



Chairo Christian School

Education • Partnership • Community





Providing

EXCELLENCE *in*

CHRIST-CENTRED

EDUCATION *in*

PARTNERSHIP

WITH FAMILIES

within a

CARING CHRISTIAN

COMMUNITY

The Chairo Story

Since 1983, many families have embraced Chairo's approach to education, partnership and community.

It all started with nineteen students at Drouin East. Another site closer to Drouin was added in 1995 and a third campus commenced three years later near Pakenham. South Coast Christian College at Leongatha became our fourth campus in 2014 and the Traralgon campus of Flinders Christian Community College became Chairo Traralgon in 2018.

Chairo is not simply a Christian school in name or because of our heritage. We strive at all times to be a community that honours God and seeks to make Him known in all areas of teaching, learning, experience and endeavour—in fact, in all areas of life!

Our motto, *Learning with God*, is incorporated into the school logo. The graphic that the words surround depicts children holding hands, with the Bible and cross at the centre.

Chairo's mission is *to provide excellence in Christ-centred education in partnership with families within a caring Christian community*. You will see that this prospectus is built around the three key aspects of this mission—education, partnership and community.

Our focus at Chairo is clear: the transformation of students so that their capability, commitment and character may reflect Jesus.

Transformation of each student's heart, mind, spirit and life is the work of the Holy Spirit, and we are committed to working in partnership with families to shape the opportunities, experiences and relationships that each student will encounter through their years in the Chairo school community.

We trust that this booklet will help readers understand why Chairo exists and what we value most highly.

There were many good reasons to choose Chairo for the education of our children. However, our very first priority was to find a school that recognised the importance of helping parents in the task of teaching God's Word and His ways, and that aimed to train young people to think about the world around them in the same way that God does.

LOUISE HOOD, PARENT

Christian Worldview

The terms *Christ-centred education* and *Christian education* are both used to describe the education provided at Chairo. It is an education delivered by teachers who are expected to

Attending Chairo enabled me to develop and refine my worldview with strong Christian role models and within a curriculum framework based on Christian values. In these formative years, I think it's vital that students are taught that faith is not a separate part of life, but is intertwined with all aspects of life. To achieve that, you need a school where the teachers and curriculum, and the very values of the school itself, are reflective of the Christian faith.

**DR TRISTAN BOONSTRA,
CLASS OF 2003**

demonstrate a Christian worldview in all matters, and who are therefore able to assist students as they develop a worldview of their own. At Chairo, we believe that:

- *No form of education is neutral as it will always be providing a particular lens through which students see the world and their place in it.*
- *Christian education invites young people to see and understand the world through the perspective of God's truth. The Bible becomes the lens through which students view what they are learning.*
- *Christian education is not just about a Christian way of understanding. It is also about a Christian way of living.*

Education at Chairo is delivered via a broad range of subjects and experiences for boys and girls from Kindergarten through to Year 12. Although the Bible is central, we certainly do not ignore human discovery, current scientific understanding or society's

'hot' topics. In fact, we seek to embrace all areas of life by equipping our students to be biblically informed, academically rigorous and critically discerning.



Christ-Centred



ed Education

*Do not be conformed to
this world, but continuously
be transformed by the
renewing of your minds ...*

ROMANS 12:2 ISV



Curriculum

While the Australian Curriculum sets the expectations for what students should be taught, it deliberately does not specify how the content must be delivered. Chairo is therefore responsible for organising rigorous, relevant and engaging learning to address the individual learning needs and interests of our students.

We believe that it is important to encourage students to examine the impact in all areas of life of: God's creative work; mankind's broken relationship with God; the redeeming love of God demonstrated through Jesus Christ; and God's great plan of restoration and new life. As teachers develop curriculum and lessons, they consider how these major themes of the Bible—creation, fall, redemption and restoration—have an effect on the subject or topic being studied.

Lifelong Learners

At Chairo, we seek to develop life-long learners—people who *want* to learn and who know *how* to learn ... young adults who will transition successfully to the next stage of life, whether that is voluntary work, employment, apprenticeships, vocational education or university.

We highly value resilience, dedication and perseverance. We highly value right motives, positive attitudes and healthy ambitions. We highly value faith in Jesus Christ, service to God and commitment to family.

Our vision is to see Christ's redemptive impact in the world through the capability, character and commitment of our students.



Working Together

We are passionate at Chairo about partnering with families and working closely together to ensure that the teaching and learning provided is as effective as possible. The premise on which Chairo

I will always treasure the partnership that we experienced between home, church and school, which still continues today for our children and their children. The positive Christian input from the school into the lives of our children cannot be overstated. The values and Christian principles taught at Chairo are very important and they reinforced what we believed and tried to live at home.

ROSS BREADEN,

PARENT & GRANDPARENT

was founded is that God requires parents to be responsible for raising their children, but that today's busy and complex world means that most parents need help from like-minded people with particular training and skills.

