

# Parent Handbook | 2025



**Snowy Mountains  
Christian School**

*Educating children... for the journey of life*

**Snowy Mountains Christian School**

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## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Snowy Mountains Christian School.

On behalf of the school, I would like to say how thrilled we are that you and your child(ren) are a part of our school family.

This booklet is intended to help all families settle into the school and to be a reference for day to day matters.

Our curriculum is Christ-focused, taught by Christian teachers and supported by Christian staff. We believe it is vital for parents and carers to encourage and foster their children's spiritual understanding and development and, as a school, we will do all we can to assist you in this important task, through the educational program.

SMCS is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all its students, staff and families... and we are privileged to partner with you, the parents and carers, in the education of your child(ren). As such, you are an integral part of SMCS and we **welcome** your:

- involvement in aspects of school life as opportunity invites;
- service through volunteer help;
- attendance at various functions and activities;
- thoughts, concerns, and encouragement of any aspect of the school.

I look forward to sharing the journey this year with you.

Yours in Christian education,

**Ella Meyer**  
**Principal**

## About Our School

### Core Vision

To provide the opportunity of a Christian education to all families on the Snowy-Monaro.

### Core Purpose

Snowy Mountains Christian School exists to prepare children for life by training them, in partnership with their parents, to grow in character, skills and knowledge; realising their full potential in Christ to serve, as they understand more of God's truth in an atmosphere of God's love and mutual respect.

### Core Values

Each Core Value springs out of a Christ centred worldview where every thought, word and action is consistent with the person of Jesus Christ.



### School Affiliation & Registration

Snowy Mountains Christian School is a member of Christian Schools Australia (CSA), a non-profit company which assists the development of Christian Schools in Australia and throughout the world.

Each member school of CSA is committed to giving their students Christ-focused and individualised teaching, through biblically based curriculum that is related to their cultural heritage and environment, meeting strict government requirements.

The school is registered and accredited by the NSW Education Standards Authority.

### Management Structure

The school is managed by a School Board. The Principal is responsible to the Board for the day to day running of the school.

In practice, the Board facilitates a partnership between Cooma Baptist Church, our school families, the staff and Christian Schools Australia Ltd. Their direct contribution to the school is recognised as an essential part of its life and vitality.

## **Statement of Faith**

### **1. About God**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. (Genesis 1:26-27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

### **2. About Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again some day to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13).

### **3. About the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily. (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18).

### **4. About the Bible**

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any error. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160; 12:6; Proverbs 30:5).

### **5. About Human Beings**

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience towards God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1)

### **6. About Salvation**

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of

forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn away from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into their life by faith. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1).

### **7. About Eternal Security**

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security. (John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10,14; 1 Peter 3-5).

### **8. About Eternity**

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in unison with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. (John 3:16; 1 John 2:25, 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; Matthew 18:8, 25:41,46).

### **School Prayer**

Almighty God, Our Father in Heaven.

May your name be always honoured in our school.

We thank you for Jesus our Saviour,

Our nation, families and friends.

May your word guide and teach us how to live.

May our lives bring glory and honour to you.

May we develop and cherish our talents and gifts and use them in your service.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ

our Lord and Saviour. AMEN



## **About Our School**

### **Enrolment**

Snowy Mountains Christian School welcomes you and is currently offering places from Kindergarten to Year 10 for 2025 and all future years.

Following the completion of an Enrolment Application Form and the payment of the appropriate, non-refundable application fee, prospective or returning parents and students will be required to attend an interview with the Principal.

After the family interview, parents will be notified in writing of the outcome of the application. Once a place has been offered, parents are required to secure their child's enrolment by signing an Acceptance of Enrolment form and submitting all relevant documentation.

### **Kindergarten**

At SMCS, it is our desire to ensure your child has a smooth transition to school. School readiness is important in your child's success. We feel this is best when a child is at an age when they are emotionally and socially ready for school. We recommend children start Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn 5 on or before 30 April of that year.

Your child is encouraged to attend our Kindy Start Program, held in November each year, where you may wish to discuss your child's readiness for school with our Kindergarten teachers.

### **2025 Term Dates**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Length</b>
<b>Term 1</b>	Monday 3 February - Friday 11 April	10 weeks
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 28 April - Friday 4 July	10 weeks
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 28 July - Friday 26 September	9 weeks
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 13 October - Wednesday 10 December	9 weeks

### **Whole School Devotional Assembly**

Each Monday morning at **8.45am**, the whole school meets to hear announcements and to start the week. Parents are most welcome.

K-6 Assemblies will be held throughout the term. Please see the school newsletter for confirmation of day and time, and when your child's class is presenting at the assembly. Parents are invited to attend to see class items and the presentation of special awards. Sometimes special speakers are invited to bring an inspirational talk to the children.

Whole school (K-10) assemblies are also held from time to time. Parents will be notified of these through the school newsletter. Parents are invited to attend.

*The following items regarding Snowy Mountains Christian School are in alphabetical order:*

### **Absences**

***Notes must be supplied within one week of a student's absence.***

It is a legal requirement for every absence to be covered by a note that is signed by a parent. This note must include the child's name and class, the date(s) of the absence, and a valid reason. Telephone messages are helpful, but they must always be followed up by a note or email. If a student is to be absent on leave (i.e. not due to illness), parents/carers are responsible for providing a note to the class teacher for this absence.

For extended absences of leave, an application for leave will need to be sought from the Principal. It is preferable for the school to set the student work to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by such leave. Please speak with the class teacher about any work that could be set.

### **Accidents**

In case of sudden illness/accident the school will endeavour to contact parents or carers at home or at work. In serious cases, if neither parent or carer or emergency contact can be contacted, children will be taken to receive appropriate medical help.

