

## **Educational Philosophy**

The idea of the school as an extension of each family should shape the way in which Immanuel School develops. It is to supplement rather than take the place of the family.

The school must never be so large that it loses the familiarity, informality and the caring discipline which should be features of family life; and perhaps, most importantly, parents should be involved in the education of their children alongside those who, because of training, may have greater experience. Professional teachers assist parents at Immanuel School, they do not replace them.

Immanuel School acknowledges God as sovereign in creation, in sustaining all things, in salvation and in all the affairs of man. This is to form the basis of the teaching of all subjects, avoiding any teaching that exalts man above God. All curriculum materials are to be selected and controlled in accordance with this thinking. The supreme and ultimate standard and absolute rule of faith for life is the Bible, the word of God. The Bible is the foundation for the curriculum and all moral teaching.

Our aim is to foster and nurture a love of learning in the minds of all children and to encourage them to approach all subjects meaningfully and intelligently. The school will aim to provide an excellent education developing the total person: body, mind and spirit. As such it will seek to nurture growth in five key areas:

**Spiritually:** Recognising that God's Word is the foundation for all of life, Immanuel School will seek to encourage children to develop their own relationship with Jesus Christ. An act of daily worship and emphasis on practical Christian living will provide a strong spiritual framework.

**Academically:** Immanuel School will strive for academic excellence and to develop to the maximum potential the intellectual abilities of each child. To this end each child will be 'paced' in each subject to allow him or her to progress at his/her own rate, avoiding discouragement in the less able or boredom in the more academic. Within this framework each child will be expected to work hard and to present his/her best work.

**Emotionally:** Dedicated teachers will help foster in each child a sense of security and self-worth. The stability provided by the spiritual emphasis helps students meet the challenges of learning and living.

**Socially:** Christian ethics not only encourage personal spiritual growth, but also wholesome social development and an ability to function competently beyond the parameters of home and school.

**Physically:** Children will be encouraged to partake in regular physical exercise and participation in sports as a means of promoting health, strength and social development.

Immanuel School believes that children function contentedly and competently in a caring and disciplined environment. Parents, teachers and children all have responsibility in maintaining such an ethos.