



## Statement of Faith

### Introduction

Casino Christian School is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in NSW (PCANSW). The PCANSW has as its Supreme Standard, the Word of God as found in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. The PCANSW has a subordinate standard which is the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF), read in the light of the Declaratory Statement of 1901, which provides a more detailed sense of our understanding of the truths of God's Word, and may be referenced as a more detailed Statement of Faith than the summary statement below. At all times, our school holds itself accountable to the doctrinal standards of the PCANSW.

### Statement of Faith (Summary)

#### The Bible (Ref Ch.1 WCF)

The Bible is the inspired, inerrant and living Word of God. Therefore, we see the Bible as completely relevant and having the final authority on all aspects of our lives (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19, 1 Thessalonians 2:13).

#### God (Ref Ch.2 WCF)

We believe there is only one living and true God who is eternal and boundless in His being and perfection. Within the unity of the Godhead there are three persons; equal in power and authority; being God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. God is omnipotent (all powerful), omnipresent (all present everywhere) and omniscient (all knowing). There is no other God besides Him (John 1:1-14, 18, 14:16-18, Hebrews 1:1-14, Matthew 3:16-17).

#### Creation (Ref Ch.4, 24 WCF)

We believe that God created the heavens, the earth and all that is contained in the Universe and that God continues to rule and sustain His creation. We believe that God created humankind as male and female in his image and likeness to live in a right relationship with Himself for His glory and praise. We believe children are a precious gift from God and thus it is a parent's responsibility and privilege to teach and instruct their children, raising them in the love and knowledge of the Lord. God has ascribed dignity, sanctity and worth to all human life from conception until death and requires all human life to be accorded respect and to be protected from harm (Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:13-16, Exodus 20:13).

### **Sin** (Ref Ch.6, 33 WCF)

Humankind, originally created for a relationship with God, has turned away from God and thus become sinful by nature and practice, unable by any personal merit or effort to restore that relationship. Sin has corrupted human identity and purpose, impacted sexuality, family and social

relationships and has separated humanity from fellowship with God. We believe that anyone who dies without having put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour will face God's wrath and judgement and be eternally condemned.

We also believe that God in his grace and love has provided his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as an atonement for sin to rescue those who put their trust in Jesus from His wrath and judgment. (Romans 3:10-12, John 3:16)

### **Salvation** (Ref Chapters. 8,11,12,13,14, 15 & 18 WCF)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, as a perfect once for all time sacrifice, was buried and on the third day rose from the dead: We believe:

- in the literal bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead
- that after His resurrection Jesus appeared physically to hundreds of people
- that those who touched Him knew His physical presence
- that Jesus ascended to physically His Father in heaven where He rules by His Father's right hand
- At God's perfect timing, Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead.

We believe that salvation (the forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life in God's kingdom) is found only through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and without Him there is no reconciliation or peace with God. In Acts 4:12 (referring to Jesus) we read "***Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given to mankind by which we must be saved***". Salvation is a gift of grace; it cannot be earned by good works or by any efforts of our own. (John 3:16, Romans 3:19-24, Acts 10:34-43, Ephesians 2:8-10)

### **Church** (Ref WCF Ch.25)

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ has established a holy and universal church, which is His body, of which He is the head, and to which all true believers belong. This universal Church is visibly expressed in local churches in which all believers should participate. The Church is the company of all believers who have received new life through faith in Jesus Christ. We also believe that the Church is commissioned to make disciples of all nations. (Ephesians 3: 4-10, Matthew 28: 19-20).

An online version of the WCF is available at:

<https://www.presbyterian.org.au/images/downloads/wcf/WCF-AustVersion-2019.pdf>

If you have further enquiries, please speak to the Principal.