



2023

**SUMMERLAND
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**

Annual Report

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College Profile

Summerland Christian College is a K-12 school located in scenic Goonellabah on the eastern outskirts of Lismore in Northern NSW and is affiliated with Christian Schools Australia and the Association of Independent Schools New South Wales. It is governed by Centrechurch, Lismore, and has provided interdenominational Christian education in the local area for 44 years. The College sets high standards and expectations within a distinctively Christian culture.



From the Board Chair

This year our College continued its growth journey with enrolments increasing once again during 2023, bringing us close to 600 students. Looking forward, congratulations to the Executive Principal and Business Manager and those responsible for negotiating with Lismore City Council for our enrolment cap to be lifted in 2024.

The Board is pleased with the excellent NAPLAN and HSC results of students and would like to commend the leadership, teaching and support staff teams in supporting students and families in their educational journey through 2023. All year groups of SCC students in NAPLAN testing were above national average and students graduating this year all achieved to a level which promoted them into their chosen paths. Students had rich experiences via camps and excursions beyond the classroom and an overseas mission trip is being planned for 2024.

In further good news for the College, the Executive Principals' negotiations with local bus transport have successfully lengthened the school day to start in 2024. This has allowed for a more agile learning timetable and period allocation to maximise learning opportunities for students in the years to come.

The Colleges' Deep Learning approach continues to be implemented across the school with AISNSW partnership. Teachers took their next steps in learning design to foster student growth. The College joined with our sister school, Hinterland Christian College to share practice developments and celebrate learning in December; an event attended by AISNSW and featured as part of their ongoing momentum in driving a future focused education for young people in Independent schools across the state. The new curriculum for schools was progressively implemented across subject areas for Primary and Secondary according to the required timeline, with teachers and leaders well prepared to take advantage of its new shape.

The College Executive Team further implemented Strategic and Operational plans for overall development of the College, much to the delight of the Board. This is gathering positive momentum.

The College continues its strong affiliation with Christian Schools Australia and the representative work done at that level on behalf of its member schools and also values the professional and informational input from CSA.

On behalf of the College Board, I would like to heartily express appreciation and congratulations to all the students and their families for a very successful 2023.

I would also like to sincerely thank our Principals, College Executive, Leadership teams, fellow Board Members, the College Teaching, Administration and Ancillary Staff who have facilitated such admirable overall progress for the students in the College making possible another productive school year in its history. We look forward to another great year ahead as we continue to provide a Christ-centered education that equips our students for a life of purpose and service.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment to Summerland Christian College.

Pastor David Winter
Board Chair



From the Executive Principal

At the end of this year I want to start my report by acknowledging our students' effort and involvement across all areas of College life. We celebrate their learning journey, and also their life journey and we applaud together their growth, their progress and their many successes in their wide range of different endeavours. 2023 saw a dramatic return to many events and experiences that have been unable to run due to the pandemic and floods. What an amazingly vivid and full year we have had! What has enabled such a vivid and full year of ongoing personal and College growth is the attitude we have taken into all aspects of College life and a laser like focus on learning and growth.

Attitude Matters

At the beginning of this year, I encouraged students to do two things in particular.... To firstly be determined to make small, but continuous efforts to improve and secondly, to be brave in doing hard things; two key attitudes to take to their learning growth this year. I would like to celebrate those who have taken on this challenge.

I have been impressed by the way our students and our College, have taken continuous steps of improvement and growth this year. If last year was memorable for our ability to persevere, to demonstrate grit and determination, then this year can be remembered as one where we made steady, incremental improvements on our way to further growth. The idea that you can incrementally get better in what you focus on, to grow and improve, unremittingly by taking small but continuous steps. 1% at a time, if continuous, has such a cumulative, and fast-moving effect. It is simply extraordinary to see the compound effect of making small improvements each and every day in whatever area you want to focus on.

I love what James clear says in his book 'Atomic Habits' "Improving by 1% isn't particularly notable, sometimes it isn't even noticeable, but it can be far more meaningful – especially in the long run. If you can get 1% better each day for one year, you'll end up 37 times better by the time you're done."

In the same way as academic success is attained, we have seen character, faith and citizenship growth. Students who learn and practice practice in those areas consistently will improve and grow. Congratulations to students, parents and staff alike, we have invested, supported and attained such growth this year.



