THE GRASS IS GREENER WHERE YOU WATER IT
RIVERSIDE: NURTURED KIDS SINCE 1968

RIVERSIDE ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Nurture for Today • Learning for Tomorrow • Character for Eternity

Prospectus
riversideadventist.qld.edu.au
Our Learning Environment

Overview
Riverside Adventist Christian School is nestled on the quiet, protected estate of Riverside overlooking the beautiful Ross River in Aitkenvale. People visiting the school for the first time are amazed by the beauty of the location, the peacefulness, the seclusion and even the birds in the trees. The school offers this outstanding environment for the education of your children in cool air-conditioned facilities providing a complete primary education from Prep to Year 6 and, now, an Early Learning Program for 3 to 5 year-olds.

Riverside has maintained a tradition of excellence since 1967. It is known for its caring Christian environment, its highly qualified and professional staff, outstanding academic standards and the quality Christian young people who enter the community. Riverside is dedicated to helping every student reach her/his full potential. To this end, the school is committed to small class sizes to maximise individual attention.

Parental Involvement
The school strives to extend the level of involvement beyond the day-to-day education of the students to involve the wider community.

Parents are invited and encouraged to become involved in the various parental support groups of the school. While the Home and School Association is the formally organised vehicle for parent involvement, more incidental involvement is encouraged including classroom assistance, sports and cultural activities.

Transport
Riverside Adventist Christian School is centrally located in the suburb of Aitkenvale. There is an extensive network of public bus transport operating in the area. There is a cycle-way along the river which passes right by the school that provides a safe and relaxed route for those choosing to ride.

Student Behaviour
Every child who attends Riverside has the right to learn in a supportive, caring environment where they are respected. All school rules and discipline methods are centered upon the children developing respect for God, themselves, others and property. They learn through example more than instruction so we aim to model Christ-like principles in all we present. A redemptive approach is used by all staff and the teachers are trained to allow students ‘cool-down time’ before engaging in any discussion or consequences.

Pastoral Care
Our Christian perspective ensures that all students, as God’s creation, are seen as equally precious. Pastoral care, the emotional support and guidance of the student, is one of our highest priorities. To this end every teacher is more than merely a classroom instructor and is committed to nurturing personal growth at every opportunity.

The school chaplain supports the emotional, social and spiritual well being of each student. He is available for counselling and guidance of not just the students, but also their families.
Quality Teaching, Quality Learning

Academic

High quality teaching and learning will not occur by accident. Teaching practices at Riverside are strongly informed by current educational research. Our caring, Christian teachers and support staff are committed to being more than simply educators in a world that needs more than just ability.

We maintain a close association with Independent Schools Queensland and other institutions in order to keep our school in step with best practice teaching methods and educational advancements. We regularly update our computing devices to meet the increasing opportunities provided by educational apps and a more connected society.

Riverside Adventist Christian School covers the Australian Curriculum and provides students with a core of essential learning that promotes a depth of understanding across a variety of subjects with solid foundations in Literacy, Reading, Writing, Maths and Science.

The fully approved Riverside Curriculum is dynamic, well balanced and academically challenging. Timetabled blocks of learning are dedicated to the Key Learning Areas including music, sport, library and technology.

The Adventist Encounter curriculum is our own internationally developed and used program for personal spiritual growth and is entirely based on lessons and stories from the Bible.

Learning includes whole class, group and individual activities that focus on holistic understanding of ideas and concepts, rather than isolated facts and skills. Riverside teachers focus on the total growth of the developing child, educating both hearts and minds in a balanced approach.

There is a deliberate focus on teaching students how to access learning opportunities for themselves in this ever-advancing climate of technological evolution.

Gardening

Agricultural Training, or ‘gardening’ to our students, is a key feature of the learning program at Riverside. Students are responsible not only for the planning, purchasing, preparing, planting, weeding, watering and harvesting of their crop - they also use the gardens’ produce to both perpetuate their growing cycle and provide some kind of benefit or service to the wider community.

The gardens not only supplement creative learning embedded in the Australian Curriculum but stimulate a spirit of giving. With an identified purpose behind every crop of fruit, vegetables or flowers, students learn to ‘reap what they sow’ and then ‘give to the needy’ as Jesus Himself taught.

Service Projects

As an Adventist Christian school, service to others remains a high priority. Each year, under the guidance of their teachers, every Riverside class makes a Service Plan for improving the community or helping those in need. Projects range from visitations, to gifts, to fundraising, to musical performances, to artwork and anything else the students may dream up.

In the past, some of these ideas have been linked to the gardening program. So far, the impact on the students themselves has far outweighed the obvious benefits to others.

Better Buddies Program

One of the benefits of a small school population is the strength of the bonds that can exist between the students of varying agents. Riverside is a registered “Better Buddies” School. Students of different classes are able to read, play, plan and learn together. Being a part of this program has highlighted the growth that is possible in building leadership skills in older students. Relationships blossom and grow.

There is a strong sense of family between classes and since older students feel responsible for the safety and security of their younger friends, bullying becomes almost non-existent.
Financial Information

Riverside Adventist Christian School Management Council desires to offer the finest possible independent education at the lowest possible cost to parents. At the same time it remains our determination never to sacrifice the quality of the all round education we offer.