### **Arriving Late or Leaving Early**

All students who arrive late to school must report to the school office where they sign the REGISTER before continuing to class. Secondary students may sign themselves in, Primary students need a parent/carer to sign them in. This register allows us to keep a proper record of all the students on site in case of an emergency

Similarly, all students who need to leave school before the end of the day must also sign the REGISTER at the school office. Students will only be permitted to leave if they are accompanied by a parent and have a signed note explaining the circumstances.

Students are required to stay on site or with the school at all times during school hours or activities.

### **Banned Items**

Items that are banned from SMCS fall into one of two categories:

- \* Those that are potentially harmful and/or illegal.
- \* Those that could cause distractions or disruptions.

Some items that are banned and result in an official warning and confiscation include: knives, fireworks, firearms/sharp implements, weapons or replicas of weapons, offensive material, cigarettes, drugs, e-cigarettes (vapes) or alcohol. Items which result in confiscation are: laser pointers, trading cards or toys to trade, chewing gum or bubble gum, permanent markers, spray cans (including spray deodorants & hairspray).

By LAW, students are not permitted to bring knives of any sort. Please DO NOT send your child to school with a knife to cut their food during the day. Any food such as fruit that requires cutting should be cut at home and wrapped appropriately.

In general, it is often unwise for students to bring personal items to school, particularly if those items are valuable. Please note that *the school cannot accept any responsibility to care for such items* if or when a student brings them to school.

### Bell Times

<b>8.45am</b>	Primary – Monday only with assembly Secondary start of day
<b>9.00am</b>	Period 1 (Whole School)
<b>9.45am</b>	Period 2
<b>10.30am</b>	Period 3
<b>11.05am</b>	Primary eat Recess
<b>11.15am</b>	Recess
<b>11.35am</b>	Period 4
<b>12.20pm</b>	Period 5
<b>1.05pm</b>	Lunch 1 <sup>st</sup> half
<b>1.25pm</b>	Lunch 2 <sup>nd</sup> half
<b>1.45pm</b>	Period 6
<b>2.30pm</b>	Period 7
<b>3.00pm</b>	Primary end of day
<b>3.10pm</b>	Secondary end of day

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that students **do not arrive earlier than 8.30am**, as we cannot guarantee supervision, and earlier arrivals impede the preparation and prayer time of staff. On arrival, all students are to go to the Link. Parents/carers are also asked to phone the school after 8.40am. Parents and carers should collect their Primary aged children from the western doors of the Sanctuary at 3.00pm, unless advised by the School. Primary students are not permitted to enter the car park unsupervised after school.

### Bullying

SMCS is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all its students, staff and families at school. This means that bullying and intimidation are unacceptable. SMCS is a place where all students can feel safe, secure and able to achieve their full potential.

It is expected that all members of the school community – staff, students and parents, carers and visitors – will work together to ensure that bullying, whether verbal, physical, spiritual, subtle, overt, cyber, via technology, or in any other form, does not happen.

If there are any concerns about bullying, please contact the class teacher, or refer to the communication and grievance procedures for details. Please refer to the SMCS Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure which can be found on the school's website.

### **Bus Passes & Bus Behaviour**

Parents and carers can apply online at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students) for a bus pass to cover student travel to and from school. Certain parents may also qualify for a *private vehicle subsidy*. Please contact the office for details.

As the school cannot supervise students while travelling by bus to and from school, parents and carers must accept full responsibility for their children's behaviour. Nevertheless, SMCS students are expected to wear their full school uniform and to adopt exemplary standards of behaviour when they do travel by bus. Any students who misbehave at bus stops or on buses may face disciplinary consequences at school.

### **Child Safe Policy**

The safety, welfare and wellbeing of children, including protecting children from child abuse, is the paramount consideration in decision-making at Snowy Mountains Christian School. The School seeks to create a safe and caring environment where Christian values inspire and affirm the highest standards of ethical conduct in relation to the care, support, and welfare of the students entrusted to it.

Schools are places where everyone needs to feel safe, supported and protected. The School has a duty of care towards the students and employees, and SMCS takes this responsibility very seriously. This includes the need to take adequate measures to prevent the likelihood that children are exposed to the risks of abuse; be they emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, domestic violence, or abuse caused by neglect.

Snowy Mountains Christian School has zero tolerance for all forms of child abuse and neglect and any form of child and young person mistreatment.

Every employee, parent, carer, contractor and volunteer involved in Snowy Mountains Christian School is expected to understand the important and specific role they play in contributing to the promotion of the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people at Snowy Mountains Christian School. This will ensure that safeguarding children and young people is at the forefront of all we do and every decision we make.

SMCS follows and supports the Child Safe Standards, outlined by Office of the Children's Carer NSW. The Child Safe Standards recommended by the Royal Commission provide a framework for making organisations safer for children. The Standards have been accepted by the NSW government and provide tangible guidance for organisations to create cultures, adopt strategies and act to put the interests of children first, to keep them safe from harm.

# The Child Safe Standards



In all actions taken and decisions made that significantly affect a child, account is be taken of the culture, disability, language, religion, gender identity and sexuality of the child, and if relevant, the person with parental responsibility for the child.

SMCS actively seeks the partnership with parents, caregivers and volunteers to develop strong positive relationships to support their children through their education. This occurs through formal parent-student-teacher conferences, formal and informal communication, and the many events held throughout the School.

Schools also have a responsibility to have procedures in place to identify and report child abuse and/or neglect, whether it is apparent within or outside of the school context. The school will also place a high priority on its efforts to protect staff from mischievous or false allegations of child abuse.

The practices and procedures which are followed at SMCS are in accordance with all applicable legislation and take into account other appropriate practices and guidelines aimed at the protection of children. The school's policy and procedures may be amended from time to time

to take into account any amendments to child protection legislation and regulations. *The SMCS Child Safe Policy and Procedure can be found on the School's website.*

The school is a mandatory notifier of child abuse or neglect. If any staff member of the school has reason to believe that a child is at risk of serious harm then a notification will be made to the relevant authority, who will investigate the case.