Deepening Learning

We have taken some bold steps this year in deepening learning for students as we have developed and stepped into our new Learning Framework (Building Hope-Filled Futures). A new learning framework we launched last year, a framework and plan that captures our approach to learning is something we have taken time to develop carefully to promote students well forward. In the same way as the 'Game of Life' has changed over the years, so must education to match what our students need in the future!

Accordingly, we have continued to achieve at a high standard in National testing in NAPLAN AND HSC, but have further extended ourselves and have been productive in designing learning experiences for students so they can engage in continuous growth in areas that build them up as stronger learners, who are genuinely prepared for life... This doesn't happen by accident- it has to be carefully prepared and actioned. And we are gathering momentum. Small, but 'continuous' improvement (1% a day!) has, and will continue to be, the key. We have taken the lead in this!

This year, we have been acknowledged by AISNSW and featured heavily in their promotion for having made an exceptionally strong start in our journey of deepening learning for students using this method of learning design. This is a credit to our teachers and leaders.

Exciting step forward

Another exciting step we are taking in continuous improvement is the inauguration, next year, of two new senior leadership roles in our College. Next year we will start the year with two new Deputy Principals! Each of our two new Deputy Principals will have Pre kindy to Year 12 oversight of differing portfolio's of responsibilities and exciting future focused projects to drive student outcomes to new levels, yet again. To help bring to life, our future focused education. In learning and in growth, we really mean business as we look ahead and take meaningful steps.

One of our Deputy Principals will take full leadership in reaching new heights in teaching in learning across the College and the other will lead the development of character, culture, faith, wellbeing and behaviour. I am very excited to say that Mrs Alesha Dymock, who has served faithfully and diligently as our Head of Secondary will move into the role of Deputy Principal responsible for Teaching and Learning Development. Her influence in Primary is a huge win for our students! Mr Tony Ellem, who has served faithfully and successfully for many years as Head of Primary, will be stepping into the role of Deputy Principal responsible for character, culture, faith, wellbeing and behaviour from Trindy to Year 12. By implementing these new roles the gifts and talents that Mr Ellem and Mrs Dymock possess, can be spread and shared across the whole College as they 'lead our leaders' in our exciting next steps.

As we take further steps into our strategic vision for the College, I am very excited about the path ahead in learning and in developing Christian faith and character in our young people as well as growth in knowledge and wisdom. We have evolved into the new. Flourishing, Hope-filled Futures. We are very excited.

College Board

Our College Board are constantly working behind the scenes for our good. This year, under the leadership of Pastor Dave Winter, (Board Chair) our Board have given energy to the first years of our Strategic Plan and are well invested in the creation of Master Plan. Their prayerful support of us is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support in 2023.

College community

I extend my sincere gratitude to our students, parents and carers, staff, and the wider community for their unwavering support and commitment to growth. Together, we will continue to make a place where every student can thrive and achieve their full potential.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Mr Nate Atkinson

Executive Principal

BTeach, BTh, MEd Leadership, Grad Cert Positive Education,
Dip Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), MACEL

Student Outcomes in National Literacy & Numeracy Testing

Summerland students again showed outstanding achievement in the 2023 NAPLAN assessment scoring above or well above the Australian average in most categories. We know that while NAPLAN data itself isn't a full measure of student success or growth, it has affirmed the significant effort the College has invested into providing a solid base of literacy and numeracy for our students.



2023

Compare to Students with similar background All Australian students

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Year 3	430	438	422	444	428
Year 5	509	523	505	521	500
Year 7	579	583	568	577	571
Year 9	615	591	578	609	601

NAPLAN participation for this school is 93%
 NAPLAN participation for all Australian students is 95%

Interpreting the table

Selected school's average when compared to students with a similar background

- Well above
- Above
- Close to
- Below
- Well below
- No comparison available

Additional information can be gained by accessing the **My School website:**
<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

The Granting of Records of Achievement (ROSA)

SCC Year 10 ROSA Results 2023

Summerland students completed school examinations and were allocated grades by the College in line with NESA guidelines. The percentage of grades A to E allocated to the students is shown on the table below.

