



# Parent Handbook 2026



Our Kindies start out like this  
(Kindergarten class Term 1 2025)

But quickly grow into this  
(2025 Year 10 Graduates)





## Table of contents

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. FOUNDATION	4
3. MISSION, VALUES AND CORE VALUES	4
4. NAME AND BADGE	4
5. SCHOOL SONG	4
6. SCHOOL STRUCTURE	4
7. ENROLMENT PROCEDURE	5
8. TERM DATES 2026	6
9. SCHOOL HOURS	6
10. TRANSPORT	7
11. USE OF STUDENT IMAGES	7
12. SCHOOL RULES PARENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF	7
13. DISCIPLINE POLICY	9
14. CODE OF BEHAVIOUR	9
15. COMPLIMENTS AND CONFLICT POLICY	10
16. LIBRARY	10
17. SCHOOL-RELATED PURCHASES	11
18. STATIONERY	11
19. DIARY/MEMO BOOKLET	12
20. ATTENDANCE POLICY	12
21. HOMEWORK	14
22. REPORTING TO PARENTS	14
23. HOME AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATION	15
24. SCHOOL UNIFORM	16
25. SCHOOL HEALTH	20
26. SCHOOL EXCURSIONS	21
27. STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME (STAS)	21
28. KINDER/PREP INFORMATION	21
29. TEXTBOOKS, SUPPLIES AND LAPTOPS	21
30. SECONDARY LOCKERS	22
31. SCHOOL ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS	23
32. STAFF DETAILS	23

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

## 1. **INTRODUCTION**

The John Calvin School is run by the Free Reformed School Association (Tas) Inc. It was set up to enable parents in the Free Reformed Church to carry out the promise they made at the baptism of their children "to instruct and have them instructed in the doctrine of salvation to the utmost of their power". Since all of creation is under the dominion of Christ, it follows that all aspects of education are likewise to be subject to His sovereign authority. Therefore, the John Calvin School is not just another private school with high standards of education and behaviour, nor is its curriculum identical to that of the state schools except for the addition of Biblical and Church History, a few prayers and some Psalm-singing. On the contrary, God's will, as it is revealed in the Bible and confessed in the doctrinal standards of the Free Reformed Church, permeates the whole curriculum.

History of the school:

In the early 50's a group of parents formed an association with the aim of providing Christian education for their children.

An executive committee made a feasibility study. When the school building was completed in 1964, the executive committee was replaced by a Board of Management which is elected from the association members.

The school was opened in 1965 with 52 children and 2 full-time teachers. In 1977 a High school section was added to the Primary school. It started with 14 pupils in Grade 7. At that time, Mr FJ Veldhuis was teacher/headmaster of the primary and secondary sections.

By 1980, the High School was extended to comprise 4 classes, Grades 7 to 10, with a total of 35 students.

In 1989, the Primary and High School sections were officially separated, although they remained on the same campus. Mr J.J. Hoekstra of Canada, who had been Acting Principal for some time, became Principal of the High School. In that same year there were 55 High School students, divided over the 4 grades.

In 1995 Mr G. Brouwer was appointed as Acting Principal.

In 1996 the High school section comprised Grade 7 only with Mr G Brouwer as co-ordinator and senior teacher.

In 1997 the school expanded again to Grade 8. Mr Brouwer became Principal of both Primary and High School sections in 1998.

In 2003 a decision to re-open Gr 9 in 2004 and Gr 10 in 2005 was made when suitable staff became available. In 2006 a major refurbishment took place, physically connecting the Primary and Secondary sections of the school.

In 2009 further refurbishment work was undertaken and completed under the government's BER (Building Education Revolution) programme.

In 2014 Mr Brouwer retired as principal and the board appointed Mr D Coote in his place.

In 2025 the school celebrated it's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## 2. FOUNDATION

The foundation of the school is the doctrine contained in the Old and New Testaments as summarised in the Reformed Confessions, (Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism and the Canons of Dort) of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

## 3. MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES

### Mission statement

Equipping students to be active and discerning servants of God by providing education consistent with the fundamental values and beliefs of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia founded upon the Word of God as confessed in the Three Forms of Unity, in order to support parents in fulfilling their baptismal promise to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

### Vision statement

**Connected** and **Committed**: We aspire to be a strongly connected community of learners, deeply committed to our faith and to continual growth, nurturing every individual to be their best in the service of God and to His glory.

### Core values

**Sincerity**: We strive to be open and honest, living with integrity, showing love, respect and humility, and taking responsibility for our actions.

**Stewardship**: We strive to use our abilities, resources and opportunities to our best, striving for growth and supporting others to grow.

**Service**: We strive to serve God with all we have, and to serve others in our local and global communities.

## 4. NAME AND BADGE

The school has been named after one of the most important leaders of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century, John Calvin. This name was chosen to reflect the Reformed Christian character of the school. The logo, in English translation, has its origin in this Reformation as well.



## 5. SCHOOL SONG

To God our heart we offer  
In study, work and play.  
We strive, we fail, we falter  
And often go astray.  
Each day we start anew  
And trusting in our Lord  
Our utmost we shall do  
All to the praise of God.

The world and all creation  
God made for us to share.  
The gift of Christ our Saviour  
A blessing rich and rare.  
He gave us hands to serve Him  
And hearts with which to love  
His Word to guide and lead us  
And blessings from above.