All parents/carers, visitors, and friends of the school who are involved in school activities and work closely with students or attend excursions are required to provide a NSW Working With Children Check (WWCC) Number and have it cleared by the School Office before commencing volunteering. The WWCC Application is available free of charge, upon application, from the Service NSW office. *It is school policy that those who are in such positions and have not applied for a Working with Children Check Number, may not participate with students in school activities.*

## **Christian Growth**

In line with SMCS's Core Purpose is to "prepare children for life by training them, in partnership with their parents, to grow in character, skills and knowledge; realising their full potential in Christ to serve, as they understand more of God's truth in an atmosphere of God's love and mutual respect", opportunities are given for children to read the Bible, lead assemblies and participate in group prayer times. Children are given responsibilities in the school and older children care for younger ones. Students are given numerous opportunities to participate in "Community Service" throughout the year.

Christian teaching is seen to be an integrated daily pattern of precept, example and practice. SMCS staff regularly think about two questions:

"What does God say about \_\_\_\_" and "What does \_\_\_\_ say about God?"

We have daily Bible readings and prayer times. These are supplemented by Christian Perspectives studies and inspirational addresses at school assemblies/events.

## **Communications & Grievance Procedures**

The following guidelines are provided in order to facilitate effective communications and to assist parents, students and staff to work together. They complement the regular, informal communications that already occur between members of the school community.

### Underlying Principles

All members of the school community are encouraged to discuss matters of concern with the person(s) concerned. This should be done in an honest, open and Christian manner with a desire to seek resolution.

### Raising concerns with teachers

Matters relating to the progress of an individual student, or classroom-related matters should initially be raised with the class or subject teacher concerned.

If the matter is of some importance, please make an appointment with the teacher through the school office to enable the teacher to collect any information you may require and to allow them to devote sufficient time to discussing the concern with you.

### Grievance procedures for parents & students

From time to time, a parent may have concerns over their child's relationship with a teacher or other aspects of their child's education. SMCS values the partnership with all people in the school community.

All members of the school community are liable to say and do things which may cause others some discomfort. We need to be free to work through this process no matter what the role of those involved is in the school.

The school believes it is important that these issues are raised in a way that will facilitate open and honest discussion, with a view to bringing understanding and resolution for all parties involved. The School is committed to handling grievances in line with biblical principles and encouraging all parties to act in a way that reflects the fruit of the Spirit as outlined in Galatians 5:22-23: *“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”*.

In keeping with the school's desire to act in a way that reflects the fruit of the Spirit, it is imperative that parents and staff members who have grievances always behave with personal and professional integrity, and refrain from discussing these grievances with third parties at any stage of the process (unless the third party is the mutually agreed support person outlined below), otherwise the issue may become more difficult to resolve.

Should a parent wish to address this, we would want them to follow the appropriate grievance process which is found in the Policy.

Unresolved concerns, including matters relating to the implementation of school policy, should be raised firstly with the Coordinator and then, if necessary, the Principal.

For Primary and Secondary students, please initially contact Mrs Elyse O'Connor.

If, following discussion with the Principal, the matter is still unresolved, parents are encouraged to approach the School Board in writing through its Secretary. Concerns relating to the Board, including issues of governance, principles and policy should also be directed in writing to the Board Chairperson or Board Secretary.

A more detailed Policy and Procedure (Grievance Policy and Procedure for Parents) can be viewed at [www.smcs.nsw.edu.au](http://www.smcs.nsw.edu.au) and a copy can be requested at the School Office.

## General Communications

The school uses various means of communicating with parents, including:

- **School newsletter:** Sent electronically to the SMCS community every second Thursday during term. It is also available on the school website under the Parent Portal. The newsletter is a vital avenue of communication between home and school and includes messages from staff, class activities and happenings, individual notices about changes to routine and special events. We ask that you watch out for it and note the contents carefully.
- **Class communication:** Each class teacher communicates with parents from time to time by class newsletters and notes, and email.
- **Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences:** Formal Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences are held in Terms 1 and 3. We encourage parents/carers to bring their child to these conferences which is a valuable avenue for communication and future planning and enhancing each student's own learning and wellbeing. The school Newsletter will inform parents of the specific date for these interviews, and parents can book interviews times via the school's website or alternatively contact the school office to book an interview time.

As we partner in education, parents are welcome to discuss their child's progress with a teacher at any time, but if they have serious concerns, it is best to contact the office to arrange an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

## Curriculum

In preparing students for life, the SMCS curriculum aims to teach a biblical perspective of the world. Direct encounters with the Bible's context and teachings, help achieve this aim.

SMCS teaches the seven Key Learning Areas outlined by the NSW Educational Standards Authority within distinct Christian Perspectives program and explicitly teaches social and emotional skills using evidence-informed practices related to personal safety, resilience, help-seeking and protective behaviours across the curriculum.

We rely heavily on teaching traditional literacy and numeracy skills in the lower years, utilising the best modern teaching practices.

SMCS also offers an excellent and varied Sports and Performing Arts program with specialist teachers developing individual and group skills. Extra-curricular activities include: Public speaking, instrumental tuition, musical/drama productions, community service, sports, chess and gardens.

## Electronic Devices

While electronic devices are not banned from being brought to school, no electronic media or items are to be used during school hours (8:30-3:10pm). However, in Secondary School, some



items such as phones or iPods might be used at times, **only** with expressed permission of teachers and only for educational purposes or as directed by teaching staff.

All such items must be turned off and placed in their Yondr pouch (for security) and in their bags. ***If students need to contact their parents during school hours, they are to do this through the School Office and not use their mobile phones.***

Any items that are used during school hours without permission as described above will be confiscated.

All confiscated items can be collected from the office at the end of the confiscation period. See “Banned items” for more information about confiscation periods.