The school is financed primarily from two sources: Tuition fees and Commonwealth and State Government grants. Discounts on fees are available for second and subsequent children. Fees will be paid in advance at the beginning of each term. The school makes available a number of processes for fee payment including automatic deductions.

SCHOOL FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2016
The fee schedule is established each year by Adventist Schools (Northern Australia) Directors of all our system schools in North Queensland.

APPLICATION FEES
An initial enrolment application fee of $100 per family must be paid with the application. This fee is credited to a student’s Term 4 fees.

Fee Structure - 2016

ANNUAL TUITION FEE
Prep Students  $2,250
Primary Students  $2,400

TERM TUITION FEE
Prep Students  $562.50
Primary Students  $600.00

SIBLING TUITION FEE DISCOUNT
(For families with more than one child in the school)
2nd Child  15%
3rd Child  30%
4th & subsequent children  100%

PROMPT PAYMENT TUITION FEE DISCOUNT
(If paid by end of 2nd week in term)
Annual Fees paid in advance  7.5%
Term Fees paid in advance  5%

OTHER CHARGES PER TERM
Book Fee  $25
Activity Fee  $50
Fruit Program  $20
Maintenance Fee (per family)  $30
Building Fund Levy (per family)  $75

Total Annual Fee - Prep  $3,050.00
Total Annual Fee - Primary  $3,200.00
Total Term Fee - Prep  $762.50
Total Term Fee - Primary  $800.00
(Discounts have not been applied to the total annual or term figures)

Note: Discounts for prompt payment have not been applied to the total annual or term figures. The above totals include the “per family” amounts so the second child would be $757.50 per annum less, including the sibling discount.
Statement of Beliefs

Vision Statement
Nurture for Today
Learning for Tomorrow
Character for Eternity

Mission Statement
Encourage students to love and follow Jesus
Promote an environment of respect and acceptance
Empower students to do their very best

Values Statement
Excellence  Living for God’s glory
Compassion  Caring at all costs
Humility  Accepting my achievements without boasting
Respect  Thinking of and behaving well towards others
Integrity  Living at peace with myself
Justice  Seeking the right
Discernment  Making wise choices
Responsibility  Owning my actions
Hope  Reaching towards the future

(1 Corinthians 13)

Our Beliefs
Seventh-day Adventists are Christians with a belief system centred on Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Bible. We believe that God created life. God’s love is so great that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to die for us on a cross, the Lamb of God spoken of throughout the Bible. Jesus was raised to life to offer us the same new life.

Jesus overcame the power of death by His sacrifice and He has promised the world He will return. The Second Coming will bring the gift of eternal life to all those who love and trust Him. From that moment on we will be with Him. Heaven is real—a place more wonderful, according to Bible writers, than we can imagine.

The guiding principles for how to live our lives are the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus. These Commandments include a special day of celebration and worship of God; Sabbath (Saturday). This day reminds us of creation, when on the seventh day, God rested. It is the day we give special focus to our relationship with God and others. You are always welcome to share Sabbath with us at any of our Townsville churches. There are larger church families in Aitkenvale and West End and a small company at Thuringowa.

The SDA church has a history of more than 100 years of Christian education and we believe our program still offers something beyond the advancement of skills and self-confidence.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have about the Bible-based, Seventh-day Adventist Christian perspective.
Enrolment

New Enrolments
Parents or Guardians of prospective new enrollees should apply to the Principal of the Riverside Adventist Christian School for:

a) An enrolment form.
b) An appointment for an enrolment interview.

An enrolment application fee of $100 per family is payable upon the acceptance of your application. This is deducted from a student’s Term 4 fees.

At the enrolment interview we will discuss with the parents such matters as:

- The philosophy and purpose of this school.
- Parent’s expectations as to what the school could offer their child.
- The school code of behaviour.
- The school’s expectations of the pupil and the parents. This would include such matters as the child’s commitment to the school programme, assistance that the parents are expected to provide to the school program, (Working bees, Home and School Committee, assistance on excursions) uniform and how you intend to cover your child’s fees.
- Medical records showing proof of full immunization program, especially measles.

The decision of the School Management Committee will be advised in writing by the Principal as soon as possible.

Re-Enrolments
A re-enrolment form will be sent home to all families in term four. We would ask that these be checked, updated if required and returned to school as soon as possible. This helps us with planning and class splits for the following year.

Admission Policy
Riverside Adventist Christian School is open to students without regard to their ethnic or religious background, sex or national origin. Students are expected to act and speak in harmony with the school’s standards and regulations, accept the responsibilities of students (as outlined in the handbook), and attend Riverside activities. Parents are also expected to accept their responsibilities as outlined in the handbook. Every effort is made to provide opportunity for both girls and boys to participate in all school activities and as far as possible the school attempts to accommodate disadvantaged students.

Admission Ages

- Prep students - must turn five on or before June 30 the year they enrol.
- Year 1 students - must turn six on or before June 30 the year they enrol.