How much time parents can give to helping out during the school day will vary from family to family. However, first and foremost, an effective partnership between school and home is built on a myriad of unseen actions, examples, attitudes, conversations and decisions.

Sometimes the partnership is more visible and can be seen at parent/teacher interviews, coffee and dessert nights, family picnics, musical productions, meetings and information evenings, prayer groups and morning teas ... as well as within the classroom, and during camps, excursions and other special events.

There is considerable agreement that parental involvement in education has a positive influence on learning. By

working closely together, teachers and parents can help develop positive attitudes to learning and ensure that students achieve to their full potential. Partnership between school and home, and good two-way communication, provides support and encouragement to students and sends a message that education is important.



Partnership



With Families



*Teach me your ways, Lord,
that I may walk in your truth ...*

PSALM 86:11 ISV



Governed by Parents

Many schools are run by the government, or by particular churches or denominations. However, Chairo is governed by a Board whose members are Chairo parents, with the Executive Principal, Principals, Business Manager and other staff members being responsible for day-to-day operations.

Chairo is a non-denominational school that was started by a small group of parents from a range of different Christian churches. These pioneering parents wanted to influence the direction and content of their children's education, and knew they needed the help of professional Christian educators. Their passion and vision for Christian education continues to impact every aspect of school life at Chairo.

Access for Families

Chairo is a low-fee independent school, with discounts for multiple children and bursaries available for eligible families. We aim to make Christian education as accessible as possible for all families who seek it and are keen to partner with us.

Many families are also able to testify that a Chairo education is worth their effort and sacrifice—whatever that means for them—because of the many benefits. For some, it means not sending their children to the closest school or to school with the neighbour's children, and perhaps using our bus services from outlying areas. In some cases, families have even relocated so they can enrol their children at Chairo.





To experience my most impressionable years in a loving Christian environment at Chairo provided me with a strong foundation for the rest of my life.

**SHEREE BREADEN,
CLASS OF 2001**

What I appreciate most of all from my time at Chairo is the brilliant teachers who instilled in me knowledge, faith and character, and whom I still have great relationships with.

**GAVIN BROWN,
CLASS OF 2006**

Chairo set me up really well for my future. The teachers cared about the students as individuals and taught us to be independent learners.

**KIRSTEN BRYANT,
CLASS OF 2009**

My education at Chairo played an essential role in how I treat others. I learnt how to honour and respect those in authority, and how to accept and value others.

**HANNAH CLEAL,
CLASS OF 2012**

Through a combination of quality teaching and extra-curricular opportunities, Chairo moulded me into a confident individual ready for life after school.

**LAURA SCOLLER,
CLASS OF 2014**

Chairo provided a great environment for me to learn and grow, with supportive teachers and great friends to live life with. Christian education is a great blessing to many people.

**SAMUEL WENTWORTH,
CLASS OF 2016**

Community Matters

We believe that education is delivered most effectively in the context of a caring Christian environment where community matters and relationships are nurtured: where there is a unified

The greatest benefit of our kids attending Chairo has been that what we've taught at home has also been instilled into their lives at school. Chairo provides a caring environment, where our kids are loved and nurtured by teachers who share our values and faith perspectives. It's a complete approach to education, catering for academic, spiritual and emotional needs. We're so thankful to Chairo for partnering with us to help contribute to the development of our children.

BRONWYN RODGERS, PARENT

community of love and learning between parents, children and teachers. As we come together in partnership at Chairo, we join with other families to become a close-knit community.

We support and respect one another as we learn and develop. We celebrate our successes, share in each other's joys, and encourage one another in all our efforts. Likewise, during tough times, we care for one another and build each other up. We notice when someone is hurting and make an effort to help. We uphold each other in prayer and show genuine care.

This partnership extends the act of simply supplying education to being a community where care, support and encouragement are demonstrated to students, staff members and parents. We work hard to ensure that we reflect a community that is pleasing to God and reflects the love of Christ.

There are many benefits of being part of a caring Christian community like Chairo—from the pastoral care of students by staff members to student-to-student mentoring, and from families helping each other out in practical ways to the weekly parent prayer groups that operate at each campus.



Caring Christ



Christian Community



*... clothe yourselves with
compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness and
patience. Be tolerant
with one another and
forgive one another ...*

COLOSSIANS 3:12–13 GNB



Student Wellbeing

All Chairo teachers provide pastoral care for students. The system of class, core or homeroom teachers presenting short devotions, and opening each day in prayer, helps develop teacher/student relationships that assist with the provision of such care.

However, assisting and supporting young people through the issues they face can often be complex and time-consuming. We are blessed to have experienced, wise and compassionate welfare chaplains who spend time with students and refer them to specialists when necessary. The welfare chaplains are ever-ready to listen to students and provide practical advice and encouragement. In addition, students have access to in-house and external counselling services.