**1st offence:**

*The banned item will be confiscated for a day. Student can pick up from the office.*

**2nd offence:**

*The banned item will be confiscated for a week. Parent to pick up from the office.*

**3rd offence:**

*The banned item will be confiscated for a term. Parent to pick up from the office.*

**SMCS accepts NO RESPONSIBILITY for the loss of, theft of, damage to, or the unauthorised use of any mobile phone brought to school.**

If you need to communicate with your child, please make contact through the School Office:-

**Yondr – Mobile Phone Pouches**

SMCS seeks to make our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning! SMCS uses a system called Yondr to achieve this goal. Yondr has been used across the world in over 1,000 schools. The goal of these spaces is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings.

The Yondr Program employs a simple, lockable pouch that stores a mobile phone. Every student secures their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students maintain possession of their phones and don’t use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

What if I want to reach my child during the school day?

At SMCS, we want each student to be engaged in their learning. Please refrain from contacting your student during the school day unless it is an emergency. Contact the school office at 02 6452 4333 to reach your child.

### What if there is an emergency?

In case of an emergency, SMCS directs the students to safety first. School staff will be able to unlock a Yondr pouch in a matter of seconds for students once they are in a safe and secure location.

### Will my student's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. SMCS will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe.

### What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged?

The Yondr pouch is property of Snowy Mountains Christian School. If a student damages or tampers with a Yondr pouch, they will be held responsible. The student's phone will be confiscated by the school until a parent/carer comes to the school to pick up their child's phone and a replacement pouch may be assigned. The student will only be allowed to bring a phone back to school if they or their parent/carer pay a \$50 fee to replace the damaged school property. They will also be required to spend two lunchtimes in community service around the school.

*Note:* Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school.

### How can I clean my student's Yondr pouch?

Yondr pouches can be washed in cold water for a short cycle and dried on a short cycle and/or air dried. Pouches can also be cleaned with a disinfectant cleaner.

## **Equipment List**

Available from the School Office. Note that liquid paper/correction pens/permanent markers are NOT permitted.

## **Excursions**

Some excursions will be held during the year where it is felt that this will make a genuine contribution to the student's learning. From time-to-time, small groups of students may be involved in performances or activities within the district. These could include participation in education week activities, community service, ministry visits by the school, music groups or educational excursions to places of interest. All excursions will be covered by consent notes that will be sent home prior to each excursion. The cost of excursions will be payable as instructed in each permission note.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Amongst the variety of extra-curricular activities offered at SMCS are a range of sports, instrumental tuition, drama, chess, public speaking, skiing, gardening, caring for the environment, visiting pre-schools and nursing homes.

## **Fees**

The Snowy Mountains Christian School fees are set annually by the SMCS Board and in line with the school's Core Vision - to provide the opportunity for a Christian Education to all families on the Snowy-Monaro. The school's fee structure seeks to reflect this as we desire to make the fees affordable for all families who desire a Christian Education for their children. A separate School

Fees Schedule is available from the school office and on the school website. School fees will be generated the first week of each term and are due and payable within 30 days.

If at any time you find you cannot meet your commitments in this area, we ask that you contact the school as soon as possible to discuss alternatives. Direct Debit, Merchant facility and payment plan proforma is available at the school. Scholarships are also available and SMCS has a program to assist parents who may be in need of financial assistance. All questions or concerns relating to fees should be directed to the Financial Administrator, Mrs Lucy Gotts.

### **Funding**

The school finances are primarily drawn from Government funding, school fees and gifts to the school. State and Federal funding make up approximately 60% of total funds.

Snowy Mountains Christian School has three Tax Deductible Funds and one non Tax-Deductible Fund.

**The Scholarship Fund** is a tax-deductible fund to which parents may donate, to support students.

**Building and Library Funds** are available for any person wishing to make a tax-deductible donation to the school. Donations will be utilised to help the school with current and future building plans and to help with the development of and maintenance of the Library.

**Non-Tax-Deductible Fund: The Grace Fund** The formation of the 'Grace Fund' is in direct response from members of the community who wish to donate money to SMCS students who are in need. These needs may vary according to the individual student's necessities and include things such as uniform, excursions, learning equipment, etc.

Your donation will go a long way to helping families and our school community. For bank details regarding these Tax-Deductible and Other Funds, please contact the Financial Administrator: [finance@smcs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:finance@smcs.nsw.edu.au)

### **General Consent & Information Form**

Each year, parents and carers are asked to complete a General Consent & Information Form. This form details special medical needs your child may have and current family information which is necessary to keep school records up to date.

**Please note that it is the parent's/carers' responsibility to inform the Office promptly of any changes and ensuring all details are correct.**

### **Handbooks**

**Parent** Handbooks are provided every year to each family with information about the School. Please contact the Office if you do not have a copy.

**Student** Handbooks (previously Diaries)

Students will receive a student handbook (in place of a diary) which has relevant information for the year including the Student Code of Conduct. As an appendix to the Student Handbook, students will be given Term calendars to record assessment due dates, homework and date of school events. Students will also be guided by their teachers on how to utilise the Microsoft 365 calendar associated with their school email to also record assessment due dates.

Students are encouraged to use their own personal organisation preference to help them with their time management.

### **Homework**

Each class is regularly set homework. We recommend the following as a general guideline FOUR times per week in K-6 and FIVE times per week in Yrs. 7-10.

Kinder 10 min review plus reading together

Year 1 20 min review plus 4 min reading

Year 2 20 min + 5 min reading

Year 3 30 min + 10 min reading

Year 4 30 min + 15 min reading

Year 5 40 min + 20 min reading

Year 6 40 min + 20 min reading

Years 7-8 75 min + 45 min reading

Years 9-10 110 min + 45 min reading

If your child says that they have no homework, please check with the class teacher. Regular revision of classwork is especially important in Secondary.

