

Foundations of Faith

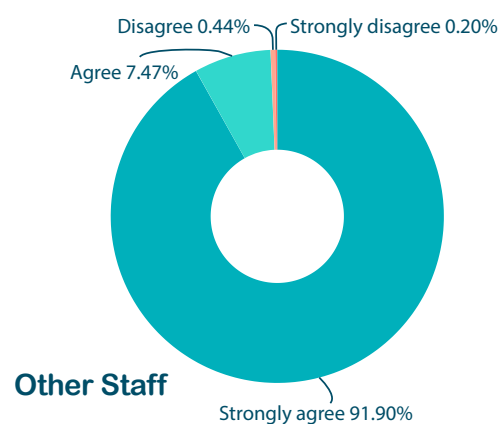
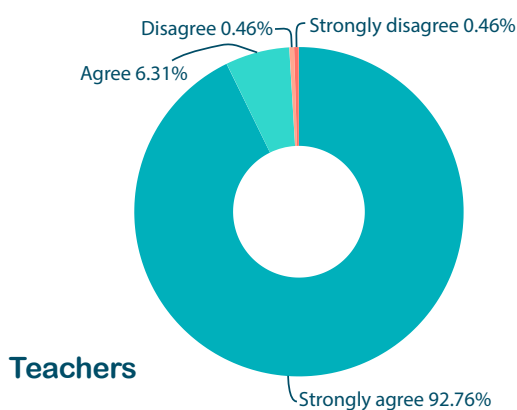
There is a misperception among law reform and human rights commissions that the faith of staff within Christian schools is not an essential requirement.

- » The Queensland Human Rights Commission claims that a science teacher is ‘*not involved in the teaching, observance or practice of a religion*’ and faith should not be a relevant factor in their employment.
- » The Western Australian Law Reform Commission asserts that ‘a maths teacher or a gardener’ doesn’t need to share the school’s beliefs.
- » The Australian Law Reform Commission even proposes staff should be allowed to promote different beliefs to those of the school.

In a comprehensive survey of over 5,000 teaching and non-teaching staff within Christian schools, there was almost universal support for the protections that allow schools to employ staff who share the beliefs of the school

Over 99% of all staff agreed or strongly agreed that their school should be able to employ staff who share the beliefs of the school.

“I support my school being able to employ staff who share the beliefs of the school”



“Real Christian faith cannot be faked or ‘put on’ during school hours. It is embedded in every cell of our body and is who we are, our character. A student will quickly see through a teacher who is true to their faith, and a teacher who is not living and breathing through Christ. For many different professions, character counts and is a make or break for a job. Similarly for teaching at a Christian school, Christian character is most important.

Natasha, Teacher



98.2% of teaching staff and 97.9% of other staff agreed or strongly agreed that their school culture would change if the school was no longer able to employ staff who share the beliefs of the school

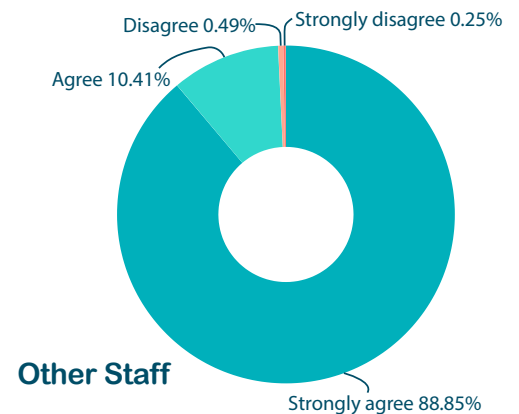
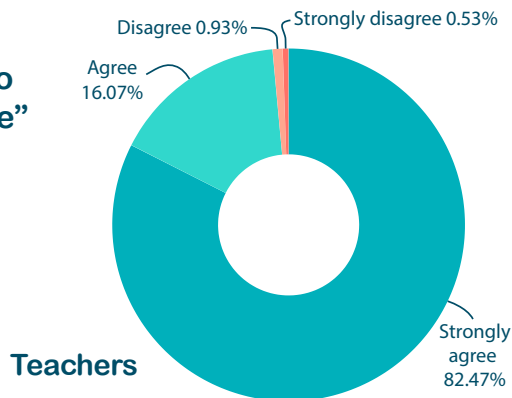


Having Christian staff in all roles at Christian schools is essential because their faith informs everything they do and say and how it's said and done. It's not just about passing on rules to obey such as might be the case in other religions. Christianity is a whole mind set, a lens to look at life. This is why even admin staff and aides who share this same faith are essential as role models within Christian schools.

Kerren, Non-teaching staff member

Faith Impacts Work

“My Christian faith shapes my approach to teaching/my role”



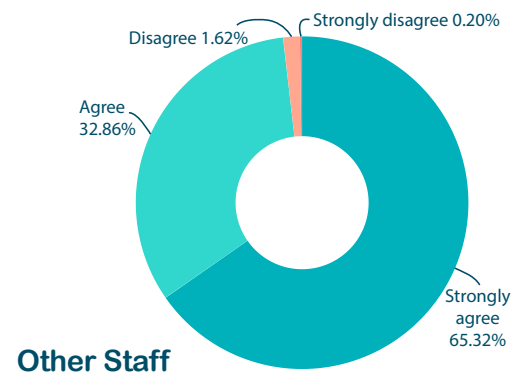
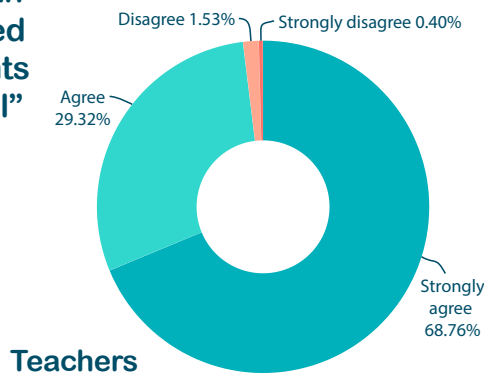
Being able to share my faith is an integral part of my teaching career. Christian children need the ability to be encouraged in their faith and be provided with the opportunity to share their thoughts, concerns and struggles with teachers who have a common faith.

