

Building Positive Behaviour and Culture



Building Brighter Futures

Building Positive Behaviour

At Northern Christian School, we encourage and expect all students to display positive, productive, caring behaviour and to act in an orderly manner. This behaviour is expected regardless of context or surroundings. We believe that the quality of students' learning and time at school will be enhanced and enriched through continual promotion and maintenance of high standards of behaviour. Clear expectations are consistently communicated to students by staff. All students are reminded about the expectations for respecting and looking after our classrooms and school facilities. A poster is displayed in each classroom outlining these expectations and is regularly referred to by staff. We also desire that each child in our care feels safe and valued. The School seeks to show all students the love of God through kindness, forgiveness and acceptance. Students are also taught the consequences of uncaring, unsafe behaviour with the clear aim of restoring broken relationships and encouraging respectful behaviour.

We encourage and expect our students to take responsibility for their actions and to be aware of the needs of others. We also seek to draw focus from undesired behaviours and direct students towards our expected behaviour. Students are affirmed by staff when they show the expected positive behaviour and are caring and courteous to other students and staff. With our focus on building positive behaviours, we not only encourage and celebrate desired behaviours but also model and teach the behaviour that we expect. This can happen as a part of regular classroom routines, through our social and emotional curriculum, circle time or deliberate interventions. Supporting students to self-regulate and develop an understanding of their own emotions is also achieved using The Zones of Regulation. This is an internationally renowned curriculum that helps students to become more aware of and manage difficult emotions.

As part of our student welfare priorities, students are introduced to the concept of Restorative Justice, which is used to help resolve and restore relationships between students, their peers and staff when a breakdown of expected behaviour has occurred. Students also learn conflict resolution skills through the '5 Steps' strategy that supports students by giving them agency in avoiding conflict and responding appropriately to undesired behaviours. This includes an annual poster competition where students create information posters to explain the '5 Steps' to their peers.

Underlying Biblical Principles

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these”. *Mark 12:30-31*

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”.
Ephesians 4:32

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others”. *Philippians 2:3-4*

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”. *Isaiah 41:10*

School Values

The Values at Northern Christian School are:

- Respect – We expect and model respect.
- Kindness – We encourage and celebrate kindness.
- Resilience – We promote and nurture resilience.

Our School Values capture and underpin Christian School Tasmania’s Vision, Mission and Values very well and define our expected culture at Northern. These values frame the culture of Northern; they serve as a behavioural compass guiding how we act, what we say, the choices we make etc. Therefore, we want all of our students, parents, families, staff and the wider community to understand and be able to reflect our values in their interactions with each other. Our hope is that our students, families and staff will be able to articulate, understand, promote and celebrate values that will guide how they act, what they say and the choices they make.

We expect that all students work towards modelling these values at all times and as such our behaviour also needs to reflect these values.

Why?

As a Christian school, we believe that Christian education is not just about imparting a Christian methodology for understanding the world around us. It is also about demonstrating a Christian way of living within that world. Our School Values of Respect, Kindness, and Resilience stem from our Christian worldview shaped by the Bible, reflecting the teachings of Jesus. We believe each person is important, valuable and should be treated with respect because we are all made in God's image. We show respect by treating others well and putting their needs before ours. This is the same as the love God showed for us that we read about in the Bible. The Bible repeatedly tells us to love God and, therefore, to love others.

God is always kind, compassionate and slow to anger; therefore, He expects us to always show kindness, even to people we may struggle with at times. We know that Jesus showed his loving-kindness on the cross for us when we were so undeserving. His act of kindness to us should be both the motivation and the power for us to be kind to others. God does not call us to be selective or random in the kindness we show others. Instead, we need to be intentional and deliberate in our kindness - the same loving-kindness that God has poured on us so richly, in Jesus.

When we face challenges, resilience helps us stay strong, knowing that God is always with us. Resilience allows us to trust in God's plan, knowing He is with us through all circumstances. It helps us grow in faith and depend on His guidance. We can overcome setbacks, learn from our mistakes, and become stronger with resilience. By nurturing resilience, we help our students to face life with courage and hope.

Examples of Expected Behaviour

- We show respect and kindness in the way that we talk to others.
- We show respect and kindness in the way that we listen to others.
- We show respect and kindness in the way that we treat others.
- We show respect and kindness in the way that we treat ourselves.
- We show respect and kindness in the way that we look after our belongings, the classrooms and the school grounds.
- We show respect and kindness to others by helping create a safe school.
- We demonstrate resilience in the way that we interact with others.
- We demonstrate resilience in the way that we approach our work.
- We demonstrate resilience in the way that we respond to challenges.

At Northern, we want everyone to feel safe and valued. We know that we are all loved by God and want to reflect that in our behaviour and the way we treat others. We want everyone who comes to Northern to see our values being lived out each and every day.





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