### **Information, Communications & Technologies (ICT)**

#### ICT Goals

The purposes of the school electronic facilities are to provide electronic-resources (computers, laptops, cameras, televisions, software, network access, etc.) for educational activities, with priority to providing support for classes.

#### ICT Acceptable use

Use of the school's electronic facilities is a privilege, not a right. School accounts are to be used only for school purposes. Electronic facilities are intended primarily to support the direct instructional purposes of the faculty.

Use of the facilities is governed by the policies of the school and the local, state, and federal laws. The use of electronic facilities for purposes that violate school policy, are illegal, or are unethical may result in temporary or permanent loss of privileges or imposition of other sanctions.

Students may also be disciplined for the misuse of the internet or electronic mail in respect of material, which is offensive or unlawful, which may or may not be pornographic. A pattern of

behaviour (for example, repeated use) is a factor for consideration in determining disciplinary measures (including dismissal).

SMCS reserves the right to establish policies and rules as needed for all aspects of use.

#### ICT Backing up data

While all care is taken to protect data, students using SMCS electronic facilities, are responsible for saving all their work in their appropriate private document portal (OneDrive).

#### ICT Security Policy

The SMCS Wireless network is a closed secure network available to Staff only and it is secured with a security key to only allow access to certain SMCS electronic devices within the school and is not available to the general public. This security protocol thus inhibits students from accessing the wireless network.

For all users of SMCS electronic facilities, security permissions have been set for their network accounts. After a user logs in, they will only have access to folders that are deemed necessary for their efficient use of the school network.

The School Administrator Account login should be used by the Network Administrator only and not used by the general users of the SMCS Computer network as this gives complete access to all files on the network and completely unrestricted access to all changes that can be made to both the server and the network as a whole.

***Please contact the school office if you would like a copy of the SMCS ICT Policy and Procedure.***

#### **Visitation of Students**

During school hours, it is important that we maintain the atmosphere and stability of children within the school environment. It is not a customary practice to allow students visitors during school hours. Of course, there are certain circumstances and situations when this is necessary. All such exceptional visitations must be pre-approved by the Principal.

Any messages or items that need to go to the child can and must be communicated through the school office.

In line with the School's Anti-Bullying Policy, and as SMCS is committed to providing a safe, supportive, healthy and caring Christian environment, there is an expectation of respect for all, whether they are students, staff, parents or visitors. It is expected that every member of the SMCS Community, from the oldest to the youngest and all our staff, to both give and receive care and respect.

SMCS rejects all forms of bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment including cyber bullying, and seeks to provide safe, inclusive, and respectful learning communities that promote student and staff wellbeing. No student, staff member, parent, caregiver, community member or visitor should experience bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment within the learning or working environment of SMCS.

### **Library**

Primary children can borrow from the Library during their class designated 'Library Day'. Students are only allowed to borrow if they have a Library bag, so that we care for our books. Secondary students may borrow at convenient times throughout the week.

### **Lost Property**

Please ensure all clothing is labelled. The "Lost Property Box" is in the Link. All unclaimed, unnamed clothing will be given to the Second-hand Uniform Shop at the end of Term 2 & 4, if not collected.

### **Medical**

Full details for your child's medical history and family details are required in order to care for them appropriately. This information will be recorded as part of the enrolment procedure and needs to be updated each year. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure this information is correct. Please notify the school office of any changes to this information as soon as possible so that our records remain accurate.

**Parents of children with specific health issues must contact the school office to discuss their child's needs whilst at school.**

If students need to contact their parents during school hours, they are to do so through the School Office and not from their mobile phones.

**Students who are unwell should not be sent to school as we do not have the facilities to monitor or care for sick children.**

### First Aid

The First Aid/Sick Bay is attended by Office Staff who is First Aid trained.

### School Procedures in Case of Illness, Accident or Emergency

- ***Illness***

The student reports to the office, with permission from their teacher. Their attendance will be recorded in the student's file. If necessary, the office staff member on duty will notify the parent of the need to collect their child.

- ***Minor injuries***

The student reports to the office, with permission from a teacher when possible, where assessment and first aid will be administered by Office Staff. Treatments will be documented in the student's file.

- ***Serious illness/injury requiring doctor or hospital***

If needed, the classroom teacher or teacher on duty should use a red or yellow emergency card to send to the office for assistance. A student should be transferred to Sick Bay only if it is completely safe to do so. A staff member who has been trained in First Aid will assess the student and determine whether to call an ambulance.

In all cases of serious illness or injury, an attempt will be made to contact the parent/carer according to the information available on the school database. In the event of injury or illness to a student requiring urgent hospital or medical treatment, including but not limited to injections, blood transfusions, etc, and where a parent or carer is not readily available to authorise such treatment, the Principal or other member of staff may authorise such treatment without the school, staff member or any agent of the school incurring any liability to the student, parent or carer in so doing.

Parents/carers agree to be liable for and indemnify the school, its employees, and agents in respect of all costs and expenses arising directly or indirectly out of emergency medical treatment.

- **Prescription and restricted medications**

Parents must inform the school of any prescribed medications being taken by students. All medications to be taken during the school day are to be given to the office staff & stored in a locked cupboard in the school's front office.

Instructions regarding changes to medication orders must be in writing from the doctor or the parent/carer.

Assistance will be given by the Office staff in the administration of prescribed medication, such as antibiotics, when required in writing by parents/carers.

All medications administered by the school will be recorded in the student's file.

All students are responsible to come to the school office for their medication.

Parents must ensure that medications are not 'out of date.'

- **Pain Relief Medication**

Paracetamol (Panadol) and other pain relief medication is not a first aid treatment and will not be issued by the school without parent's permission. Pain from injury or unknown cause will be treated with icepack and rest. If this is not effective the student's parents/carer will be contacted and withdrawal discussed. In the event a parent indicates a student will need non-prescription pain control the school will accept written instructions for a period not exceeding six days.