May covenant love surround us  
John Calvin School convey  
The glory of our Saviour  
In all we do and say.  
As children of the Lord  
In Christ we stand secure.  
Our school, a place to serve Him  
Our King forevermore.

## 6. SCHOOL STRUCTURE

### 6.1. The School Association

The name of the Association is: The Free Reformed School Association (Tas) Incorporated. Membership is restricted to communicant members of one of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

## 6.2. The Board

The Board is the elected, representative executive of the association, which determines major policy and practice in educational, financial and building matters. Its members generally serve three-year terms and are usually eligible for re-election. The Board is served by a part-time Association Secretary.

[board@jcs.tas.edu.au](mailto:board@jcs.tas.edu.au)

### 6.2.1 Board responsibilities

The Board assigns roles and responsibilities annually to align with the needs of the Board, its strategic plan and the expertise of Board members. After each AGM a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are appointed. Key responsibilities aligned with the strategic plan are delegated, and include Governance, Teaching and Learning, People and Culture, Finance and Risk, Facilities and Infrastructure.

## 6.3. The Principal - School Leadership Team

The School Principal is responsible to the Board for the day-to-day operation of the School. Where necessary, he represents the Board. The principal is supported in the role by The Business Manager. Other administrative or leadership tasks or roles are delegated to appropriate staff from time to time.

## 7. **ENROLMENT PROCEDURE** (see *Enrolment Policy and procedure*)

### 7.1. Enrolment of Students

A child of a member may be enrolled at the school where that child satisfies such rules governing enrolments as the Board of the Association may determine.

### 7.2. Children of non-members

The parent(s) or guardian(s) must contact the Principal to arrange a preliminary discussion, after which an 'Application for Enrolment' form must be completed (available from the Principal or the school's office). On receipt of this, an interview will be conducted by the Principal and two members of the Board.

### 7.3. A child of a non-member may be enrolled at the school if:

- The parents of such a child diligently attend church services where the preaching is consistent with the Foundation, and display a Christian lifestyle;
- The school can accommodate the student;
- The application for such enrolment has been approved;
- The tuition fees, as determined by the Annual General Meeting of the Association, or as determined by the Board in exceptional cases, are paid in advance each term.

## 8. TERM DATES 2026

<b>Term 1</b>	4 February – 17 April	6/3 SFD; 9/3 PH; 3/4-6/4 Easter
<b>Term 2</b>	4 May – 10 July	5/6 SFD; 8/6 PH
<b>Term 3</b>	27 July – 2 October	28/9 SFD
<b>Term 4</b>	19 October – 17 December	2/2 PH; 20/11 SFD
SFD=Student Free Day; PH=Public Holiday		

Other significant dates can be found on the TASS Parent Lounge

## 9. SCHOOL HOURS (refer to Attendance Policy and Procedure)

### 9.1. Primary School

School commences at 8:50 am and finishes at 3:00 pm. Children are not permitted inside the building before 8:30 am or after 3:00 pm unless supervised by a teacher.

Morning break: at the discretion of the teacher

Recess time: 10:45 am – 11:10 am.

Lunch time: 12:45 pm – 1:30 pm.

Afternoon break: at the discretion of the teacher

### 9.2. Secondary School

The school day commences at 8:45am (Pastoral Care session). All students are expected to be on campus by that time, however, the West Tamar bus sometimes arrives later. The school day is divided into 6 periods - 30 periods per week, plus pastoral care sessions.

Recess time: from 10:00 am – 10:20 am

Lunch time: from 12:00 noon – 12:45 pm.

Copies of the school timetable are available from the school and are supplied to students at the beginning of each term.

### 9.3. Staff supervision (see Supervision Policy and leave application form on website)

Children are not permitted to be on the school grounds before 8:25 am and after 3:45 pm except with the express permission of the Principal. If a student is to leave the school grounds, the parents must fill and sign a Leave Application form which can be found on the school website under the title 'Information and Forms'. The student will hand in this form and advise the office when they are leaving and when they are due to return. The school grounds are actively supervised only between 8:25 am and 3:15 pm, so no responsibility can be taken for students outside of those hours. Non school-aged children remain the responsibility of parents/guardians at all times.

## 10. TRANSPORT TO AND FROM SCHOOL (see School Pick up procedure and Vehicle and Pedestrian safety procedure)

- 10.1. Students of the school utilise two main public bus services; Metro, and Manion's Coaches for West Tamar. For further information about these services contact the school office or the bus companies directly.

- 10.2. School driveway access: For the maintenance of traffic flow and safety, please only access the school driveway from the west-bound lane of Howick Street, turning left into the school grounds. When exiting the school, please turn left only.
- 10.3. Speed limit: for the safety of pedestrians and vehicles, please limit speed on the school grounds to 10km/h.
- 10.4. Parking: All vehicles parked in the driveway carpark are to be reverse parked to enable safe loading and unloading of the vehicles. Drivers are advised to reverse their cars right back until rear wheels touch the stops. If the driveway carpark is full, the front playground may be used for parking when the safety bollards are removed from the driveway.
- 10.5. Pedestrians: Pedestrians are required to use the designated paths for access to parked vehicles. Pedestrians accessing vehicles parked on the east side of the driveway (against the fence) are asked to use the designated path next to the church to access the school and vehicles. The space next to the fence is for loading and unloading only.
- 10.6. Catching buses: Bus services will be accessed via Howick Street. Students will be accompanied by a supervisor when catching buses in the afternoon and will not proceed to their bus until asked to do so by the supervisor.

