ED615

CULTIVATING SUSTAINABLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CULTURES

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Unit code</strong></th>
<th>ED615</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit name</strong></td>
<td>Cultivating Sustainable Christian School Cultures</td>
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| **Associated higher education awards** | Graduate Certificate in Christian Education  
|                  | Master of Education |
| **Duration**     | One semester                |
| **Level**        | Postgraduate               |
| **Unit Coordinator** | Dr Robert Herschell |
| **Core/Elective** | Elective                     |
| **Weighting**    | Unit credit points: 10  
|                  | Total course credit points:  
|                  | Graduate Certificate in Christian Education - 40  
|                  | Master of Education - 80 |
| **Student workload** | Directed study hours: 90  
|                  | Personal study hours: 60  
|                  | Total workload hours: 150 |
|                  | Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional 1 hour(s) per week. |
| **Delivery mode** | External                       |
| **Pre-/Corequisites** | Prerequisite or corequisite:  
|                  | ED601 Applying Worldview Studies to Christian Education  
|                  | OR  
|                  | ED602 Philosophical Perspectives on Education |
| **Rationale**    | Recent research suggests 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 a major emphasis in current literature on educational leadership. Studies of excellence in schooling pay much attention to the culture of the school. It is most appropriate, therefore, to apply this growing body of learning to the Christian school setting. In fact, if the Christian school is regarded 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, students will have provided evidence that they have:

1. outlined the concept of organisational culture;
2. applied cultural concepts in developing understandings of school settings;
3. considered the significance of school culture for school effectiveness;
4. critiqued cultural metaphors from distinctively Christian perspectives;
5. proposed desirable cultural attributes of a Christian school;
6. reviewed 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; and
8. communicated at an appropriate tertiary standard, with special attention to design elements, grammars, usage, logical relations, style and presentation.

### Content

- Organisational culture and investigation of educational settings.
- School culture and school effectiveness.
- Research relating to school cultures in general and Christian school cultures in particular.
- Christian distinctives regarding school culture.
- Characteristics of effective and productive Christian school cultures.
- Challenges in promoting and maintaining Christian school culture.
- Application of concepts in the investigation and analysis of selected school setting.

### Assessment tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Word length/Duration</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Learning outcomes</th>
<th>Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task 1</td>
<td>Research essay</td>
<td>3000 words</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1-5, 8</td>
<td>Y - 2017, S - 1, W - 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task 2</td>
<td>Investigative and evaluative report</td>
<td>3000 words</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>2-3, 6-8</td>
<td>Y - 2017, S - 1, W - 15</td>
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### Specialist resource requirements

Nil

### Prescribed text(s)

Nil

### Recommended readings

Recommended readings (continued)


Journals and Periodicals

Australian Journal of Education

International Journal of Leadership in Education. Theory and Practice

Leading and Managing

Professional Educator

The Australian Educational Leader

Websites


National College for Teaching and Leadership - www.nationalcollege.org.uk

Motion Leadership - http://www.michaelfullan.com/

Ontario Institute for Education Leadership - http://www.education-leadership-ontario.ca/content/home

In addition to the resources above, students should have access to a Bible, preferably a modern translation such as the New International Version (NIV) or the New King James Version (NKJV).

These and other translations may be accessed free on-line at http://www.biblegateway.com. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices.

Unit summary

This unit explores the concept of organisational culture, particularly as it relates to Christian schools. It directs students to consider the Christian school as a faith community with an emphasis on learning, and 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. 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 for succeeding generations. Students will survey significant literature on the application of the concept of organisational culture to schools and develop, with the help of scripture and Christian teaching, a means by which they can interrogate the relationship between theory and practice in a real school situation.