## Mental Health

In line with Australian Student Wellbeing Framework, all members of the school community are active participants in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity, and fosters positive, respectful relationships. At SMCS staff, students and families share and seek to grow in

an understanding of wellbeing and support for positive behaviour and how this supports effective teaching and learning.

The school has adopted a whole school approach to managing mental health. This approach has the following characteristics:

- a broad and inclusive view of health, which acknowledges the importance of mental health promotion;
- an emphasis on creating an environment that has the best possible impact on health; and
- an integrated whole-school approach, which recognises that a range of interconnected factors influence health

All staff members at SMCS accept responsibility for the health and well-being of students. SMCS aims to have regular training during professional development weeks and specific training for staff on Youth Mental Health First Aid.

SMCS follows the latest Health advice for Youth Mental Health First Aid and strongly encourages contact with a trained medical professional including, but not limited to, the individual's GP.

Parents/carers should refer to the School Office for further information if their child is experiencing mental health illness or a mental health crisis while at school.

#### Infectious Diseases & Immunisation

Immunisation is a safeguard to health and we suggest that you consult your doctor concerning protections against diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis and tetanus. It is a Health Department requirement that the school receives proof of immunisation before children are enrolled in the school.

It is probable that at some time during your child's time at school, that he or she will contract one or more of the common diseases listed below. For the sake of all school families, and also often as a requirement of Public Health Policy, you are asked to inform the school whenever your child is sick with an infectious disease.

The official general advice to prevent the spread of infection has four elements:

- Practise good hygiene
- Practise social distancing
- Follow the limits for public gatherings
- Understand how to self-isolate when/if you need to

Further information on Infectious Disease, which can also be found on NSW Health website:

- *Measles* - Isolation and exclusion from school at least five days from appearance of rash.
- *German Measles* - Isolation and exclusion from school until fully recovered. For at least 5 days after the rash appears.
- *Whooping Cough* - Isolation immediately. Exclude from school for at least 3 weeks from the onset of the whoop, until fully recovered or a medical certificate is obtained.



- *Mumps* - Isolation and exclusion from school until fully recovered. For at least 10 days after the swelling occurs.
- *Chicken Pox* - Isolation and exclusion from school until fully recovered. For at least 7 days after the first spots appear.
- *Ringworm* - Isolation and exclusion from school until appropriate treatment has begun. The school may ask for a medical certificate to say this has happened.
- *Impetigo* - Isolation and exclusion from school. Your family doctor should be consulted. If the sores are being treated and are properly covered by a clean dressing, children are permitted to attend school. If they are not covered and are on exposed parts of the body such as scalp, hands or legs, exclusion is necessary until sores have healed.
- *Acute Conjunctivitis* - Isolation and exclusion from school until all discharge has ceased.
- *Pediculosis (head lice)* - Isolation and exclusion from school until treatment with anti-lice lotion has been undertaken and hair is free of all nits and lice.
- *Scabies* - Isolation and exclusion from school until proper treatment has begun. The school may ask for a medical certificate to say that this has happened.
- *Meningococcal Meningitis* — be aware of symptoms that may include fever, headache, stiff neck, vomiting and rash, consult your doctor immediately if you are concerned.

**If your child is sick or has flu-like symptoms, they must stay home. Please have them tested and notify the school office of this matter and subsequent results.**

### **Mobile Phones**

Please refer to 'Electronic Devices' on page 13 for more information.

### **Mufti Days**

These are occasionally held to raise money for a special cause. Any clothing or footwear worn on a mufti day must be modest and appropriate for the occasion. It must also meet any relevant safety requirements. It is important to note that final decisions regarding these standards are left to the discretion of the supervising teacher and/or the Principal.

### **Newsletter – refer to Communication**

### **Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences – refer to Communication**

### **Property Management**

SMCS is a ministry of Cooma Baptist Church and shares its site with the church. The school works closely with the church, taking into consideration all users of the property. SMCS works within a Strategic Plan for the school which includes plans for maintenance and future projects.

### **Privacy**

SMCS adheres to the most current Privacy laws within Australia. SMCS does not distribute the private information of school families, such as addresses, telephone numbers, medical information, etc, without the prior permission of those involved. Parents/carers are asked to sign a Privacy Form that is part of the General Consent Form. This gives the school permission to use student details for educational and government reporting purposes.

## **Reports**

Parents/carers receive two formal school reports each year. The Semester 1 report is issued at the end of Term 2, and the Semester 2 report is issued at the end of Term 4

## **School Office**

**The school office is open from 8.40am to 4.00pm daily during term times.**

The front double doors of the Administration Building lead into our reception/office area. This is the main visiting area of the school. Please come to the school office for all enquiries, to make appointments, to pay school fees, to enquire about enrolments, to pick up a child from sick bay, to sign a child in or out of the school for appointments, submit late notes, or to make enquiries about lost property.

## **Sport**

At SMCS, students participate each week in sport and other physical activity. Throughout the year we offer a wide range of seasonal sports. Many students are given an opportunity to represent the school at regional, state & even national levels. Furthermore, our students can also participate in local netball and soccer competitions under the school name, with coaches who are volunteer parents, when there are enough students/parents.

Each student belongs to a HOUSE for school sport.

The houses are: WATTLE (yellow) and WARATAH (red).

## **Student Wellbeing**

The wellbeing of students at Snowy Mountains Christian School is a paramount responsibility and privilege of the school as it partners with parents and carers in the education of the students.

Student wellbeing at SMCS is founded on the Biblical principles of grace, mercy, justice, kindness and humility (Micah 6:8), and through this, the ultimate goal is the full restoration of relationships. It encompasses the whole of a student's well-being and healthy development. It therefore includes nurturing, building and encouraging; protection from harm; and also training, direction and correction. Student wellbeing is built into everything that happens in the school to meet the physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, social and learning needs of students, and is essential for developing students' sense of self-worth and fostering personal development and reaching their full potential.