## **11. USE OF STUDENT IMAGES**

- 11.1. At certain times throughout the year, our students may have the opportunity to be photographed or filmed for our school publications, such as the school's newsletter or website, social media, yearbook or to promote the school in newspapers and other media.

Student photographs/videos may also be used in print and online for promotional, marketing, media and educational materials. Parents are requested to indicate their permission for such use as above in the enrolment application and annual student information update on TASS, our school management system.

## **12. SCHOOL RULES PARENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF**

- 12.1. Once a child has arrived at school, he/she may not leave the school grounds again before 3:00 pm without the permission of a teacher and advising the school office. (see *Supervision Policy*)
- 12.2. Children wishing to leave the school grounds during school hours (to buy their lunch, for example) must fill in a dated and signed leave application form to present to Admin on each occasion. (see *Leave application form*)
- 12.3. Full school uniform must be correctly and neatly worn on all occasions unless otherwise indicated. See elsewhere in this handbook for details on correct uniform. (see *Uniform Policy*)

- 12.4. For reasons of safety, bicycles, scooters, rollerblades and the like may not be ridden in the school grounds. Children may ride bicycles to and from school but must park them in the areas designated. No bicycle may be borrowed under any circumstances. Children riding bicycles or scooters etc. must wear appropriate protective equipment.
- 12.5. Primary students are supplied with a stationery pack at the beginning of the year, whilst high school students must come to school with the required stationery for the first day of the school year (stationery list sent out separately). Any extra stationery that may be required throughout the term (because of loss or damage, for example) must be paid for. Children are encouraged to be responsible stewards and are expected to look after their clothing, stationery and text and library books, as well as digital technology. Loss of or damage to school property will likewise have to be paid for by students/parents.
- 12.6. During summer months' children are required to wear hats (see Uniform Policy). As we are a SunSmart school children will not be permitted to play outside or participate in outdoor activities unless they wear hats. Sunscreen is also provided during Term 1 and 4. (see *Sun Protection Policy*)
- 12.7. JCS phone policy (including mobile phones) (see *Personal and digital device policy*)
- Our preference is that students do not bring their smart watches or mobile phones to school;
  - If parents wish their children to have access to their smart device before or after school
    - students must leave their smart watch and phone at the designated location for safekeeping during the day.
  - Any urgent phone calls can be made from the office with the permission and at the discretion of the office staff.
  - Students who use smart watches and mobile phones in class or at school without school authorisation to do so will have their device confiscated.
  - If students offend regularly, the Principal will keep the smart watch or phone indefinitely and request the parents to collect the phone from his office.

### **13. DISCIPLINE POLICY** (see *Behaviour Policy*)

- 13.1. In the school situation, discipline refers to the establishment, maintenance and, where necessary, the restoration of order. Order is essential for learning to take place. The purpose of discipline is to help the child towards increasing self-discipline. Furthermore, discipline is necessary to train the child in the ways of the LORD so that he may from an early age learn to obey God and respect those authorities which represent Him on earth; to recognize and put to death his old nature; to develop his talents according to God-given norms, and to ultimately take his place as a mature and responsible Christian in whatever station and position God is pleased to put him.

- 13.2. Effective discipline, in the Scriptural sense of the word, must take place within the framework of Christian love as summarized in Matthew 22:39. Parents are expected, as a matter of course, to uphold and promote respect for the authority of the teachers who represent them in the school.
- 13.3. Minor misdemeanours in student behaviour usually result in some form of redirection and instruction, detention or loss of one or more privileges. More serious delinquency may result in the offender being suspended or expelled from the school.
- 13.4. **SUSPENSION**  
If a student, in the opinion of the Principal, has been guilty of serious misconduct, the Principal may suspend the student from school for such a period as he considers appropriate, but suspension will not exceed four weeks unless approved by the Board. Alternatively, he may organise for the student to be on an 'internal suspension'.
- 13.5. **EXPULSION**  
A student shall be expelled from school by the Principal if he, after consultation with the Board, is of the view that the student is guilty of such serious misconduct as to warrant expulsion, or in the case of a child of a non-member, the student no longer qualifies under the guidelines for children of non-members.

#### **14. CODE OF BEHAVIOUR** (see *Behaviour Policy*)

- 14.1. The school exists as a caring Christian community that aims to nurture and develop the talents of each of its students within a secure and disciplined environment. Therefore:
- 14.2. It is most important that all associated with the life of the school regard themselves and others with dignity and respect as image bearers of Jesus Christ and aligned with the school's core values of sincerity, stewardship and service.
- 14.3. The students in their behaviour should show self-control and moderation, thereby reflecting credit upon themselves, their families and the school, and honouring God.
- 14.4. It is expected of students that they will respect the property of others, and in their behaviour demonstrate a consideration and sensitivity for the privacy and feelings of others.
- 14.5. No student, either through neglect or lack of concern, is to prevent others from achieving their fullest potential in all fields of endeavour.
- 14.6. Bad language or offensive behaviour is always unacceptable.
- 14.7. Students must show courtesy and politeness of the highest standard.

- 14.8. Students must strive to do their best by using their God-given talents.
- 14.9. Teachers will encourage students to develop their God-given talents.
- 14.10. Teachers will demonstrate love and understanding, not only for their class but also for individual students.

Behaviour and conduct expectations are detailed in the school behaviour policy and our safeguarding children policy suite.