Teacher, ACT



There is strong agreement that the Christian faith of staff is valued by parents and students within Christian schools

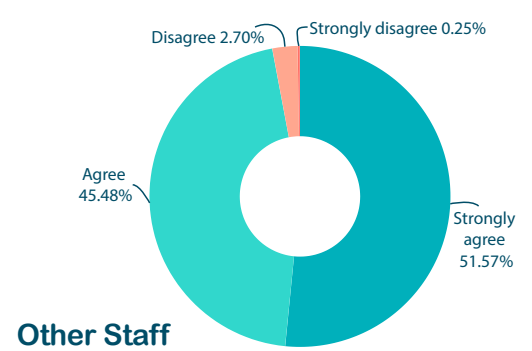
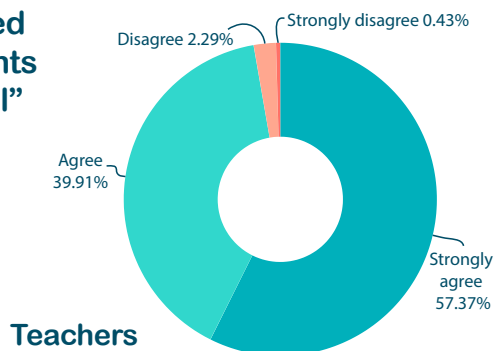
“My Christian faith is valued by the parents at my school”



This school has a positive expression of faith and community that is valued by parents as they choose this environment for their children to learn and grow in. The freedom to have role models in faith and life as teachers in the school is a key aspect of why parents enrol their children here as they see teachers as participants with them in shaping the values, attitudes and behaviour of their children as they grow up. These shared values are an essential aspect of the character of the school and shape every aspect of practice and teaching.

Teacher, NSW

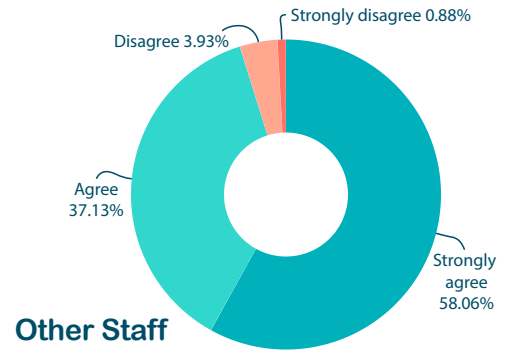
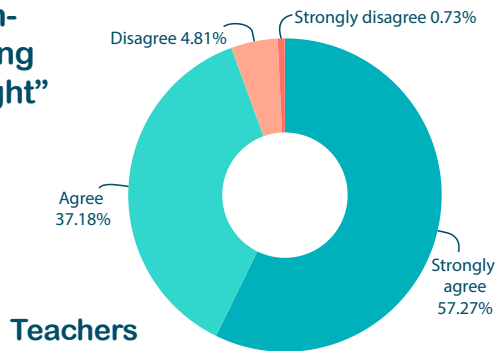
“My Christian faith is valued by the students at my school”



Less than half (43%) of teachers believe that their contribution as teachers with a Christian faith is valued by government and society

Staff consider media coverage of Christian schools is negative and inaccurate

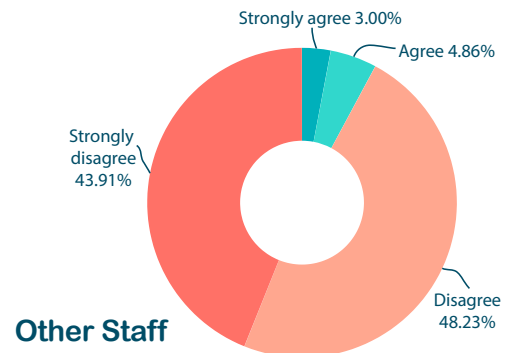
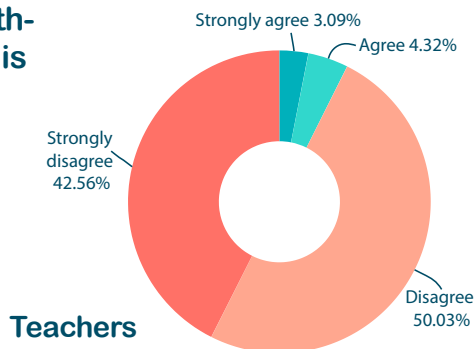
“The media portrays faith-based schooling in a negative light”



I feel that there is a lack of understanding of the role that teachers in Christian schools fulfill in young people lives, from Mentorship to character development to building students understanding of their ability to make a positive contribution to their world. The whole-child approach of Christian schooling is a priority in our schools. Christian schools are providing a safe and secure environment for students to develop their moral compass, grounded in a Christian worldview that is non-discriminatory, and helps students see beyond themselves.

Teacher, NSW

“The media’s coverage of faith-based schools is accurate”



Read more of the thousands of stories from staff, parents and students about the impact of faith within their Christian school here: mychristianschool.au/good-news/



The national survey of staff within member schools of Associated Christian Schools, Australian Association of Christian Schools and Christian Schools Australia received 5,221 responses from teaching and non-teaching staff across all states and territories. Respondents reflected a wide range of ages and years of experience and included both metropolitan and regional and rural based schools.