

# Student Placement and Class Sizes

## **Effective teaching that targets the promotion of learning**

The College works in the best interest of the students by focusing its energy on effective teaching. The College employs teachers and other school workers; and invests in building and equipment to bring about the best learning opportunities it can within the resources it has available.

The College was established by those seeking an independent Christian schooling experience for the children of the Whitsundays. The only source of funds the College has is the collection of fees from parents and a range of government grants it receives each year. Whitsunday Christian College is acknowledged as a low fee Christian community school in the independent sector. Being a not for profit organisation, the College exists for the service of the children. Neither dividends nor any other payment for services are made to company directors in our type of not for profit organisation. If there is any surplus at the end of the year after expenses are taken care of, these funds are directed back to further investments to enhance learning.

Notwithstanding, the flexible and targeted management structure the College aims to maximise resources to promote effective teaching that promotes learning. One of the main indicators of student success is having effective targeted teaching. Interestingly this is a much stronger indicator than actual class size.

## **General main class group sizes**

Generally the policy on class sizes is:

- Prep to Year 2 - class size target is 25
- Year 3 to Year 10 - class size target is 28
- Year 11 to Year 12 - class size target is 25

However, while most of our classes are generally less than these target sizes, the dynamic, flexible and targeted approach the College uses means that at different times of the day different combinations and arrangements are put in place to meet the needs of whole year levels, classes, small groups and individuals. Multi-age groupings are part of the flexible management structures the College uses to best cater for students within the available resources. The College has well established structures to effectively use these groupings in the Secondary School for a range of subject choices. These types of class groupings are also well established solutions to meet the needs of Primary School children, particularly groups of children with special or extension requirements. In many ways these grouping structures acknowledge the reality that all classes are made of a wide range of children with differing abilities.

Teacher Ratio in the College is 1:15

The College employs around one teacher for every 15 students enrolled. While this does not mean class sizes are 15 students, it does mean that as you walk through the College you will see a range of lessons happening with different numbers of students. For example, one teacher will be teaching one child in a room while one teacher may be working with a small group in another. At times one teacher will be presenting a Mathematics concept lesson to a whole year group at the start of a new topic.

This one size does not fit all style allows us to target the needs of individuals, groups, classes and whole year levels.

### **What class will my child be in?**

Individual student placements to class groups are announced on the Thursday before school starts each year at the Orientation Afternoon.