## **15. COMPLIMENTS AND CONFLICT POLICY**

- 15.1. The John Calvin School compliments and conflict policy is published on the school website and should be referred to for any compliments and conflict within the school community. Feedback is integral to the growth of individuals and the school, and we welcome open and respectful feedback.

## **16. LIBRARY**

- 16.1. The school library is maintained to provide a carefully selected range of resources for Kinder to Year 10 students. A stringent resource selection process is undertaken to provide appropriate books for our Christian school. This does limit the range of books kept in the library and parents are encouraged to also make use of the state library and teach their children to be discerning readers.
- 16.2. Library bags are available from the Midford store and are compulsory for all primary students.
- 16.3. All school children are encouraged to use the school library. Parents are requested to ensure that library books are returned by the due date.
- 16.4. Most classes visit the library at a specific time each week to borrow and return books. Parents will be notified concerning library days at the beginning of each year.
- 16.5. Books may be borrowed for a fortnight.
- 16.6. There are some non-fiction materials and books that may not be borrowed, and fiction restrictions exist for different ages. Parents are encouraged to consult with class teachers regarding any adjustments to these restrictions. The restricted categories are clearly marked.
- 16.7. The librarian will issue any children who have overdue library books with an initial reminder through the class teacher. If the books concerned have not been returned within another week, the parents will be notified. If, after another two weeks the item/s are not returned, an account for the books will be sent to the child's parents. The child may borrow no further material from the library until the account has been settled or the book(s) returned.

## **17. SCHOOL-RELATED PURCHASES**

- 17.1. The school will be managing most school related payments or purchases through invoicing. This means that special levies, excursion or camp fees will be invoiced to the parents, rather than dealing with cash. For all financial enquiries, please contact the Administration team. The school also has EFTPOS services available at the office. A summary of the main levies and their timing in the year will be circulated to parents early in the school year.

## **18. STATIONERY**

- 18.1. Primary students are provided a stationery pack at the beginning of the year and replacements due to normal use are replaced free of charge. Secondary school students must supply a basic stationery pack at the beginning of the year. Loss and damage due to carelessness and vandalism will be rectified by the child at their own cost.

## **19. DIARIES/MEMO BOOKS**

At the commencement of the school year teachers will confirm their preferred method of communication at the first parent meeting in the second week of the year. Parents are requested to maintain a high level of communication with teachers throughout the year, rather than waiting for formal parent-teacher meetings only. Each teacher will advise of any recording processes students are required to use, either a memo book, diary or electronic tool. Increasingly teachers will be using TASS, the schools digital management system.

## **20. ATTENDANCE POLICY** *(see Attendance Policy)*

- 20.1. The John Calvin School community is bound to the state law, also as far as attendance is concerned. Compliance with this law will promote Christian work ethics for life and learning at school and beyond.

- 20.2. Tasmanian Law re attendance at school

The full-time attendance of students in Prep through to Gr 10 is a legal requirement which needs to be strictly adhered to, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Children, aged 5 years (at January 1) and over, are required to attend school full-time on each day it is officially open to students. The school is open from Monday to Friday during term time, from 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM, except on public holidays and on student-free days when the teaching staff is engaged in curriculum work or professional development.

- 20.3. Unplanned absence

- Exceptional circumstances, and therefore the only legitimate reasons, causing a student to be absent from school can be illness, temporary, physical or mental incapacity, a crisis in the family or anything of that nature which may reasonably be the cause of an unexpected absence.

- If for any of these types of reasons a student cannot attend school, parents/guardians are required to notify the school. Parent Lounge or the mobile ORBIT application, are the preferred methods of communication, or in exceptional circumstances by telephone or email between 8:30 and 9:30AM on the day of the student's absence. The school's 'duty of care' dictates an accountability and awareness as to the whereabouts of the students enrolled at any time during school opening hours.
- Parents/guardians, whose child is absent without notification, are contacted by the school office as soon as practicable after 9:00 AM on the day of absence.

20.4. Planned absence (*see Leave Application form on website*)

As a rule, in the case of planned absence, the parents/guardians are required to comply with the following guidelines in order that the legal attendance requirements be adhered to as much as is possible.

- In planning for a student absence, parents/guardians should avoid the day and hours during which the school is open; eg, doctor/dentist appointments, or anything of that sort, should be scheduled outside of school hours if the possibility exists; an interstate or overseas trip should be planned for when the school is not open.
- Any planned absence, eg, a doctor or dentist appointment, should be communicated to the teacher/school office at the earliest convenience.
- Secondary students have been permitted, with written parent permission, to leave campus during lunch time to access local shops. This should be occasional or reserved for special events/birthdays (1-2 times a term max). Students must consume all food off campus. Students should also seek to be inclusive, not excluding others and causing division amongst peers. The school retains discretion on permitting students to leave depending on the circumstances on the day. No student will be left hungry if not permitted to leave the school.

20.5. Students must report to the office first before leaving and when returning to the school after any approved absence during school hours.

20.6. In the case of any extended planned absence (i.e. more than a day), such as a trip interstate or overseas, the Leave Application form should

- be provided at least at a month's notice after consultation with the Principal;
- take the form of a request for the student to be absent;
- be followed up by the parents/guardians by contacting the principal or relevant teacher with a view to negotiate how the lost time might be

compensated, either by extra work at home and/or school, either before or after the planned absence.

