome to Emmaus Christian School. I trust the information you find in this Prospectus will be helpful for you.

I am delighted to begin my second year as Principal at Emmaus and I am thrilled to be working closely with the Board of School Executive as we progress towards 2030 with our characteristic love shining outward into the community.

Emmaus is a highly regarded, faithful Christian school, founded 28 years ago in the inner North of Canberra. It is a school characterised by a heart of welcome, a sense of belonging, and a history of devotion to the gospel of Jesus Christ which sits at the centre of our community's belief, engagement and learning. This gospel of hope and truth is encapsulated in the School Scripture from Colossians 1:15; verses that assert the pre-eminence of Christ and speak of love, humility, peace and reconciliation.

At Emmaus, we aspire to weave this gospel into the fabric of our school's learning and wellbeing programs, to form a cord of three strands which supports a generation of young people to know Jesus, to understand reality, and to grow together in faith, love and wisdom.

Christian education at Emmaus involves a positive partnership between the school and home, a partnership in which the school's ethos is valued and supported, communication is characterised by mutual respect, and community is built. We believe the children and young people of Emmaus are best positioned to flourish where such partnership is in place.

Our educational goal is to provide excellence in learning and teaching, acknowledging the significance of supporting student and staff wellbeing in this core purpose. A community truly thrives when its members are physically, emotionally and spiritually well. As such the school also provides excellent programs of Christian education, pastoral care and co-curricular opportunities.

As the school continues to grow, I look forward to engaging with the families already at the school as well as those yet to join us. It is a privilege to journey together.

Melanie Spencer - Principal

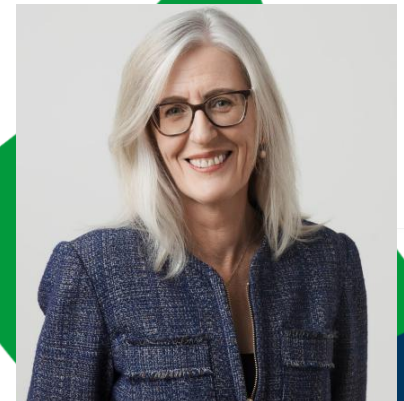
The Road to Emmaus

Two men were travelling along the road to Emmaus after the death of Jesus. They were so sad, they could have walked and talked for days and never overcome their disappointment.

'As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them.
(Luke 24.15)

As Jesus spoke, their hearts burned hearing Him teach the scriptures. The transformation was complete. The mourners had become teachers. They went on to share the good news with others.

Emmaus aims to share this same life changing news and relationship with Jesus, with their students.



Why choose Emmaus?

Emmaus exists to partner with parents, in providing a Christ-centred, Biblically-grounded and academically-rigorous education, which enables students to grow in wisdom and character, to the glory of God

Equipping for Service

At Emmaus, our motivation for service is the love that Christ has shown us: his life of servant leadership is the example we seek to follow.

Staff at Emmaus model integrity, accountability and the value of excellence in our work. We strive to equip students with both the desire and the skills to make a difference in the lives of others. We aim to grow students who are rich in Godly wisdom and noble character and find their security in the love of Christ.

Striving for Mastery

At Emmaus, we encourage students to strive for excellence in all aspects of life: in study, work, and in relationships with God and with people.

We believe God equips every person with gifts and abilities. We seek to instill in our students a strong desire to apply their utmost to what they do, an attribute that will long outlive their school years. Students are encouraged to master and apply academic and life skills in order to make the most of their opportunities in later life. Our goal is to equip students with the necessary skills and understanding to make wise and Godly choices, and to live resilient, fulfilled, and productive lives.

Caring for Others

At Emmaus, we value, care for and respect each other because we are all made in the image of God.

We partner with parents to care for and develop the whole person: body, soul and spirit. We foster a sense of belonging, celebrate one another's achievements and choose to be grateful for our school and each other. We are a community that learns in a fun, creative, encouraging and generous environment.