	SCC Total	SCC A	SCC B	SCC C	SCC D	SCC E
English	45	27%	38%	33%	2%	0
Mathematics	45	13%	29%	33%	24%	0
Science	45	18%	36%	44%	2%	0
HSIE	45	11%	44%	42%	2%	0
GEOGRAPHY	45	24%	27%	47%	2%	0
PDHPE	45	0%	79%	21%	0	0
PASS	18	0%	57%	43%	0	0
Visual Arts	7	38%	50%	13%	0	0
Music	10	0%	43%	57%	0	0
Photographic & Digital Media	16	54%	31%	14%	0	0
Food Technology	15	23%	69%	8%	0	0
Commerce	6	0%	50%	50%	0	0
Drama	5	25%	75%	37%	0	0
IT: Timber	6	50%	50%			
Agriculture	7	60%	40%			

Professional Learning and Teacher Standards

All members of the teaching staff participated in professional development and learning in 2023. This amounted to an approximate average of 6 days per teacher. Professional learning presented by AISNSW consultants in our second year of Designing For Deep Learning (DDL). Teaching staff also engaged in new curriculum planning and implementation programs. Staff also completed professional learning about Inquiry Learning Approaches and embedding Christian perspectives into learning, delivered by Christian Schools Australia. Other training included Leadership Programs, Strategic Planning workshops, Business Management, WHS, Child Protection, Resuscitation, First Aid and Code of Conduct.

The average expenditure on professional development/learning in 2023 was \$800 per teacher. Access to professional development opportunities was again significantly impacted by COVID 19.

Teacher Accreditation

All teachers employed at Summerland Christian College are accredited with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). After being initially accredited, all teachers must work towards achieving the mandatory accreditation level of Proficient Teacher, which is a school-based process.

Workforce Composition

The 2023 workforce at SCC consists of 84 employees and this includes teachers (full-time and part-time) assistants and administrators. In the Primary School the staff team of 24 full-time and part-time teachers. In the Secondary School teaching staff consists of 23 full-time and part-time teachers. The teaching staff at SCC is comprised of a range of teachers from beginning teachers to very experienced teachers, all with appropriate formal teaching qualifications.



Student Attendance Rates

Year	Students	Attendance
Kindergarten	45	90.7%
Year 1	43	91.6%
Year 2	53	89.3%
Year 3	48	88.3%
Year 4	55	86.1%
Year 5	56	86.3%
Year 6	54	86.3%
Year 7	52	86.8%
Year 8	48	84.6%
Year 9	59	82%
Year 10	40	78.7%
Year 11	26	83.7%
Year 12	31	89.6%



Management of Non Attendance

Under the NSW Education Act, it is the duty of parents or carers to ensure that their child of compulsory school-age is enrolled at a government school or a registered non-government school and attends school whenever instruction is provided unless a valid reason exists. The school monitors the attendance of all students, and follows-up unexplained absences as required. If, in the opinion of the school executive, absences reach a level of concern, the parents or carers are contacted and reminded of their responsibilities under the Act. The measures used to address non-attendance will be those deemed appropriate to the individual case. They may include, but are not limited to:

- Interviews with the student;
- Counselling and support for the student;
- Interviews with the parent/s or carers;
- Notifications to the parents;
- Notifications to relevant authorities; or
- Cancellation of enrolment for failure to meet the attendance requirements of the College as agreed to upon enrolment.



Retention of Year 10 to 12

Of the 46 students graduating Year 10 in 2023, 37 students elected to pursue Senior Secondary studies. Tracking of students from the existing Yr 10 cohort to Yr 12 shows an actual retention rate of 80% at our College.



Senior Secondary Outcomes

Our 2023 HSC results were very pleasing. Of the subjects studied, 11/17 subjects were above, on or near to the State average, with 6 subjects sitting considerably higher than the state average. The following table shows the average percentage achieved by our students across subject areas:

Subject	School Average
Biology 2 Unit	68
Chemistry	69
Drama	77
English Advanced	80
English Extension 1	86
English Extension 2	84
English Standard	64
Mathematics Advanced	61
Mathematics Extension 1	50
Mathematics Extension 2	56
Mathematics Standard	66
Modern History	70
Music 1	88
Music Extension	94
PDHPE	75
Studies of Religion	75

100% of students achieved a Year 12 certification or VET qualification.