The SMCS partners with parents, and the wider community, in strategies which are preventive and proactive in caring for students; and responsive in identifying welfare needs and determining best actions.

Staff will encourage student awareness of the nature of Christ and seek to model Christian love and the fruit of the Spirit, and students are enabled to develop positive, constructive behaviours which go beyond mere compliance.

Student wellbeing can be seen in all areas of curriculum, in programs and activities at SMCS. For further detail, please refer to SMCS Student Wellbeing policy.

### **Student Nurture, Discipline and Behaviour Management**

At Snowy Mountains Christian School, nurture and discipline and behaviour management is the process of discipling towards Christ-likeness by seeking to make wise choices within the context of loving and supportive relationships.

This means that discipline IS a **process of affirming and correcting** and is NOT a synonym for punishment.

At SMCS we aim to:

- Create an environment which is characterised by the dignity of each person, by justice and forgiveness, and by the acceptance of differences, so that the unique value of each person before God is a living reality.
- With the help of the pastoral care team and chaplain, assist the student in the process of learning how to face the many challenges and obligations within our society.
- Train up a student in the way she/he should go Proverbs 22:6.
- Accept students as valuable in themselves (Matthew 18:56, 19:14).
- Promote the School's Code of Conduct.
- Be aware that correction is for the good of the student and administer correction in love and gentleness.
- Apply strategies that are fair and just and that enables a student to understand the reasons for their correction.
- Listen to a student in an appropriate time and setting and to discuss any grievances which may need to be heard.
- In order to seek reconciliation, forgive a student and to subsequently accept them back into the school community after making recompense for the misdemeanour.
- Assist staff in upholding the School's authority and responsibility in accordance with its policies and procedures.

Failure to address misbehaviour compromises the learning environment whereby academic activities are interrupted, curriculum content is not covered, teacher authority is undermined, and most importantly, there are decreased opportunities to learn (Blankenship, 1988; Cains & Brow; Cartledge & Johnson, 1996; Fields, 1999; Little & Hudson, 1998; Martin et al, 1999; in Gialo & Little 2003).

Corporal punishment is prohibited at Snowy Mountains Christian School. SMCS also does not explicitly or implicitly sanction the administering of corporal punishment by anyone.

***Please refer to the SMCS Nurture & Discipline Policy and Behaviour Management Procedure on the school's website.***

## **Uniform Standards & Procedures**

It would help if parents and carers would partner with the school by their child is dressed in correct school uniform before leaving home and upon arriving home.

### **Secondary**

Completely black leather shoes

Maroon hat – not caps (compulsory in terms 1 & 4)

Maroon polar fleece jacket or jumper with logo (no hoods) or Maroon woollen jumper with school crest

Maroon or black scarf and beanie (no designs)

Plain black jacket or parka (no logos)

Optional black leather belt

### **Boys**

Short sleeved maroon polo with school name embroidered

Long sleeved maroon polo (optional for cooler weather) with school name embroidered

### **Summer**

Black Bocini CK1304 school shorts (not cargo or denim) to be worn with plain grey over the ankle socks

### **Winter**

Black school trousers (not cargo, denim or corduroy) to be worn with plain grey over the ankle socks

Boys may continue to wear the formal uniform but must wear the complete uniform if choosing this option.

### **Girls**

Short sleeved maroon polo with school name embroidered

Long sleeved maroon polo (optional for cooler weather) with school name embroidered

### **Summer**

Skirt in school check (to be worn with short white socks)

or

Black Bocini CK1304 school shorts (not cargo or denim) to be worn with plain white over the ankle socks

### **Winter**

Skirt in school check (to be worn with grey tights or white over the ankle socks)

or

Black school corporate style trousers (not cargo, denim or corduroy) to be worn with white over the ankle socks

### **Sports – Boys & Girls**

Maroon & gold polo with school initials embroidered

Maroon jacket with SMCS on back *or* Maroon polar fleece jacket or jumper with school name embroidered

*Winter:* Maroon tracksuit pants (no designs/logos)

*Summer:* Black knee-length sport shorts (no designs/logos)

Short plain white socks

Joggers

### Primary School

Completely black leather shoes

Maroon hat – not caps (compulsory in terms 1 & 4)

Maroon polar fleece jacket or jumper with logo (no hoods) or Maroon sloppy joe with school crest

Maroon or black scarf and beanie (no designs)

Plain black jacket or parka (no logos)

All boys - Optional black leather belt

### **Boys**

Short sleeved maroon polo with school name embroidered

Long sleeved maroon polo (optional for cooler weather) with school name embroidered

### **Summer**

Grey LW Reed L 486 6 school shorts (not cargo or denim) to be worn with plain grey over the ankle socks

### **Winter**

Grey LW Reed L 486 6 school pant (not cargo, denim or corduroy) to be worn with plain grey over the ankle socks

### **Girls**

Short sleeved maroon polo with school name embroidered

Long sleeved maroon polo (optional for cooler weather) with school name embroidered

## **Summer**

Dress in school check to be worn with plain white over the ankle socks

## **Or**

Grey LW Reed L 486 6 school shorts or Grey LW Reed G386 SK skort (not cargo or denim) to be worn with plain white over the ankle socks

## **Winter**

Pinafore in school check (to be worn with grey tights or white over the ankle socks)

or

Grey LW Reed L 486 6 school pant (not cargo, denim or corduroy) corporate style trousers to be worn with white over the ankle socks

## **Sports – Boys and Girls**

Maroon & gold polo with school initials embroidered

Maroon jacket with SMCS on back *or* Maroon polar fleece jacket or jumper with school name embroidered

*Winter:* Maroon tracksuit pants

*Summer:* Black knee-length sport shorts (no designs/logos)

Short plain white socks

Joggers

## **Uniform Standards and Grooming Guidelines**

Uniforms should be neat, clean and worn in a modest fashion.

