



WHAT IS AN ASSOCIATION?

"it takes a community to raise a child"

You may be surprised to discover your school is owned by an association of parents. Other schools are usually owned by a church, denomination, corporation, or the government. Your association plays a vital role in honouring the role of parents, and upholding your school's vision for Christ-centred education.

Christian Education National schools share a common vision. Rather than treating parents as passive consumers of educational services they are encouraged to be active partners in the education of their children. Joining your school's association is both an opportunity, and a responsibility. You are invited to partner with your school in a unique way.

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Twelve years ago I chose to begin a deeper journey with my children's school. I am so glad I did. By joining my school association I found myself surrounded by an incredible community passionate about Christian education and the discipling of students. It's true that it takes a community to raise a child. In joining the association I felt blessed to be uniting with a committed, encouraging, and prayerful community.

My knowledge and understanding of Christian education grew rapidly. Over the years I have built strong relationships with staff and other parents. I reflect on my own childhood experience where parents were encouraged to drop their kids at the school gates and simply go home. In contrast I feel incredibly fortunate, welcomed and in fact encouraged, to be able to share my children's educational journey.

Anne Blair-Hickman, Editor

Encouragement and Support –

As a member you are a partner within the school community.

Members offer encouragement and support throughout the school including the teachers, principal, board, students, parents, and the wider association.

“A membership which is both personally committed and faithful in trusting God for His blessing will achieve great things.”

Commitment – This sense of ownership leads to deeper commitment. This is seen as commitment to the broad principle of Christian education, and to your school in particular.

Ownership – Membership helps you transition from being a consumer of the education your school offers, to becoming a partner and part owner of your school.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Willingness to Learn – Christian education needs to be understood and explored. Members should be willing to learn more about this type of education and to understand and encourage its application.

Prayer – A Christian school is a ministry. Members are encouraged to be committed to praying for school families, staff, activities, and impact on the wider community.

FAQs

How much time will I have to commit to?

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the life of a school through helping in the classroom, working bees, community development, camps, and excursions. Each of us can bring our skills, experience, and practical help to enrich our children's education. Joining the association is different. Doing so would require you to attend the Annual General Meeting, plus possibly some other evening meetings. Most of all it is about declaring your partnership with your school's vision.

Who can join the association?

Associations reflect their school history and culture. Some associations are open to all current families. Others are open to past and present parents, or even grandparents and interested members of the broader Christian community. To ensure schools remain true to their vision and mission, full association membership, which includes voting rights, is limited to practising Christians.

Who do I approach about joining?

Each school can have a different process. Ask at the school office or talk to your principal about how to join.