Post-School Destinations

Of the 31 students who left schooling at Summerland Christian College in 2023:

- 24 undertook further study
- 7 entered the workforce



Our students complete their HSC over two years, studying most subjects under a compressed approach with double the lessons each year. English and Maths are the exception, being studied in the traditional manner over the 2 years. Summerland Christian College senior students participated in the following subjects in 2023: Biology, Chemistry, Drama, Advanced English, Standard English, Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Standard 2, Modern History, Music 1, Music 2, Studies of Religion, Personal Development Health and PE.



Enrolment Policy



Summerland Christian College welcomes applications for enrolment of students whose parents/guardians are seeking an education for their child/children within a Christian context.

Because of the Christian philosophy of the School, it is assumed that most enquiring families would be linked by attendance to a local church with at least one parent a professing Christian– hence the church membership question on the enrolment form requiring a minister’s signature. If no active church affiliation exists, such enrolment applications will be considered and processed on an individual basis on the condition that clear support for the Christian philosophy and activities of the College is confirmed with a signed statement. The College leadership will monitor enrolments to preserve a strong Christian culture across all classes in the school. The School seeks to provide opportunity for all applicants from families seeking a Christian education regardless of Church or denominational affiliation.

The enrolment process involves:

1. Completing the Application for Enrolment and including a copy of your child’s two most recent school reports and NAPLAN results. Please also provide reports from specialists, doctors etc (if applicable) and attach a birth certificate and immunization certificate.
2. Contacting the College Office to make an appointment for an enrolment interview with our Head of Primary or Head of Secondary;
3. Submitting the Application for Enrolment to the College Office or send via email to: office@sccollege.nsw.edu.au.
4. Your Application will be reviewed and you will receive the outcome in writing.

Conditions for Continued Enrolment

For a student to be eligible to continue to be enrolled at Summerland Christian College, the College executive and Board must be satisfied that the following Enrolment Agreement conditions signed by parents on enrolment are being complied with:

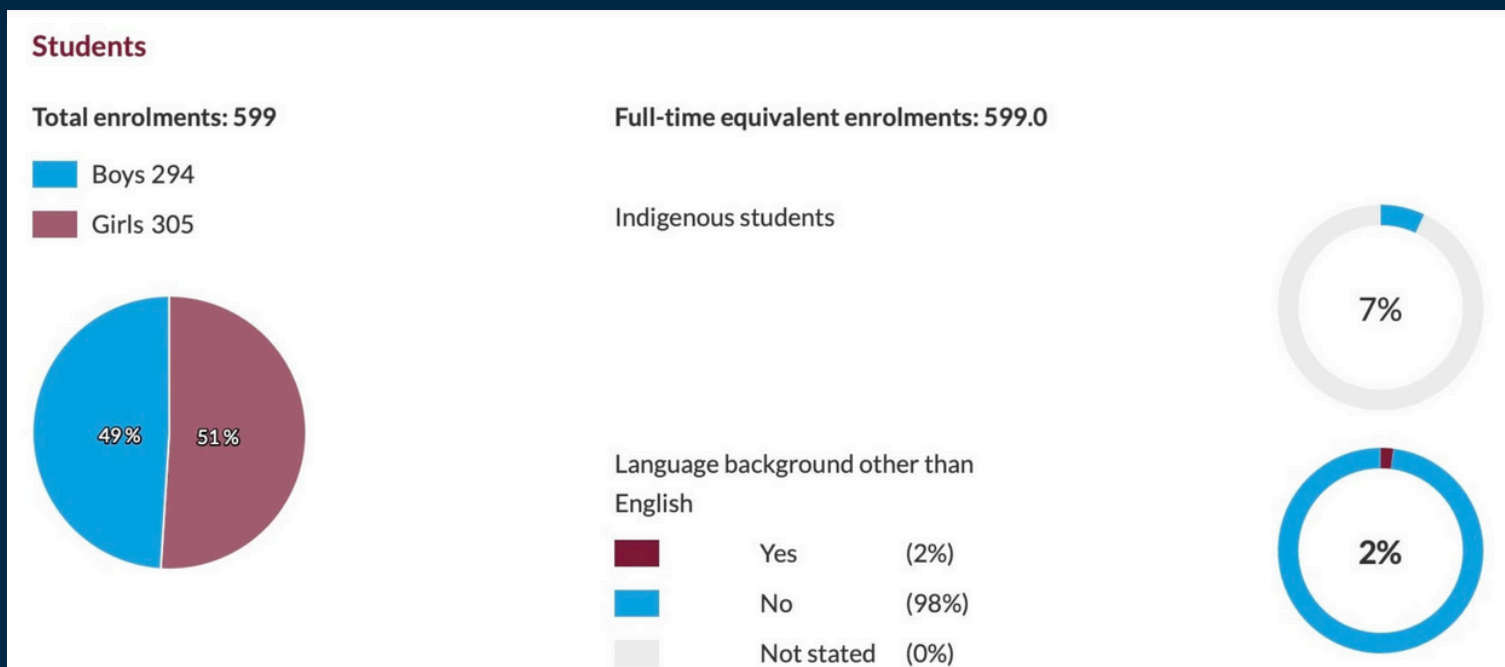
- *I agree to ensure my child regularly attends school.*
- *I agree that my child will abide by the College uniform personal presentation policies.*
- *I agree to pay school fees on time.*
- *I will give a term's notice in writing before removal of my child/ren from the school (or pay fees in lieu).*
- *I accept that my child's enrolment is on a one term probationary basis which may be extended if needed and that this probationary enrolment may be ended at the discretion of the College during this period.*
- *I agree to pay the replacement costs for breakages or damages to school property caused by my child/ren.*
- *I agree to work with the school to resolve any conflict.*
- *I will communicate directly with the school staff concerning my child's education and broader school issues and avoid criticism of the school and staff.*
- *I will encourage my child/ren in the completion of any homework or assignments, and ensure permission slips are returned punctually for school activities.*
- *I will cooperate with the school in any disciplinary matters involving my child/ren.*
- *I will support and respect the Christian ethos and practices of the College and respect the Statement of Faith.*

