



STATEMENT OF SPECIAL CHARACTER

1 CONTEXT

- 1.1 The Christian Education Trust founded Bethlehem College in 1988 for parents seeking an evangelical, non-denominational, Bible-based, Christ-centred education for their children. To this end, it has required all staff and the curriculum of the school, to honour the Statement of Belief as set out in its Trust Deed and annexed hereto.
- 1.2 The Christian Education Trust's goal is for quality Christian education from the "cradle to eternity". To date, therefore, the Christian Education Trust has developed an organisation incorporating early childhood centres, a combined primary and secondary school, an English language school and tertiary training to degree level in teaching and counselling.
- 1.3 The Christian Education Trust has established Bethlehem College Limited as Proprietor (as defined in the Private Schools' Conditional Integration Act) to oversee, audit and supervise the maintenance of the Special Character in the school for the age groups from Year 0 to Year 13.
- 1.4 All staff of other entities operated by the Christian Education Trust, are also required to support the Statement of Belief. The supervision of the special character of these entities is monitored by the General Manager of the Trust, on behalf of the Trust.

2 SPECIAL CHARACTER OF CAMPUS

- 2.1 The campus and facilities are shared co-operatively between the school and other entities operated by the Christian Education Trust to assist in the development of seamless Christian education. This includes providing Bethlehem Tertiary Institute the right of involvement in the early childhood centres and school to prepare Christian educators and counsellors and to actively and critically engage in research associated with Christian education and family life.

3 SPECIAL CHARACTER OF CURRICULUM – Bethlehem College

- 3.1 The curriculum, resources and teaching personnel are always to honour the Statement of Belief.
- 3.2 In honouring the Statement of Belief, the Christian worldview which the school presents helps each student to recognise that:
 - a. God is the author of all creation and that all creation is subordinate to the Will of God as expressed in the scriptures;
 - b. All truth finds its meaning and centre in God;
 - c. God gives purpose and hope to individuals, and to all creation by virtue of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ;

d. It is the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, communicated by the Holy Spirit and operating in the human individual that gives substance to intellectual, physical, spiritual, ethical, emotional, social, and aesthetic development of the student.

3.3 Students are encouraged to evaluate critically all experience and viewpoints in the light of such a Christian worldview.

3.4 The School outworks the Christian worldview through encouraging students to a personal Christian way of life, based on Biblical answers to contemporary challenges. Through the policies and practices of the School and its staff, Biblical attitudes such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are taught and modeled.

3.5 The Christian worldview requires a curriculum that includes opportunities to share the Christian faith, ideals and activities, locally, nationally, and internationally.

3.6 The school is a caring, learning community with an environment that is openly Christian. All fields of study and endeavour are permeated with a Biblical perspective. Although the Christian worldview is paramount, students also learn to understand and respect those of differing faiths and creeds as well as those of different abilities, races, and backgrounds.

3.7 The school believes that each child has been created in the image of God and as such is the object of God's redemptive work through Christ. This gives hope that students will be able to fulfill God's purpose and plan for their lives. The school desires to see students:

a. Aspire to excellence in every endeavour, and in particularly in their areas of giftedness.

b. Develop a commitment to :

- God – responding to the Holy Spirit.
- Others – seeking to serve their fellow man with Christ-like humility.
- Creation –acting as responsible stewards of their environment.

4 PROTECTION OF SPECIAL CHARACTER

4.1 The Proprietor reserves the right to determine from time to time the interpretation of "Special Character" and the safeguards necessary to establish, preserve and maintain it and to audit periodically the implementation of the Special Character within the school.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIAL CHARACTER

5.1 The Bethlehem College Board of Trustees, principals and staff are responsible for implementing the Special Character throughout the school. Because the Christian worldview encompasses and permeates all aspects of school life, it is expected that all staff and members of the Board of Trustees will demonstrate a commitment to the Statement of Belief and to the school's Special Character.

5.2 All Bethlehem College students and their families are expected to demonstrate a commitment to the School's Special Character.

5.3 All staff employed by other operating entities owned by the Christian Education Trust (including support staff), are required to demonstrate a commitment to the Special Character, and the Statement of Belief.