### Skirts/dress

The lengths of the skirts and dress should be touching the floor when kneeling upright (worn **just above** the knee).

Grey opaque stockings may be worn with the skirt or pinafore in winter.

## **Shoes**

Plain black leather school shoes are to be worn (no joggers or suede)

## **Socks**

Socks should be worn above the ankle. Sport socks are only permitted when wearing the sports uniform.

## **Hair**

Students should wear their hair in a clean, neat and tidy manner.

Hair should be tied back if it extends beyond the shoulders.

Fringes should not extend below the eyebrows.

Hair that could fall over the face should be tied back securely.

Extreme hairstyles, including shaved or "number 1", Mohawks, rat tails, tracks, dreadlocks and extreme undercuts are not acceptable.

Hair should not be coloured to an unnatural colour or pattern.

## **Hair Accessories** (including ribbons)

Hair accessories should be discreet and must be in school colours. Scrunchies made from the matching uniform material (summer or winter as appropriate) can be worn. Decorative hair clips are not to be worn.

This is an important WH&S issue and reduces the transmission of head lice. This standard applies equally to boys and girls.

## **Hats**

All SMCS Community are encouraged to follow SunSmart behaviour and SMCS seeks to follow Australian Cancer Council recommendations to: Seek shade; Slip on sun protective clothing; Slop on sunscreen; Slap on a sun protective hat.

A **"No hat, play in the shade"** policy applies in terms 1 & 4. If students do not have their hat, they will need to stay in the shade.

Wide brimmed maroon hats are to be worn. Caps are not permitted, because they do not cover the ears and do not provide the cover required to prevent sun damage.

During terms 2 & 3 students are allowed to wear a **plain maroon or black beanie**.

## Makeup

No makeup, nail polish, or unnatural hair dye is permitted.

## Jewellery

No jewellery, apart from a watch and/or silver or gold stud or sleeper earrings are to be worn in the ear.

No other visible or adorned piercings are permitted.

Stretchers (e.g., tapers, eyelets, plugs, spirals, etc.) are not permitted.

## Other

Tattoos are not permitted.

No visible facial and body piercing is allowed other than in the earlobes.

### Sports uniform

Sports uniform is worn on days that are designated for sports.

***Please help your child to understand that they represent their school when they are in the wider community, and it is expected that they will wear their uniform with pride and in the manner outlined above.***

### Uniform Procedures

Please expect that the uniform standards above will be firmly enforced by school staff.

If, for some reason, it is not possible for a student to be dressed in correct school uniform, a note must be provided to explain the reason and the anticipated time by which the infringement will be rectified. This, however, does not preclude the student from obtaining consequences.

Any note from parents must be presented to the roll call/class teacher at the beginning of the day to obtain the signature to denote the sighting of the note and the consequence will be decided by the relevant coordinator.

If there is an infringement of the standards set above the consequences will follow that of the Nurture and Discipline Policy. Consequences may include and are not limited to:

Minor infringements without an explanatory note, lunch time detention. Minor infringements with acceptable explanation, lunch time detention (at Coordinator's discretion). For continued and persistent minor infringement, more serious consequences may follow.

Major infringement (e.g., refusal, protest, defiance etc) will be dealt with by relevant coordinator.

### **Textbooks**

All textbooks are loaned to students with an understanding that they will be returned to the school undamaged, except for normal wear and tear. The cost of replacing lost or damaged textbooks and Library books is charged to the parents of the student concerned.

### **Toys and Personal Items**

Students are discouraged from bringing any personal items of value to school. Such items include toys, electronic equipment, jewellery or other fragile items that could be broken or cause a distraction to others. SMCS accepts no responsibility for the loss of, theft of, unauthorised use of, or damage to any personal items that are brought to school.

### **Uniform Shop**

Our school uniform is available from the following stores:

Your Workwear, 36 Bombala Street, Cooma

Hip Pocket, 98 Sharp Street, Cooma.

Workin' Gear Schools, 5/51 Kembla St Fyshwick or online at <https://workingearschools.com.au/>



**All items of school clothing such as jumpers, hats, sports gear, painting smock, etc, should be marked on the label with the student's name.**

The school cannot accept responsibility for returning lost items unless they are properly labelled. Lunch boxes and drink bottles should also be identified with your child's name.

We also have a supply of second-hand uniforms available to the school community. Contact the office staff about your needs.

### **Visitors**

**All visitors** to the school must report to the School Office, sign the VISITOR'S REGISTER on entering and exiting the school, and follow the directions of the Administration Staff.

### **Withdrawal of Enrolment**

If, for any reason, you intend to withdraw the enrolment of your child(ren), then we ask you to notify the school in writing as soon as possible. **One term's notice** is required. It is desirable that a Parent/Principal interview be held to provide an opportunity for the school to benefit by learning of parents' concerns or suggestions. An opportunity can also be made for your child to say goodbye to teachers and peers.

### **Exit Interview**

The School Office will contact you once notification of withdrawal is received to make an appointment with the Principal.

Please note that it is a requirement of the NSW Department of Education that a student is enrolled at another school before they can withdraw from their current school. We kindly ask that if you intend to withdraw your child from Snowy Mountains Christian School, that you inform the Office Administration of where your child has enrolled.

### **Working Bees**

At SMCS, we value the opportunity to partner with parents as we look to guide our students in the best way possible. One way we can do this is through volunteering at our Working Bees. The working bees are also a good opportunity for the school community to get together for a time of fun and fellowship. Families are encouraged to participate in at least one Working Bee per year. There is at least 1 working bee per semester. These are an important service to our school and help reduce the maintenance costs.

**Snowy Mountains Christian School**  
***Educating children... for the journey of life***