If, following careful consideration of the evidence, a decision is made by the school executive that a student should not be enrolled for any of the above reasons; the family will be informed of the enrolment cancellation with an explanation. If the family wishes to appeal the cancellation a written appeal against the decision may be lodged with the School Board within seven (7) days of the date of recommendation. After the written response from the family is received, the Board will then make a final decision, giving due consideration to the case. The results of the appeal will then be conveyed in writing to the family.



Characteristics of the Student Body

The following tables summarize the characteristics of our student body.



Student Welfare, Anti Bullying, Discipline, Complaints & Grievances Policies

Student Welfare, Counselling and Chaplaincy Policy

The College's support to students is Bible-based and aims to comprehensively support students with a range of trained staff. Accessibility to the College's Counsellor continued in 2023 and the Chaplaincy service, which began in 2007, continued to be an effective and valuable service which allowed for additional support for students, staff and parents.

Bullying and Harassment Policy

Bullying, harassment and violence have no place at Summerland Christian College. Bullying is defined as deliberate, repetitive acts which set out to cause pain and/or unhappiness. Examples include hitting, pushing, name calling, threats, exclusion and spreading rumours. Harassment may involve less direct actions or words which cause worry or distress. Violence is any intentional direct contact which causes significant pain or injury. Our aim is to identify signs of distress or harm to students, to train students and staff in dealing with these situations and to put in place procedures and plans for managing future issues.

Discipline Policy

The College's Discipline Policy is Bible-based and comprehensively covers the management of students within a supportive College environment with close links and communication with parents. It also prohibits corporal punishment and does not explicitly or implicitly sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons to enforce the discipline of the school.

Complaints and Grievances

The College continues to enjoy a positive rapport with parents and students. Enrolment and discipline matters referred to the College Board were settled in accordance with the established procedures of the College. Personal access to College leadership is invited and access to the Board Chairperson is facilitated by his regular presence on campus.

Changes to Policies

The College continues to enjoy a positive rapport with parents and students. Enrolment and discipline matters referred to the College Board were settled in accordance with the established procedures of the College. Personal access to College leadership is invited and access to the Board Chairperson is facilitated by his regular presence on campus.

Public Access to Policies

Parents can access College Policies on the College website: www.mysccollege.com/Hi-I-m-New-Here/policies-and-procedures.html or by contacting the College office for a copy.



