



## Peria Christian Education Inc Special Character Definition Policy

(Adopted 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014)

(Reviewed and adopted 22 September 2022)

### **Basis:**

Clause 15 of the deed of agreement between the Peria Christian Education (The Association) and the Crown dated May 1998 headed "Special Character Agreement" declares – *That the school shall, at all times in the future, be conducted and operated so as to maintain and preserve the school's Special Character and these presents (within the deed of agreement) shall be interpreted so as to maintain and preserve the Special Character of the school.*

Clause 16 headed "Special Character Definition" sub-clause ii) *The Special Character of the School is determined by the Christian beliefs and values held by Peria Christian Education Incorporated governed by an elected Proprietor,* empowers the Association Proprietor Board to define the Special Christian Character of the School.

Clause 11 of the Constitution of the Association contains the Statement of Faith (Appendix 1 to this policy) upon which the Associations beliefs and values are based.

Clause 12 of the Constitution empowers the Association Proprietor Board to decide on the interpretation of any clauses contained in the Constitution.

### **Policy purpose**

This policy is intended to provide clarity regarding the Special Christian Character of Matamata Christian School.

### **Definitions:**

#### **Marriage:**

Marriage is Biblically defined as being between one man and one woman (Gen 2:24, 1 Cor 7:2-16, Eph 5:23-33, Matt 19:5-6). It is recognised as being one person united to a person of the opposite sex as husband and wife in a covenantal, consensual and contractual relationship recognised in law.

#### **Gender:**

The Bible is clear that in the beginning God created mankind as male and female (Gen 1:27) and this portrayal is based on, amongst other things, the physical ability of the male and female together to procreate (Gen 1:28). As gender is God given (Psalm 139: 13-16) and there is nothing in scripture to indicate any difference between the anatomical and any other type of identity, the term "gender" is limited to the two separate and distinct sexes, male and female.

### **Policy:**

The basis of the Associations beliefs and values shall always be the Statement of Faith contained in the constitution of the Association (Appendix 1 to this policy).

The definitions contained in this policy shall constitute sacredly held values and beliefs, and shall add clarity to the above mentioned statement of faith.

# Peria Christian Education

## Statement of Faith

### Holy Scripture and Education

By faith we confess the books of the Old and New Testaments to be the divinely inspired, inerrant Word of God (2 Tim. 3: 16,17), the only absolute rule for all faith and conduct, and therefore also for the education of our children at home and at school.

### Christian Parents and Education

As believing parents we have Christ's comforting assurance for our children that theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven and that He will bless them when we bring them to Him (Mark 10: 13-16). Expecting the fulfilment of His promise and obeying the command of His apostle, we endeavour to "bring our children up "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph.6:4) : Since the responsibility for this task has been placed on our shoulders as parents, we gladly accept responsibility for that part of the education which takes place outside our homes in the school. We consider the establishment of Christian Schools, which are to assist us in the work of Christian nurture and education, to be our duty and God-given privilege.

### Christian Schools

As Christ is the Saviour and Lord of the whole human life (Matt. 28:18\_ Eph. 1:20-22 Co. 1: 16, 17), we understand by a Christian School such an educational institution as one in which not only is Christ honoured by prayer and study of the Bible, but in which all subjects are taught by the light of God's revelation in Jesus Christ contained in the Old and New Testaments. For such a Christian School, we, as parents, claim all freedom in the field of education as long as this education takes place in obedience to the requirements of God's Word and in adherence to legitimate governmental standards and provisions.

### God and Creation

All things were created by God so that "what is seen was not made out of what was visible" (Hebrews 11:3). God created them in, through and for Christ, (Col. 1:15-17), by His word and Spirit, (Gen. 1; Psa, 33:6), to the glorification of His Holy Name (psa. 8; Psa, 19:1-4; Rom. 11:36). It is also by God's hand, power and care that all created things are preserved and controlled (Psa; 99; Matt. 6:24f; Acts 17:24f). In order to understand world, man and history, we must see them in their relationship to God as the Bible speaks of them.

### The Bible and Sciences.

Creation as well as Scripture has been brought forth by the one God of Truth. Therefore, any seeming discrepancy between the Bible and Science can only be due to human error either in science or in the interpretation of Scripture. Science is truly scientific when both nature and Scripture are taken seriously.

### Man.

Man was created in the image of God to enjoy true communion with his Creator (Gen. 1 :26f; Acts 17:26f), Man was instructed to exercise dominion over the world in strict and loving obedience to God, to interpret all reality in accordance with His design and law and to reflect in his person and works the excellence of his Maker (Gen. 1:28f; Psa. 8:4f; Rom. 1:20).

## Sin.

By disobeying God's law and forsaking his office, man estranged himself from God and his neighbour and brought God's curse upon himself and upon all creation (Gen. 3:16-19; Rom. 8:19f). He also became blind to life's true meaning and purpose, misused his knowledge and abilities, adhered to man-centred philosophies, and made himself false gods of his own imagination and desires (Rom. 1: 18f).

## Christ.

Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, is God incarnate, the Word became flesh (John 1:1-14). Laying down His life for His sheep (John 10:10-15), He paid the penalty of sin for them, being a ransom for all who truly believe in Him (Matt. 20:28; Rom. 5:6f; 1 Tim. 2:5-6).

Risen from the dead in His physical body (Luke 24:36-43), and having ascended to the throne of Heaven, He is the King of the Universe (Matt. 28:28, 1 Pet. 3:22). By His Word and Spirit He rules in grace over all true believers. Redeeming their life in its entirety, renewing them after His image and restoring them to fellowship with God and their fellow men, He seeks to make them obedient to God's will in all spheres of life (Rom. 8: 1-17).

## The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Holy Trinity (2 COL 13: 13), the divine source of all created life (Gen. 1 :2; Psa. 104:30), is also the source of Faith in Christ, the true, spiritual knowledge and of a new sanctified life in grateful obedience to God's will (John 3:3f; 1 Cor. 2:9f; 12:3; Eph. 3:14t).

Since, therefore, the fruit of all Christian education depends on the gracious operations of the Holy Spirit, both parents and teachers are to perform their task with constant prayer that the Spirit may enable them to be good instruments in His hands for bringing the children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, and that He may so bless their work that the children come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord, whom to follow and serve in all spheres of life as their greatest privilege and joy.