#### 20.7. Part-time attendance

- Those parents/guardians of Prep students who believe that part-time attendance is in the best educational/emotional/physical interests of their child should discuss this matter with the child's teacher and the school Principal.
- Exemptions from regular full-time attendance  
The Education Act 2016 lists several different possible reasons why an exemption for regular full-time attendance might be sought and given. Please contact the Principal.

### 21. HOMEWORK

- 21.1. Formal homework is not set in the infant grades (Kinder - Grade 2) other than the weekly psalm verse and/or text. Children in these grades are, however, encouraged to take library books home and to engage in regular reading to or with family members
- 21.2. Primary school teachers will update the 'Fridge Page' in the school's newsletter 'Connections' with details of the Psalm verse to be memorized and the Bible stories to be dealt with.
- 21.3. Some formal homework may be set in Grade 3 and 4, in addition to the weekly psalm verse and text and to revise and prepare for tests or assessment tasks.
- 21.4. Written homework in the junior primary grades is designed to give children extra practice in skills already learned in class. It should not exceed 20 minutes per evening. These 20 minutes should include time spent on learning psalm verse, text and on any test. If your child is consistently spending more than this on homework, please contact his/her teacher to discuss the matter.
- 21.5. In Grades 5 and 6, regular homework of up to half an hour per night may be set, in addition to memorizing psalm verse/text and revising for tests. Children will be guided in their recording and scheduling of homework with the use of a diary or other suitable method. In this way, children are preparing for the homework load they will face at High School.
- 21.6. In high school, students should expect to spend up to an hour on homework each weeknight. This may include regular tasks such as mathematics and reading, or preparation for tests or special assignment work. Extensions for assignments can be applied for using the *Application for Extensions form* on the website and on TASS.
- 21.7. Children will record details of their homework assignments in the preferred format, and parents are requested to discuss homework regularly to ensure that it is being done and not left until the last possible moment. High school

teachers utilise digital communication methods that will enable more effective communication between students, teachers and the home. Parents are not required to 'teach' during homework time, but to support and supervise. If further 'teaching' is required, please contact the teacher to discuss the matter.

## **22. REPORTING TO PARENTS** (see *Learning Assessment and Reporting Policy*)

Reports are issued electronically by email and parent portal, as listed below.

### Primary

Term 1 interim report. Term 1, week 10.

Term 2 full report. Term 2, week 10.

Term 4 full report, including detailed portfolio for Kinder/Prep. Term 4, week 10.

### Secondary

Term 1 interim report. Term 1, week 10.

Term 2 full report. Term 2, week 10.

Term 3 interim report. Term 3, week 10.

Term 4 full report. Term 4, week 10.

## **23. HOME AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**

23.1. The school utilises various forms of communication that parents are advised to look out for. Contact details for the school office are included at the end of this document. We are moving towards more electronic communication formats, especially utilising TASS and the parent portals. Directions on using these tools are distributed early in the school year by the school office. Please contact the school office for any support.

23.2. Letters and Memos

Letters and memos are sent home with students and also emailed home.

Please regularly ask your children for correspondence that has been sent home. Primary students are instructed to put notes in their green library bag.

23.3. Connections and Calvinist

The weekly school newsletter is called the 'Connections' and is published on Fridays. It contains useful information, updates, important dates and articles about school activities. A Fridge Page is attached which contains important reminders for each class for the upcoming week. Parents are encouraged to display this page on the fridge at home or other visible space.

The Board periodically publishes a newsletter called the 'Calvinist' and provides updates on its activities and governance matters.

23.4. School website

The school website provides links to useful information, including pertinent policies and procedures. [www.jcs.tas.edu.au](http://www.jcs.tas.edu.au)

### 23.5. Visitors to the school

For workplace health and safety reasons, all visitors must report to the office and check-in. In the case of an emergency, this system will help the school keep staff, students and visitors safe. All parents and helpers are advised to obtain their Working with Vulnerable People registration.

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/rwvp> .

Access to the school site and to students will be restricted if a visitor does not have RWVP.

### 23.6. Parent-teacher contact

Good communication between teachers and parents is critical for the ongoing development and well-being of the students. Parents are encouraged to keep regular informal contact with the teachers of their children during the year, being mindful to keep Sundays as a day of rest, and respecting 'right to disconnect' laws. Teachers will advise parents at the beginning of the year what their preferred method of communication is, but staff email addresses are included at the end of this document for your reference. For more formal contact with parents, the following options are advised:

#### Parent-teacher sessions

An initial parent briefing is conducted at the beginning of each year, followed by parent-teacher sessions after the term 1 interim report and term 2 full report.

#### Interviews

Staff members are available for discussion by appointment about anything needing more attention.

#### Phone calls

Because teachers are generally with their classes between 8:30 am and 3:00 pm, please restrict phone calls to convenient times: before 8:30 am, during lunch breaks and after school (3:00 pm). Alternatively make an appointment to chat or meet, or send an email. Individual staff will advise parents of their preferred method of communication at the group information session at the beginning of the year.

Please respect the division of work and private life and keep school related matters to business hours. Staff are not required to check or respond to work-related matters outside of reasonable work hours.

## **25. SCHOOL UNIFORM** *(see Uniform Policy)*

The John Calvin School, along with most other schools in Tasmania, has an official school uniform. The school is proud of its uniform and the way parents have cooperated in designing and providing it for the children. A uniform provides a sense of identity and belonging. All articles of clothing should be clearly marked with the owner's name.

