This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.
Unit Name  Establishing and Sustaining Distinctively Christian School Cultures

Unit Code  ED613

Awards  Graduate Certificate in Christian Education  
          Master of Education

Core/Elective  Elective

Strand  Educational Leadership

Prerequisites  
- ED600  Theological Reflections on Education
  OR
- ED601  Applying Worldview Studies to Christian Education
- ED602  Philosophical Perspectives on Education

Modes  External

Delivery/Contact hrs  Nominal 10 hours per week x 14 weeks = 140 hours (10 credit points)
[Engagement with study materials and readings: 90 hours; Assignment preparation: 50 hours]

Unit Coordinator  Dr Robert Herschell

Teaching Staff  Darren Iselin

Unit Rationale  Recent research is revealing that organisational culture is a powerful determinant of what will happen in an organisation, and the application of the concept of organisational culture to schools is one of the major emphases in current literature on educational leadership. Studies of excellence in schooling pay much attention to the culture of the school. Most recent articles on leadership in schools also make reference to school culture. It is most appropriate, therefore, to apply this growing body of learning to the Christian school setting. In fact, if we regard a Christian school as part of the body of Christ, so that the organic aspect of the school organisation is strongly emphasised, then culture, worldview, philosophy and practice come together to enhance the functioning of the school as truly Christian – as a faith/learning community. In particular, the unit will focus on the consideration of the desirable features of Christian school culture and strategies for cultivating, developing and perpetuating such a culture to succeeding generations.

While studies in school culture are quite appropriate for those generally considered as providing leadership in the school, they are also relevant to the classroom teacher and to the school community. Teachers should be encouraged to make leadership contributions since they have much to contribute. The culture of a school is not solely the result of administrative leadership, important as that is, but depends also on the enlightened co-operation of staff, students and community. It is important that all involved think in terms of “This is our school – under God.”

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this unit of study, students will have provided evidence that they have:

1. Outlined the concept of organisational culture.
3. Considered the significance of school culture for school effectiveness.
4. Explored cultural metaphors from distinctively Christian perspectives.
5. Proposed desirable cultural attributes of a Christian school.
6. Considered the role of leadership in shaping school culture.
7. Investigated context specific school cultures and proposed and critically reviewed strategies for developing and maintaining distinctively Christian school cultures.
8. Demonstrated competence in writing at an appropriate tertiary standard (with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation).
Content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Organisational culture and investigation of educational settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>School culture and school effectiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Research relating to school cultures in general and Christian school cultures in particular</td>
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<td>7-8</td>
<td>Christian distinctives regarding school culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Characteristics of effective and productive Christian school cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>Challenges in promoting and maintaining Christian school culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Application of concepts in the investigation and analysis of selected school setting</td>
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Set Text Requirements:


Recommended Readings:


Relevant Journals

*Journal of Educational Leadership, Policy and Practice*

*Australian Journal of Education*
### Assessment:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Topic/s</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Week Due</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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| Research essay (3500 words; Part A - 1500 words; Part B - 2000 words) | Part A: Discussion of the concept of 'school culture', particularly as it applies to the context of Christian schooling.  
Part B: Selection of a metaphor or cluster of metaphors that express what is regarded as desirable for a Christian school culture. Development of the implications of this choice for school, classrooms, and the school community. | 1-5, 8 | 10 | 50% |
| Investigative and evaluative report (3500 words)    | School Culture Investigation and Evaluation: Challenges in promoting and maintaining Christian school culture. Application of concepts in the investigation and analysis of selected school setting | 2, 3, 6-8 | 14 | 50% |

### Unit Overview:

This unit explores the concept of organisational culture, particularly as it relates to Christian schools. It directs the student to consider the Christian school as a faith community with an emphasis on learning. The unit also deals with how Christian school leaders can preserve, perpetuate and maintain distinctively Christian school cultures and how symbolic cultural elements can facilitate and enhance these preservation processes. This unit will challenge students to apply cultural concepts and understandings to thinking about, investigating, and intervening in school settings. Students will be required to survey significant literature on the application of the concept of organisational culture to schools and to develop, with the help of scripture and Christian thinking on the issue, goals for the development of a distinctively Christian school culture. In particular, the unit will focus on the consideration of the desirable features of Christian school culture and strategies for cultivating, developing and perpetuating such a culture to succeeding generations.