Enrolment at Emmaus

Preschool

Adopting a Reggio Emilia approach, Emmaus Preschool is a very special place offering 3 and 4 year-old children their first experience of engaging, enjoyable and exciting play-based learning. With a beautifully landscaped, hands on, natural environment, this provides them with a holistic preparation for school and a seamless transition to Kindergarten.

Primary School

Emmaus Primary school offers a focused introduction to formal learning through Junior Primary (Kindy to Year 2). The learning program is centred around a strong literacy & numeracy program, extending into Upper Primary (Years 3-5) providing students with the best possible start to their life of learning; academically, socially, and spiritually.

Secondary School

Secondary begins at Year 6 and with a broader subject offering. In Years 9-10 this continues to include a strong core subject base (Science Technology, English, Mathematics), elective streams and a varied vocational offering driven exploration. This is supported with a focus on matters pertaining to a Christian worldview and its implications on life in this world. Our new strategic plan includes exploring pathways for Emmaus students to access Years 11 & 12.



**Emmaus is a member of the
Association of Independent Schools ACT
and Christian Education national.**



Being Faithful to God's Call at Emmaus

- We are a supportive Christian community where parents and teachers partner to support the flourishing of children and young people.
- We address student concerns whether it be arguments and disputes, feelings of injustice or friendship issues, through dedicated pastoral care restorative practices.
- Our School develops a child's social skills using a Positive Education approach, The Friendly Friend and Seasons for Growth programs, and our Buddies program.
- Our Middle and Senior Schools focus on building confidence alongside excellence and success.
- Our leadership programs provide opportunities for servant-hearted student leadership.
- As a community we celebrate together and experience a strong sense of belonging in Chapel services, assemblies and celebrations.
- Our staff and Board members (who are parents) come from a variety of evangelical Christian convictions, which we honour and respect.
- We seek to recruit committed and qualified Christian classroom teachers and staff of the highest calibre who seek to know and teach children well.
- We provide a strong inclusive learning program with a high proportion of teaching assistants in our differentiate program of learning.
- NAPLAN and diagnostic tools interpreted to inform our programs, resulting in consistent student gains. Provide data in learning which is analysed.
- Our master planning and growth strategies are pinned on a steady-paced numerical growth.
- We are a Gospel-shaped and Biblically-informed education community.
- We recognise the distinction between a school and a church, and do not seek to be a church or a para-church.

**Walking Together in
Faith, Love & Wisdom**

The Emmaus Experience

The founding families and subsequent Boards sought to create an experience at Emmaus which values each member of our community - students, teachers, parents and carers. We seek to prioritise making Emmaus a home for every member of our community to belong. Being a part of the Emmaus family means we care for one another, serve one another and partner together, recognising that partnership fuels our community.

What this means for our students

It is our aspiration that Emmaus is a safe place where learning is enjoyable, where children are known by their teachers and cared for by the community. We desire that our students will learn to be resilient and confident, standing for truth, justice and compassion. We pray they will demonstrate servant leadership, Godly wisdom and discernment., consistent with Colossians 3:12-17.

What this means for our teachers

Emmaus is a school of choice for Christian teachers. We attract and retain some of the best teachers in Canberra. Our expectations from teachers are high. We ask them to grow the next generation to lean into the call of God on their lives. Our teachers lead by serving, and educate through a lens of faith. In return we provide time, support and training to help them not only maintain high standards, but to continue their professional learning.

What this means for parents and carers

Emmaus is a school where parents and carers partner with the School to educate, love and champion each child for who they are as image bearers of God. In return, we aim to support them through parenting workshops, continuous conversations, and opportunities to serve.







Our Story

Our context

Our school was founded by parents in 1997. Emmaus Christian School provides a unique, alternative educational experience for our students and their parents and carers. It is an offering grounded in Christian beliefs and values that we continue to live by.