Non-compliance with the uniform will be followed up with the student and, if necessary, the parent/guardian. Secondary students will be asked to complete a

disciplinary task if they are non-compliant without a parental explanation on 3 occasions within a term.

If students are representing the school off campus or participating in a formal event, but their uniform is non-compliant, the school reserves the right to keep the student at school or take reasonable steps to provide the correct uniform item, potentially with costs being passed on to parents.

25.1. Primary

<b>Girls Summer uniform - Primary School</b>
Dress with JCS logo
Jumper - green woollen with JCS logo
Jacket – soft shell green with JCS logo
Girls 'over brief' – black
Socks - plain white (anklets)
Hat – bottle green bucket/slouch
Shoes – black polishable lace- up
Dust coat - art year 5/6
Library Bag
For swimming, bathers should be modest and preferably one-piece or have a rash shirt to cover. This includes any school-related activity involving bathers (lessons, excursions, camps etc)
<b>Girls Winter uniform - Primary School</b>
Pinafore
Blouse – Midford lemon long sleeved square collar
Jumper - green woollen with JCS logo
Jacket – soft shell green with JCS logo
Tights – black opaque
Socks – bottle green knee-hi's
Girls 'over brief' – black
Shoes - black polishable lace- up
Dust Coat – art year 5/6
Library Bag
<b>Boys Summer uniform - Primary School</b>
Shorts – grey mélangé or cotton - full belt, elastic back or full elastic
Shirt – Midford short sleeve open neck white with JCS logo
Jumper - green woollen with JCS logo
Jacket - soft shell green with JCS logo
Socks – grey anklets
Hat – bottle green bucket/slouch
Shoes - black polishable lace- up
Dust coat – year 5/6 art
Library Bag

<b>Boys winter uniform – Primary School</b>
Trousers – long grey mélange or grey cotton full belt, elastic back or full elastic.
Shorts – grey mélange or cotton - full belt, elastic back or full elastic
Shirt – Midford long sleeve white
Jumper - green woollen with JCS logo
Jacket – soft shell green with JCS logo
Socks –grey anklets
Shoes - black polishable lace- up
Dust coat – year 5/6 art
Library Bag
<b>Sports uniform - Primary School – unisex</b>
Shirt – gold short sleeved or long sleeve polo with JCS logo
Jumper – ½ zip green polo fleece with JCS logo
Track pant or shorts- plain black with JCS logo
Socks – plain white ankle sport sock
Hat – bottle green bucket/slouch
Shoes – sports shoes
Jacket – soft shell green with JCS logo

25.2. Secondary

<b>Girls Summer - Secondary school</b>
Jumper - green woollen with JCS logo
Dress – with JCS logo
Blazer – green with JCS logo
Girls 'over brief' – black
Socks –plain white (anklets)
Hat – bottle green bucket/slouch
Dust Coat available from Midford shop
Shoes – black polishable lace- up with black laces
Library bag to protect books
For swimming, bathers should be modest and preferably one-piece or have a rash shirt to cover. This includes any school-related activity involving bathers (lessons, excursions, camps etc)
<b>Girls Winter - Secondary school</b>
Skirt
Blouse – Midford lemon long sleeved square collar
Jumper - green woollen with JCS logo
Blazer - green with JCS logo
Tights – black opaque
Girls 'over brief' – black
Dust coat available from Midford shop
Shoes - black polishable lace- up with black laces
Library bag to protects books

<b>Boys Summer - Secondary school</b>
Blazer – green with JSC logo
Shorts – grey mélange/cotton - full belt (no cargoes)
Shirt – Midford white, short sleeve open neck with JCS logo
Jumper - green woollen with JCS logo
Socks – grey marle, knee high walk socks
Hat – bottle green bucket/slouch
Shoes - black polishable lace- up
Dust coat available from Midford shop
Library Bag to protect books
<b>Boys Winter - Secondary School</b>
Blazer – green with JSC logo
Jumper - green woollen with JCS logo
Shirt – Midford long sleeve white with JCS logo
Trousers or Shorts grey melange– full belt.
Socks – grey marle knee high walk socks
Dust coat available from Midford shop
Library Bag to protect books
<b>Sports uniform – Secondary School - unisex</b>
Shirt – gold short sleeved polo with JSC logo
Jumper – green/yellow ½ zip polar fleece lined with JCS logo
Shorts or Track pants - plain black with JCS logo
Socks – plain white ankle sport sock
Hat – bottle green bucket/slouch
Shoes – sports shoes
Optional shirt of appropriate faction colour for sports day (Gold or White)
Jacket – soft shell green with JCS logo

25.3. Kinder/Prep

<b>Summer Uniform – Kinder/Prep</b>
Polo – gold short sleeve with JCS logo
Jumper – green ½ zip polar fleece with JCS logo
Vest -green polar fleece zip up with JCS logo (optional)
Skorts – black with JCS logo (girls)
Shorts – black with JCS logo (boys)
Hat - Bottle green slouch/bucket
Socks – white ankle
Shoes – black sport shoes or other lace up
Library bag
<b>Winter Uniform – Kinder/Prep</b>
Polo -gold long sleeve with JCS logo,
Jumper – green ½ zip polar fleece with JCS logo

Vest - green polar fleece zip up with JCS logo (optional)
Track pant – black with JCS logo
Jacket – green soft shell with JCS logo
Socks – white ankle
Shoes – black sport shoe or other lace up
Library bag

25.4. Labelling Uniform items

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING IS MARKED so as to avoid any confusion about ownership - especially jackets, polos, vests, blazers.

