



Philosophy

PARED schools are **family schools**, where the educational rights of the family come first. The schools have the dual role of providing for the overall development of the students as well as assisting parents to be more effective educators of their children.

The system of education is **personalised**, seeking to integrate the pursuit of academic excellence, the acquisition of skills and the development of the student's character.

The Personalised Mentoring System, pioneered in Australia by PARED, ensures that each child is encouraged to become the best person he or she can be. It facilitates the partnership between parents and school to ensure the children receive a holistic and efficacious education.

Vision

Our vision is a happy and vibrant College, highly regarded as a centre of excellence, where every child is encouraged to be the very best person she can be. Parents, staff and students work as a united team for the pursuit of character and academic success, with a commitment to service and a life of faith.

Mission

Harkaway Hills College works in partnership with parents to form each child's character, educating for personal and academic excellence. We challenge our students to live a life of faith, and lead change for a more just and human society.

Values

Faith - lived in daily life

Hope - hearts open to happiness

Charity - self-giving, love of God and kindness towards others

Justice - social responsibility and fairness

Wisdom - discernment in one's choices

Fortitude - resilience and perseverance in the pursuit of what is good

Temperance - balance and self-mastery

Educational principles

Harkaway Hills College's personalised system of education is based on a number of principles.

- The education of children is primarily the responsibility of the parents and is determined to a great extent by the personal example of the parents themselves.

- The student benefits most when there is harmony between the two major learning environments of home and school; therefore, parents and teachers should try to grow in the qualities they wish the students to acquire.
- Teachers are vital partners with parents in a common endeavour. The basis of this partnership is a loyal and mutual understanding of each other's complementary roles.
- Parents and teachers need ongoing professional formation as educators who are striving for excellence.
- The student's behaviour should be the consequence of personal convictions, acquired in a climate that balances discipline and freedom as the basis for an authentic sense of responsibility.

How is the College philosophy enacted?

The two key ideas on which the College philosophy is based, namely respect for parents as primary educators and the personalised and holistic nature of the education offered, are achieved primarily via the mechanisms described below.

Parental involvement

The College offers various means of assistance for parents in their task as primary educators of their children. An ongoing programme of parent functions which includes talks, workshops and family education courses, provides parents with the opportunity for personal enrichment and development. The College has a network of Class Parents who foster friendship and unity amongst the parents of the individual classes. They also encourage professional development in parenting.

The family environment of the schools, built on shared ideals and values, helps forge bonds of friendship which provide parents, teachers and students with positive and supportive peer groups.

The mentoring system

The Personalised Mentoring System is the most distinctive means used by PARED schools to achieve their aims. Students are assigned an individual mentor who is a member of the College teaching staff. The mentor meets regularly with the student, with the student's teachers, and with the parents. In this way parents, teachers and student cooperate in effective goal setting. This system assists each student's academic progress and character development.

The mentor's rapport and friendship with the student and family are fundamental to the educational process. Apart from formal parent-mentor interviews, the tutor is available to talk to parents whenever necessary. The parent-mentor relationship is a natural means to ensure that home and College work together effectively.

For a more comprehensive explanation of the many and various means employed by Harkaway Hills College to achieve its aims and enact its philosophy, please refer to **The spirit and key features of Harkaway Hills College: Student welfare and pastoral care principles.**