

Benefits and Features of ACHS

K-12 Curriculum

We provide support to families from the pre-reading stage to year 12 graduation. This means you can have the same support and service right throughout your child's education. We also have a significant number of adults who have joined ACHS to gain year 10 or year 12 certificates.

No Lesson Preparation Required

The curriculum preparation has all been done for you when you use our curriculum. This is a great source of comfort to those who are unsure about writing programs. It is a huge blessing for those with two or more children.

Size

We are the largest home schooling organisation in Australia providing a whole curriculum package, which gives us several advantages in terms of curriculum development, community, networking as well as interaction with government departments.

Discounts

When you join ACHS you will receive substantial product discounts through materials purchased through our main supplier, Southern Cross Education Enterprises (SCEE).

Experience

ACHS, (formerly Australia Christian Academy) has over 30 years experience providing home schooling support and expertise to families throughout the South Pacific region. We can advise in areas such as learning to read, middle school, careers and gaining entrance to tertiary education.

Academic Support

For parents who would like professional teacher assistance in the teaching of phonics, grammar, maths or the higher sciences, our advanced level of membership is available. We are only one of a handful of organisations that offer this service in Australia.

Flexibility

Nearly all of our members use Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) subjects but as we are not a registered school you may choose to use alternative subjects or curriculum and yet still be part of ACHS.

New Curriculum available

CEM is making new online Australian curriculum choices available to ACHS families. This means you can still use the core ACE curriculum but you will be able to do some subjects online such as Music or LOTE.

Options

ACHS is part of Christian Education Ministries (CEM), which is the largest provider of Distance Education in Australia. If you wish at any time to join a distance education program, (which is possible in every state except Victoria) the transition would be a very simple process.

Dedicated Christian Support staff

A requirement for employment for ACHS staff is that they sign our statement of faith and that they are active in Christian ministry.

Diagnostic testing on enrolment

Part of our service is to conduct diagnostic testing on enrolment. Your child will receive a set of diagnostic assessments, which will be used to determine the knowledge and skills of each of your children. You send in your child's tests and a teacher will then work in conjunction with you to determine your child's academic prescription.

Prescription of academic program

A qualified teacher will mark your child's diagnostic tests and work out a prescription for each child. This means your child will begin at point, which is neither too easy, nor too hard, and they will achieve success immediately. The success will breed confidence and lead to a love for learning.

24 hour Insurance cover

Your child is covered by a 24 hour, 7 day general insurance cover with AON as part of your enrolment. Please note that this is not equivalent to a hospital insurance cover and you are recommended to seek professional advice.

Award and graduation ceremonies

All students are eligible to attend our annual award and graduation ceremonies, which are held in some of the capital cities of Australia. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of your children in a public setting. If your family is not able to attend because of distance or some other reason, all awards will be posted free of charge to your home address.

Online community available with CEM Online

Students will be able to join our restricted and monitored online community called CEM Online. There are a wide variety of forums, which they can contribute to. These are restricted to students who are enrolled with ACHS.

Semester Reports

All students will receive semester reports, which will summarise their academic progress. They are important documents, which will form part of each child's academic, and achievement presentation portfolio.

Year 10 and 12 ACE graduation certificates

We offer year 10 and 12 graduation certificates, which are great incentives for students as they seek to have identifiable goals in their secondary years. They are also vital for those seeking TAFE or tertiary entrance.

Access to student conventions

Students at ACHS are welcome to enrol in regional, South Pacific and International conventions run by Southern Cross Education Enterprises. These are run in most Australian states each year.

Special diagnosis for children with special needs

If your child has a learning difficulty we provide a service to help determine a modified program, which will best suit your child. The fee for this service is very affordable.

Home schooling is possible for the long term

Many homeschoolers start out enthusiastically but soon become overwhelmed by lesson preparation, curriculum choice, loneliness, a lack of Australian Christian history material and extensive marking. Many simply give up and put their children back in school. However by joining ACHS each of these problems is overcome with a whole package curriculum, which is fully prepared, rigorous and provides structure and routine for you and your children. We will be with you for the long term and we will help you with each hurdle as it comes.

We are available

Our office is open for general support during normal business hours, including school holidays (with the exception of a 2 week break around Christmas), so we will be there for you. Also with our emphasis on community, you and your children will be able to connect and make friends with many others who are likeminded.

Benefits of our Curriculum

Our main curriculum is the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) program, which offers the following benefits and features for your family:

No lesson preparation required

Our curriculum has been developed by curriculum writing experts. Parents don't have to find, access and compile their own lessons.

Biblical Worldview

The philosophy and worldview of the curriculum is distinctly Biblical. The ACE curriculum is not the state curriculum with a few Bible verses around the edges. Every subject upholds the Lordship of Jesus Christ and teaches about mission, godly living, respect for those in authority and character development.

Self Instructional

The ACE curriculum is a self-instructional tool, not a school textbook. It does not need a professional teacher with a degree in a subject to teach that subject to your child. The teaching is written into the curriculum. This method of instruction is one of the best forms of self-directed and mastery learning. It is used in registered schools in all states of Australia.

Empowers Parents

The Bible states that parents are to teach their children (Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4). The ACE curriculum provides the expertise in each specific subject area to assist the parent in this task. Thus the parent does not have to have a degree in any particular subject area. The partnership of the parent, the curriculum and ACHS allows the parent to confidently teach the child.