Student Support

We aim to deliver educational programs that cater for individual differences and needs, whether that involves providing additional learning support or opportunities for academic extension. We are also committed to providing a curriculum for students that is relevant, functional, and age and skill appropriate. Academic objectives are tailored to individual student abilities, thus providing meaningful development programs.

In addition to having teachers at Chairo who are trained to differentiate for individual students within the classroom, we also have a dedicated team of support staff who work closely with specific students, becoming significant adults in their lives and making a real difference in their learning, development and confidence.



Educating the Whole Child

At Chairo, we take academics seriously and continually strive to give our best to God and deliver excellence in Christ-centred education. Our NAPLAN and ATAR scores, together with student

Chairo has a real focus on preparing all students for future careers, service and ministry, and provides opportunities to develop and pursue personal skills and passions through a caring and nurturing environment. Being surrounded by caring Christian staff members created a highly supportive and encouraging environment where I felt genuinely cared for. I am so thankful for having a Christian education where people are free to help and challenge each other to grow in their faith.

JOSH BATTERSBY, CLASS OF 2014

performances in a range of state and national competitions, demonstrate that Chairo students consistently achieve at a high standard.

Our graduating Year 12 students record excellent academic results and have great success obtaining entry into their preferred tertiary courses. Approximately one quarter of our VCE students achieve an ATAR of at least 80, with about 10% scoring 90 or more.

We also seek to educate the whole child and to provide a rounded educational experience that recognises individual differences and learning styles, and that helps all students achieve to the best of their God-given ability. It is pleasing to see Chairo graduates successfully undertaking training and further study, including in courses that require high ATAR entry, and following a wide range of career paths.

For all students, an education at Chairo should mean having an understanding of the world and their place in it, being engaged in the

educational process, being equipped with knowledge and skills, and being empowered to contribute positively to society.



Excellence



*Train a child in the way he should go, and
when he is old he will not turn from it.*

PROVERBS 22:6 NIV84



Student Opportunities

Our curriculum is designed to promote the academic, spiritual and social development of students, and to prepare them for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

Chairo provides a wide range of curricular and co-curricular experiences, including the areas of performing arts, community service, agriculture, animal husbandry, team and individual sports, leadership development and academic extension.

All student experiences are designed to extend learning and equip for service, and to enable the discovery and development of God-given passions and gifts.

Passionate Teachers

Teachers at Chairo are passionate about what they do, which they see as a calling or ministry as well as being an important and worthwhile professional career. They are committed to teaching to the best of their ability, and to giving their students every opportunity to achieve excellent results.

Chairo is committed to developing students who are lifelong learners, and we are excited to see our teachers doing likewise. Teachers are encouraged to extend their skills by accessing opportunities for professional development and further study.

Many teachers undertake study units through the National Institute for Christian Education, where they reflect on their teaching practice and build their capacity to teach from a Christian worldview perspective.



Enrolling at Chairo

If you like what you have seen and heard about Chairo so far, but have not yet visited one of our campuses, we encourage you to book a personal tour for your family. You will be able to see classes in action, talk with some teachers, explore the grounds and facilities, and ask lots of questions.

A tour and subsequent discussions will also help ensure that we understand each other's expectations, beliefs and priorities. Children are welcome on tours—in fact, please make sure you bring them along!

You can book a family tour online at chairo.vic.edu.au or by phoning any of our campuses directly. A member of our friendly enrolments team will also be happy to explain the enrolment process, which involves an online application and interview.

Drouin East

Kinder – Year 4

435 Lardners Track

03 5625 4600

Drouin

Years 5–12

76 Balfour Road

03 5625 4600

Leongatha

Kinder – Year 10

101 Horn Street

03 5662 4355

Pakenham

Kinder – Year 12

585 Bald Hill Road

03 5942 5632

Traralgon

Kinder – Year 8

2 Lansdowne Road

03 5173 0500

Postal Address

PO Box 93, Drouin,

Victoria 3818

We love the caring environment at Chairo. The school addresses the individual needs of each child, and affirms and encourages their spiritual growth. The emphasis on Christ-centred worldview in each subject has helped our children integrate their faith into their educational experience, which has given them a great foundation for the whole of their lives. Chairo has been a great blessing to our entire family.

GRAHAM AND SUE TOOILL, PARENTS

Chairo's programs and teaching are consistent with the principles of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- elected government; and
 - the rule of law; and
 - equal rights for all before the law; and
 - freedom of religion; and
 - freedom of speech and association; and
 - the values of openness and tolerance.
- 



Drouin / Drouin East
Kinder – Year 12



Leongatha
Kinder – Year 10



Pakenham
Kinder – Year 12



Traralgon
Kinder – Year 8

www.chairo.vic.edu.au