25.5. Accessories

- No jewellery should be worn, except one pair simple earrings or a simple ring for girls.
- Other than non-smart watches, no jewellery of any kind is to be worn by boys. Smart watches to be handed into office daily.
- No make-up or nail polish is to be worn.
- Any hair accessories should be limited and only school colours black, yellow/gold, white and green are to be worn.
- Hair at/over shoulder length should always be tied back.
- Boys are required to keep their hair neat and tidy, and if it is long, they too will be asked to wear it up.
- No hair dyeing allowed.

25.6. Uniform Shop

- The school uniform is managed through the Midford store at 132 Charles St. Launceston 8:30-5:00 weekdays, 9:00-2:00 Saturdays.
- Changeover dates for 2026 are:
  - Summer to winter:  
End of term 1. Winter uniform compulsory Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May
  - Winter to summer:  
End of term 3. Summer uniform compulsory Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**26. SCHOOL HEALTH** (see *First Aid Medication Policy and Allergy aware and Anaphylaxis Policy*)

26.1. Student well-being

Student well-being is an important priority at JCS. Our attention to mental health and well-being and social/emotional health is improving annually, and is an area of focus in our strategic planning. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's mental health and general well-being we are available to assist you in accessing appropriate supports, and for implementing reasonable supports at school.

- 26.2. Sick Children  
In the case of an absence of a student, parents must notify the school (preferably between 8:30-9:30am) on the day, and each day, the child is absent from school. More information, including a list of infectious diseases can be found in the school attendance policy.
- 26.3. Medication  
In instances where students must take medication **during school hours**, parents are requested to inform the school and complete Medication Authorisation Form A (parent) and Form B (doctor, pharmacist, nurse) available on the Parent Lounge portal.

## **27. SCHOOL EXCURSIONS / CAMPS**

Various excursions and camps are held throughout the school year. These will be announced in the school's newsletter and by letter or memo. A levy is sometimes requested to help cover costs of these events.

- 27.1. Year 10 Canberra trip  
The school arranges an annual tour to Canberra and the NSW snow fields, as well as a quick visit to Sydney in conjunction with the John Calvin Christian College in W.A. The tour runs from Monday to Saturday in July holidays and includes visiting key educational attractions in the National Capital. The costs for this tour are borne by the students and the Federal Government provides a subsidy for travel to the Capital. As flight bookings must be made in advance, students will be invited to participate in a meeting in the latter half of Year 9. To secure a place in the tour they will need to pay a deposit. The remainder of the costs associated with the Canberra trip will need to be paid in full the next year charged to the parents monthly.

## **28. STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME (STAS)**

A State Government Subsidy is available for school books, subject levies and stationery. In our school these levies are incorporated in the school membership fees. To determine eligibility, parents must meet the criteria of the income test, which vary from year to year, and fill in a form. The subsidy is sent directly to the school. Please contact the school office with enquiries on STAS.

## **29. KINDER/PREP INFORMATION** *(see Enrolment Policy and Procedure)*

- 29.1. In line with the 600 hours per year legal requirement, the John Calvin Kindergarten operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week, from 8.50 am to 3:00 pm. Teaching in Kindergarten is linked to the EYLF (Early Years Learning Framework) learning outcomes.  
[Early Years Learning Framework 2.0](#)
- 29.2. The Prep children are required to attend school full-time, ie, 5 days a week.
- 29.3. Eligibility

Children are admitted to Kindergarten from age 4 (as at 1 January) and to Prep from age 5 (as at 1 January). For enquiries regarding early entry to Kindergarten, or delayed entry to Prep, please contact the Principal.

29.4. It is compulsory that your child has a library bag - available at MIDFORD.

### **30. TEXTBOOKS, SUPPLIES AND LAPTOPS**

30.1. Textbooks

In high school, most texts and library books are supplied free of charge.

30.2. Stationery

At the beginning of each academic year, high school students are required to provide their own basic stationery package. Some equipment may be borrowed but any damage or loss of borrowed equipment must be paid for by the student.

30.3. Laptops/digital devices

Each student from Kinder to Grade 10 will have access to a school-provided IT device to aid their learning, at the discretion of the teacher. The approach for years 7&8 and 9&10 respectively is outlined below.

1.1 Year 7 and 8 students will be provided with a laptop for their use at school and for occasional homework use. Students will retain this machine until the end of year 8 then return it to the school when moving to year 9. The laptop will be administered by the school and preloaded with the necessary resources, including Microsoft Office 365. If there is a problem with the computer, it is handed to the administration staff and a replacement will be supplied until repairs are complete.

Students are expected to use school-issued computers responsibly. Improper handling may result in damage, loss of instructional time, and disciplinary consequences.

❖ General Expectation

- Computers must be always handled carefully and carried with 2 hands where possible.
- Devices should be placed flat and securely in the centre of desks, not on edges or unstable surfaces.
- Computers should never be placed on the floor.

❖ Charging Guidelines

- Students may not charge computers during classes as charging cords may not be stretched across walkways or desks due to a WHS hazard. Necessary charging should happen in breaks.
- Pulling, yanking, or tripping over cords can damage devices and create safety hazards.

❖ Transporting Devices

- Computers should be carried only when necessary and with teacher permission.
- Devices must be closed and carried with two hands.
- Computers may not be carried by the screen or transported while open.
- Cases provided for 7-8 devices must be used when transporting to and from school.