Priority Areas for Improvement

Target Area and Measure	2023 Performance	2024 Target
<u>Enrolment Growth</u> >25 students (double streaming of Secondary)	>25	>25
<u>Attendance Rate</u> >94%	86%	94%
<u>Literacy & Numeracy</u> (Years 3/5/7/9 NAPLAN) Majority domains above the National Average	Achieved	New Measures Introduced (Non Comparable)
<u>Year 10 ROSA results</u> 100% of grades C or above	100%	100%
<u>HSC Results</u> Above/At/Close to State Averages	88%	100%
<u>Year 12 post school destinations</u> 100% employed or enrolled in further studies	100%	100%

Actions Taken to Promote Respect and Responsibility

Several times a week there are opportunities for staff and other stakeholders to promote respect and responsibility. Summerland Super Actions is a program that runs in primary and works sequentially using different opportunities presented through school life. In this program students can reflect and develop skills in displaying respect and responsibility towards others and themselves. This program also tracks data to see areas where a greater teaching focus is needed. Through our daily biblical studies and weekly worship services all students are regularly taught the biblical principles that underpin respect and responsibility. They are also encouraged to pursue God's empowering to be able to love others well.



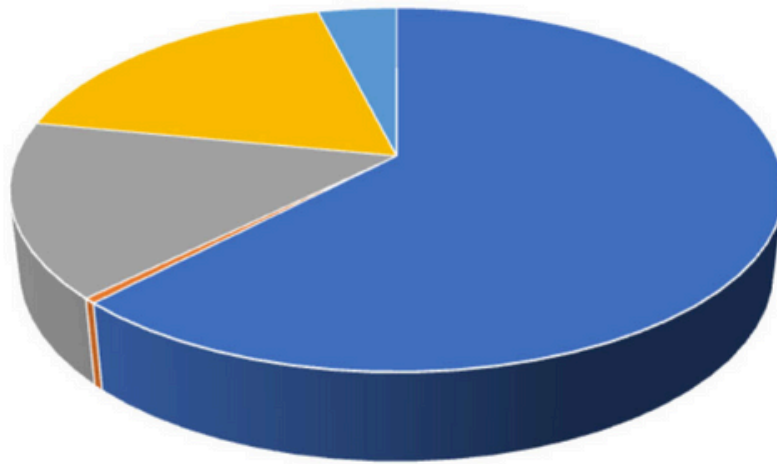
Partnership



Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

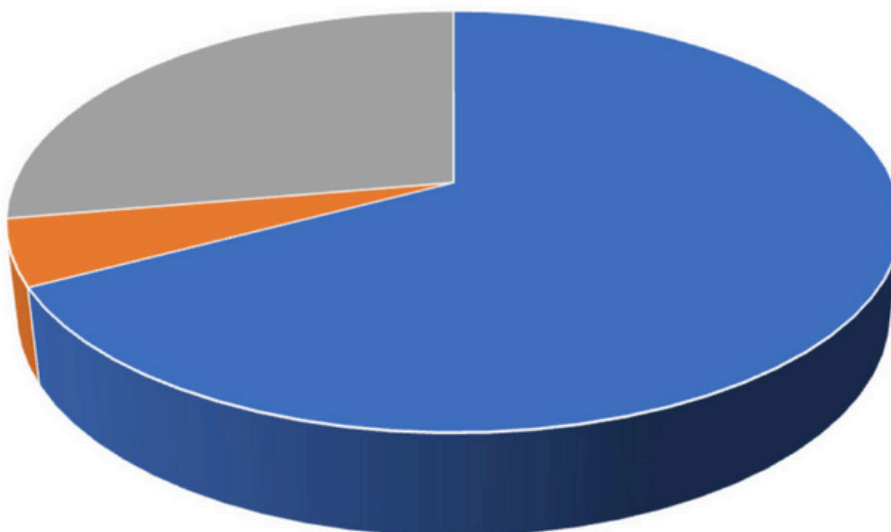
Summerland Christian College enjoys positive and productive relationships between all stakeholders. This culture is actively promoted through a range of formal and informal opportunities to positively partner with parents in the education and growth of their child.

Revenue



- Commonwealth Recurrent Grants - 62.1%
- Tuition Fees & Charges - 18%
- State Recurrent Grants - 15.5%
- Other Income - 3.9%
- Other Government Income - 0.4%

Expenditure



- Salaries & Related Expenses - 67.2%
- Non-Salary Expenditure - 27.7%
- Capital Expenditure - 5.1%



Jesus



**LOOKING UP,
REACHING OUT.**
in 2023