

**The following are the policies of Maranatha Christian School regarding admittance.**

### **A. Philosophy**

The primary reason for the existence of **Maranatha Christian School** ("MCS") is to provide a Christian education for children from Christian Families. By "Christian Families" MCS means those families who believe and are committed to the Scriptural principles which are enunciated in MCS' doctrinal statement. This is in harmony with the fact that the school views itself as an extension of the Christian home as it fulfils its Biblical responsibility for the educating of children. An unequivocal commitment from all families within the school to the Christian faith and principle of Christian education is therefore paramount to the ongoing success and harmony of the school.

### **B. Non-Discrimination Policy**

Admission is open to students of any race, colour, nationality and ethnic origin in that MCS does not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, nationality or ethnic origin in any area of the school programme.

The school welcomes applications from students of varied academic abilities. Applications from students with learning difficulties or special needs will not be unreasonably excluded. However, the trustees reserve the right to decline applications from students with behavioural, psychological or learning difficulties where the impacts of accepting such an application is deemed to have a detrimental impact on the broader school students populous, or where staffing levels are inadequate and/or suitably experienced staff are not in post to support the needs of such a student.

### **C. Admission Requirement**

Admission will be limited to:

- Families in which at least one parent/guardian satisfies the trustees of a clear personal Christian testimony in line with the Scriptural principles enunciated in the MCS Statement of Faith and is willing to sign MCS Statement of Faith; and
- where both parents\*/guardians are willing to sign the Parental Commitment Form; and
- where both parents\*/guardians are unequivocally supportive and fully committed to the principles of Christian education for their children; and
- where students above the age of 12 are willing to sign the Student Commitment Form.

\*Single parent families are encouraged to seek wider family/church support where possible.

All parents will be interviewed as outlined in this policy and students must take routine diagnostic testing prior to admission.

### **D. Application for Enrolment**

An application for enrolment is considered properly submitted when the application forms provided by MCS are completed and returned, together with the appropriate non-refundable application fee. No child will be assigned a position on enrolment lists until the application is complete.

### **E. Parent/Student Interviews**

An interview of the applicant's parents/guardians and the applicant (above the age of 11) will be conducted by a team consisting of at least one teacher and one Trustee.

The purpose of the interview(s) is to:

- establish that at least one parent/guardian believes and is committed to the Scriptural principles which are enunciated in MCS' Statement of Faith;
- confirm the parents/guardians genuine desire for a Christian education for their child;
- ensure the parents'/guardians' have a clear understanding of Christian education and that their expectations of MCS are compatible with what MCS can actually provide;
- ensure the family beliefs and practices are consistent with the standards and values of MCS;
- ascertain if the child (if above the age of 11) expresses a desire to attend MCS and agrees to live in harmony with school standards;
- review academic records and/or transcripts of previous school work, health records, and references and ensure these are acceptable under the standards set by MCS;
- discuss at length the school, church and family history of the applicant, including a review of any behavioural, social and character problems;
- gain a clear understanding of the child's spiritual position;
- ensure the family has a clear understanding of the A.C.E programme
- discuss the parental commitment form in detail, sign or arrange for it to be returned signed at a later date.
- answer questions that parents/students may have.

### **F. Entrance Testing**

All students seeking admission to MCS will undertake diagnostic tests before enrolment can be granted.

### **H. Admission Decisions**

**Standard Admission** - is offered by MCS to those students who meet all requirements for enrolment at MCS.

**Conditional Admission** - is set by MCS administration due to extenuating circumstances brought about by the student's academic or behavioural profile. A probationary period, which could vary in length from one term to the entire academic year, would be used to ensure all conditions are met. The student's progress would be monitored throughout the probationary period; with full evaluation being made at the end of the agreed period, to reach the final decision whether to allow the placement to continue permanently.

### **I. School Age**

MCS accepts applications from students at 3 to 14. Students above the ages of 14 will be granted admission if being transferred from another school using the ACE programme or where there are extenuating circumstances that support the application.

### **J. School Fees Payment & Bursary Support**

School fees must be paid a term in advance or via a monthly direct debit over 10 months, commencing each September and to be paid before 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. A bursary may be granted in support of an application, although parents/guardians would be required to demonstrate that they have sought support from family, church and other appropriate sources before applying to the bursary fund.

MCS desires to make the school accessible to all who meet the Admission requirements.