❖ Proper Use

- Computers should not be slid, tossed, or used as armrests.
- Heavy objects may not be placed on devices.
- Screens and hinges must be opened and closed gently.

❖ Food, Drinks, and Storage

- Food and drinks must always be kept away from computers.
- Devices must be stored properly in carts.
- Devices may only be removed from the classroom or taken home if permission has been granted by the teacher.
- Charging carts and storage areas must not be overcrowded.

❖ Responsibility for Damage

- Students are held financially responsible for damage caused by careless, improper, or prohibited use of school computers. Repeated misuse may result in loss of technology privileges or disciplinary action.

If damage is caused by the student, including computers being dropped, the parents will be expected to cover all of the repair costs. At the end of the year the laptops are handed in and prepared for the following year. There is no cost for the parents associated with this.

- 30.3.1 In Year 9 and 10 each student is issued with a laptop for their use at school and home. These machines will be purchased by the students over a two-year period (The parents will be invoiced per month for 2 years) and will remain the property of the student when they leave the school. The laptop will be administered by the school and preloaded with the necessary resources, including Microsoft Office 365. The computer will need to be charged overnight and brought to school each day. If there is a problem with the computer, it is handed to the administration staff and a replacement will be supplied until repairs are complete. If the computer is damaged through mishandling, then the parents of the students are responsible for the costs involved with the repair. At the end of the year the laptops are handed in and prepared for the following year, and school leavers can retain the machine.
- 30.3.2 Insurance  
All computers are issued with a protective bag and are covered by the school's insurance for accidental breakage at school and travel to and from school. (\$500 excess may be payable depending on circumstances). It is up to the parents to cover them at home for theft and/or accidents. Student learning resources and digital work is all available online, so students can sign in on any device, and it is therefore not essential that laptops be taken home for homework. As with all school resources, any malicious damage must be paid for by the parents.
- 30.3.3 Use of these machines is governed by the school *Information and Technology Acceptable Use policy*, and students in all grades will be required to indicate their agreement with this policy.

## **31 SECONDARY LOCKERS**

- 31.1 Secondary school students are assigned a locker. It is their responsibility to keep their locker tidy. An organised locker will enable more efficient participation in the school learning program. Regular locker checks are made and unsatisfactory lockers need to be attended to by offending students in their own time.
- 31.2 Abuse of lockers may result in the loss of all locker privileges. Any damage to the locker must be paid for by the student.

- 31.3 JCS is thankful that we have very few security issues or incidents of theft or interference with lockers. Therefore, it is not necessary for students to have locks on their lockers. However, if a student wishes to lock their locker, they must open it for inspection at the direction of a teacher. If a combination or key is forgotten and this interferes with the learning program, the lock will be cut off and students advised not to lock their locker again.

## 32 SCHOOL ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Postal address:	Campus address:	Telephone
John Calvin School 49-53 Howick Street Launceston TAS 7250	John Calvin School 49-53 Howick Street Launceston TAS 7250	63 443794
Website	Email	
<a href="http://www.jcs.tas.edu.au">www.jcs.tas.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:admin@jcs.tas.edu.au">admin@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>	

## 33 STAFF DETAILS

Position	Name and email address
Principal	Mr D Coote (also teaching) <a href="mailto:cooted@jcs.tas.edu.au">cooted@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
Business Manager / Association Secretary	Mrs K Wielstra <a href="mailto:wielstrak@jcs.tas.edu.au">wielstrak@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
Administration	Mrs C Lyons Mrs M Kooistra <a href="mailto:admin@jcs.tas.edu.au">admin@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
Kinder teacher	Mrs H Coote <a href="mailto:cooteh@jcs.tas.edu.au">cooteh@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
Prep teacher	Mrs J Hart <a href="mailto:hartj@jcs.tas.edu.au">hartj@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
Year 1 teacher	Mr M Fitzpatrick <a href="mailto:fitzpatrickm@jcs.tas.edu.au">fitzpatrickm@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
Year 2 teacher	Mrs E Sutcliffe <a href="mailto:evelin.sutcliffe@jcs.tas.edu.au">evelin.sutcliffe@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
Year 3/4 teacher	Miss A Plug <a href="mailto:pluga@jcs.tas.edu.au">pluga@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
Year 5-6 teacher	Mr N Gunnink <a href="mailto:nick.gunnink@jcs.tas.edu.au">nick.gunnink@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
Secondary Teachers	Mr L Huizinga <a href="mailto:huizingal@jcs.tas.edu.au">huizingal@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
	Mrs D Thompson

	<a href="mailto:thompsond@jcs.tas.edu.au">thompsond@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
	Mr Ross tenHaaf <a href="mailto:tenhaafr@jcs.tas.edu.au">tenhaafr@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
	Mrs E Alaimo <a href="mailto:alaimoe@jcs.tas.edu.au">alaimoe@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
	Mrs S Jonker <a href="mailto:jonkers@jcs.tas.edu.au">jonkers@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
	Mr D Coote <a href="mailto:cooted@jcs.tas.edu.au">cooted@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>
Student support	Mrs I Mulder Mrs S VanWinden Mrs C Dekker Mrs SJ Groenewold
Resource/Library staff	Mrs W Veldhuis <a href="mailto:veldhuisw@jcs.tas.edu.au">veldhuisw@jcs.tas.edu.au</a>