Character Building

The curriculum encourages the development of 60 positive character traits in the child. These character traits include characteristics that Jesus demonstrated such as: courage, honesty, compassion, creativity, resourcefulness, etc. Positive character development in children is one of the main goals for home educators.

Appeals to Children

The cartoon characters in the curriculum grow up with your children. They face similar problems that children normally face and exhibit Biblical answers to their problems. The curriculum provides wholesome role models for children as they study daily.

Colourful & Interesting

The work units look good and are fun to use.

Encourages Thought

The activities in the curriculum require varied levels of higher order thinking processes. Research has shown that the course material uses all five levels of Bloom's Taxonomy.

Safety Net

The curriculum is a safety net for you as an educator. It provides the basics of education, so your child will not miss out on important steps in education. This core curriculum covers all that is required for a fundamentally sound education.

Allows For Creativity

Other activities or subjects may be added beyond the core curriculum to enhance the child's development and education according to his or her individual gifts and abilities. Similarly, the structured curriculum can be the basis for any form of further discussion, research or follow-up learning activities associated with points of interest for your child.

Frees the Parent

Parents are free from being loaded down with tedious lesson planning. They are freed to give their full attention to their own children without being hindered by having to develop other curricula and lesson plans.

Parent Training Provided

Each parent is given a self-instructional training package at commencement, which is completed at home and takes about 10 hours. This explains all the procedures that will help make the program work effectively. Furthermore, ACHS staff are only a phone call away if you have any questions.

Diagnostic Testing

Each child receives a packet of diagnostic tests, which are done at home. There is no time limit for individual tests, but most students complete the tests over a period of two to three days. The student tests and parent training are then returned to ACHS. A teacher will then proscribe the curriculum at the level of the child.

The testing will also identify gaps, which can be revised without the need for repeating a whole year level. This means your child will begin using material that is neither too hard nor too easy.

Suited to parents starting homeschooling

Many parents are anxious about taking the step to start homeschooling. ACE is designed to make the transition as smooth as possible. A whole curriculum package means it is all there for you. There is no need to scour bookshops and the Internet for the latest and greatest offerings.

Uses phonics to teach reading

Our curriculum uses a recommended phonics methodology to teach reading and is used throughout the early foundation years.

Teaches Spelling

A whole course, *Word Building*, is devoted to spelling and vocabulary, which greatly improves each child's literacy.

Children mark their own work

Self-correction is an important part of the learning process. Score keys are provided with fully worked solutions which students are allowed to refer to after gaining parental permission. It is the responsibility of the child to make the first attempt at understanding where they went wrong.

If after checking the solution they still do not understand, it is then appropriate to ask for help from the parent. This process of self-diagnosis and self-correction will prove highly beneficial later in life. Final tests are scored by the parent using a separate test key, which should be kept in a place not accessible by the child.

Mastery Learning

The curriculum uses a sequential learning methodology, with constant revision leading to mastery learning. Constant revision of material learned recently is a highly efficient method of increased memory retention.

Bible Subjects

Not only does ACE teach the core subjects such as English, Maths, Social Studies and Science, there are a number of Bible subjects. These include Bible reading for primary, Old and New Testament survey, Life of Christ and Successful Living, which is a study of the book of proverbs.

Includes Checks and student accountability

The program has points called check ups where a student must present his workbook to the parent for understanding. The parent will review the quality and accuracy of the work and will also ask questions for understanding. If satisfied the parent will allow the student to proceed to the written component of the check up.

Students learn goal setting

At the end of each day the child sets his or her own goals for the next day on a goal chart. These are the goals, which must be completed by the student the following day. While the parent oversees this process, it is a vital skill that will prepare the child for success later in life.

Lots of parent-child interaction

On average each child will require at least 40 interactions with the parent each day. These will include permission to do check ups, score checks and self tests, quoting of Bible verses, reading of vocabulary and new words and the checking of goal charts. The parent also has the opportunity to be creative and tell a story of a personal experience or do research with the child in the library, on the Internet or in the garden.

Scripture Memory

The curriculum places a high emphasis on the learning of God's word, whereby students are expected to learn one verse in each workbook. Typically that equates to around 60 verses per year.

Academically Rigorous

The program has been recognised internationally as being equivalent to Cambridge A levels.

Teaches a literal six day creation of the earth

The curriculum upholds a young earth theory where God created the world in six 24 hour periods.

Teaches grammar to a high level

Students learn parts of speech, correct sentence construction and diagramming. Good grammar skills give students the ability to communicate clearly, concisely and effectively.

Uses Christian novels for literature

The novels have been chosen not only because they are good literature but because they have a positive Christian message.

Teaches Australian History and Australian Maths

Although the main curriculum is imported from the United States, Australian History, Geography and Maths courses have been written for use in Australia.

Suited for gifted children

The program is designed so that students are able to progress at their own rate. Gifted students may graduate one or two years earlier than what would normally be expected. Alternatively they may choose to do more electives so as to receive a broader education.

Suited for students with learning difficulties

The course can be easily modified to suit those who take a little longer to grasp a concept or who can only cope with a reduced workload due to sickness. Parents are recommended to go the advanced level of support in such cases so that they will be able to get academic support and advice from our professional teaching staff.

Suitable for those travelling

As the curriculum is largely correspondence based the PACE workbooks can be bought before a trip and used easily whilst on the road in the remotest of locations.

Uses direct instruction methodology

Direct instruction has been proven to be a very efficient means of instruction.

Over 60 Electives

There are over 60 electives to choose from.