



Admissions Policy - Maranatha Christian School

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V1.0	Feb 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	OK	
V2.0	Jun 17	Jun 17	Jun 17	OK	Jun 18
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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 recognise that no school can support the needs of all children and therefore reserve the right to decline applications from students with behavioural, psychological or learning difficulties where the impact of accepting such an application is deemed to have a detrimental impact on the broader school student's populace, or where staffing levels are inadequate and/or suitably experienced staff are not in post to support the needs of such a student.

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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 (over 7 years of age and below 14) must take routine diagnostic testing at the point of 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 in the first instance by the Headteacher, who then has the option of deciding to call a Trustee interview for further consideration of the application. 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 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;

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- discuss the Parental Commitment form in detail, and sign or arrange for it to be returned signed at a later date;
- answer questions that parents/students may have.
- Determine as clearly as possible whether the child has any additional needs. (Additional needs in this instance would be defined as needs that come to light or are already known which would require additional resources in order to sensibly meet the needs of the child and provide them with a suitable education. Should it be determined that a child has additional needs, the school would put in place a process that would allow the school the opportunity to withdraw the right for the child to attend, should those needs be such that it is unreasonable for the school to be the right environment for the child to thrive in educationally. An agreement would be put in place between the parents and the school to agree a timetable to observe the impact of the school on the child's learning and the school view of whether it has suitable facilities and resources to best meet that child's needs. In all this, the needs of both the child and the other children in the classroom would need to be considered. If it is the school's opinion that additional resources would help meet the child's needs and enable them to remain, an agreement would be looked at with a view to the parents covering the additional costs. This would be a written agreement between the school and the parents.

F. Entrance Testing

All students seeking admission to MCS between the ages of 7 and 13 will undertake diagnostic tests during the enrolment process.

G. 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.

H. School Age

MCS accepts applications from students at 3 to 14. Students above the age of 14 will be considered on an individual basis and will only be granted approval provided they have a clear testimony of the Christian Faith and exhibit the character traits expected of a follower of Jesus. (These conditions are



set out to preserve the moral values of the school and to recognise the impact older students have on younger children)

I. School Fees Payment & Bursary Support

25% of the annual fees are payable in advance and remain in place as a deposit through the student's time at MCS; Provided the agreed terms notice of the student's leaving date has been given by the parents, the deposit is returned when the students final school bill has been paid.

School fees must be paid a term in advance or via a monthly direct debit over 10 or 12 months, commencing each September and to be paid before 10th 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 Admissions requirements.