Emmaus is a growing school. We have 660 students and two classes per year group. We continue to build on the momentum of the previous plan. At the same time, new challenges have emerged bringing with them new opportunities.

We can face the future confidently. We are an established school with a strong culture and a committed community.

Who we are and what we do

Emmaus is an inclusive school for everyone, where we work together with students and their parents and carers to:

- develop a lifelong passion for learning;
- help students progress their academic success; and
- create a culture of care, partnership and serving others.

We have some of the best teachers in Canberra who, together with parents and carers, develop students who live out their Christian values and become Australia's leaders for tomorrow.

A commitment to Christ-centred education

A commitment to delivering Christ-centred education permeates all aspects of our community. It informs our daily activities and practices and especially the design of our teaching curriculum. We are committed to ensuring our students, parents and carers have regular opportunities to hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We strive to equip our students with a biblical foundation upon which they can cultivate an active and rich thought life that engages with all manner of topics and issues through a biblically infused worldview. We believe that intentionally centring our learning and relationships on the truth of the Bible will equip students to interact effectively with the wider community.

Governance

Emmaus is a parent-led school with the proprietors being the company called Emmaus Christian School Canberra Limited. The Board of Emmaus Christian School Canberra Ltd is responsible for the governing of the school and they delegate the day to day management to the Principal of the school.

Current Board Members are:

- Rev Dr Daniel Anderson (Board Chair)
- Pinghan Chua (Deputy Chair)
- James Penton (Treasurer)
- Eddie Kulas
- Murray Woolnough
- Kristy Allen-Shirley
- Melanie Spencer - Principal (Ex-Officio)
- Anna Snow- Company Secretary

Board directors are elected by full members of the company.

Christian parents who subscribe to the school's Statement of Faith and can provide a pastoral reference from their church are eligible to apply for full company membership. All parents are by default associate (non-voting) members of the company.

The eight strategic commitments outlined in this strategic plan are ambitious, but they are not abstract. They are anchored in lived experience, in Biblical truth, and in the foundational pillars that have long underpinned Emmaus. By imagining the future through the eyes of our 2030 community members, grounded in our history and foundations, we have created something both practical and profoundly hopeful.

- Promoting Learning Through Service
- Partnering with Churches to Strengthen Local Communities
- Living our Faith Through Global and Indigenous Mission
- Exploring Future Pathways for Growth
- Strengthening Professional Development for Staff
- Resourcing the Vision Sustainably
- Securing a Site for Future Growth
- Launching an Alumni Strategy

We seek to develop each of these commitments through a Christ-Centred Approach, as depicted in the graphic below.



As we look ahead, we do so knowing that the strength of a three-stranded cord is not easily broken. May this plan draw us closer to Christ, to one another, and to the calling we share to let our love shine – boldly and beautifully – in the world.

Join our friendly Emmaus community.

We have designed a step-by-step process to make it easy for you to enrol at Emmaus. If you have any queries about the enrolment process, you are welcome to contact our friendly Enrolment Officer.

Contact Details

For all information regarding enrolments

enrolments@emmaus.act.edu.au

Enrolment Policy, Fee Policy & Enrolment Process link

<https://emmaus.act.edu.au>



Colossians 3:12-17

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Enrolments Process

Get to Know Us

- Join our next Principal's Tour
- Tour bookings can be made via our website
- Attend are annual Open Evening
- Request a digital information pack

Enrolment Application

- Applications can be made via our website www.emmaus.act.edu.au
- Acknowledgement will be made when applications have been processed
- This will register your child's name for the waiting list. Applying for the waiting list does not guarantee enrolment.
- Our main intake is 3 Year Old Preschool and Kindergarten. Other year levels will only have intake if places become available when students move or transfer.

Interview

- Families on the waiting list will be contacted at various stages for the interview phase. Invitation to interview does not equate to an enrolment offer.

Offer of Enrolment

- An Offer of Enrolment is made subject to the interview and places being available.
- Orientation takes place in November with commencement of enrolment in the new academic year.

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