



ACS

Associated Christian Schools
Christian education for the common good

ACS/McCrindle Report Education for the Common Good *Exploring exemplary education and the positive impact of Christian education in society*

ACS media release

July 2020

More Australians believe a contemporary school education should equip students with the skills and aspiration to meaningfully contribute to society rather than simply turning out successful individuals, according to new research released today.

Australians are also more likely to hold the view that a Christian-based education has a positive influence on society and the development of its youngest citizens. This positive influence had been particularly evident during the pandemic when school communities worked together, reinforcing the value of education and the importance of parent/teacher partnerships.

These are among the key findings of a new report by leading Australian social research firm McCrindle Research, commissioned by Associated Christian Schools (ACS).

Education for the common good

Exploring exemplary education and the positive impacts of Christian education in society



The report, *Exploring exemplary education and the positive impact of Christian education in society*, was commissioned by ACS to understand national attitudes towards ‘the common good’ on an individual and social level and to determine the value Australians place on education and its role in society.

The report is based on in-depth interviews with educational professionals and a nationally representative survey of 1000 Australians.

ACS Executive Director Dr Lynne Doneley said the report ‘shone light on why the Christian schooling sector had been attracting enrolment growth’.

The spokesperson based her comment on the report ‘having examined the views of Australians on the role and impact Christian education plays in school education’.

According to the report, Australians are more likely to believe Christian education is having a positive impact in society than a negative impact:

11.4 times more likely students are encouraged to ask the big questions in life (57%[^] 5%^v)

13.8 times more likely Students are encouraged to love and serve others (55%[^] 4%^v)

8 times more likely students have opportunities to explore questions of faith and belief (48%[^] 6%^v)

10.8 times more likely there is a focus on education of the heart as well as the mind (54%[^] 5%^v)

[^] extremely/very positive

^v extremely/very negative

Australia’s Christian schooling sector has grown to 282 schools educating 138,801 students, according to 2019 data. This is comprised of schools represented by three key bodies: Associated Christian Schools (38 schools, 24 554 students), Australian Association of Christian Schools (104 schools, 46 869 students) and Christian Schools Australia (130 schools, 62 276 students).

Read the full report here: https://www.christianschools.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ACS_VisualisedReport_McCrindle_18Mar2020-2.pdf

Contact Dr Lynne Doneley ED/Principal Research Officer **M:** 0457 736 882 **E:** ldoneley@christianschools.org.au