



BRINDABELLA
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

DEFENCE SCHOOL MENTOR



[Introduction to Brindabella Christian College, Canberra](#)

Vision Statement

The vision of Brindabella Christian College is to advance a community of Wisdom, Integrity, Service and Excellence in and through Christian Education.

Background

For over forty years Brindabella Christian College, formerly the O'Connor Christian School, has provided a holistic approach to education based on Christian values and beliefs.

Preparing young people in a changing world which can be volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous, demands that the significant adults in a young person's life lead and learn alongside them with purpose, compassion and humility. The College seeks to actively influence the lives of a greater number of young people. It believes that the most authentic way of achieving access to those students is via the offering of a high-quality, excellent education program. This is the core business of Brindabella Christian College.

The College supports Christian families, and those supportive of the Christian worldview, to raise their children in a safe and caring environment. The school aims to partner with parents in the education of their children, through a Christian education program, supported by Christian staff.

The College is a member of Christian Schools Australia, and the Association of Independent Schools, ACT.

Values

As a Christian school, we value – *Wisdom, Integrity, Service, and Excellence*

Mission

Our mission is to offer high quality Christian education where parents and staff partner together to make a difference in our students' lives, by helping them grow in wisdom, live life with integrity, be empowered to serve, and to cultivate an excellent spirit.

Immutable Tenets

An important component of the ethos of the College is a set of tenets which Brindabella Christian College holds as sacrosanct. These are central to the identity and tradition of the school and will not be compromised under any circumstance. These include:

- Christian education where God is present in the daily life and work of the College
- Upholding of traditional, conservative Biblical values
- Co-education from Early Learning to Year 12
- Service to others
- Non-selective entry school
- Individual focus on each student achieving their personal best
- Strong community connection.

Operational Philosophy of the School

The core work of Brindabella Christian College is to provide to students a high-quality education through a Christian worldview, from the infant developmental stage to the completion of the secondary years.

In order to achieve this, the College is aiming to regularly review and improve academic programs respond operationally to best meet emerging needs, conduct regular staff reviews to improve targeting of professional development for staff, maintain pastoral care for students, and employ high quality staff to support the teaching and Christian philosophies of Brindabella Christian College and its future growth.

Governance

Brindabella Christian College is governed by a Board of Directors. The Directors are responsible for setting the strategic view, the schools' policies, philosophy of the school and regulatory compliance.

Role Responsibilities

The desire of the College is to appoint a Defence School Mentor who reports to the Principal for the provision of dynamic Defence School Mentor support to Defence Students consistent with the College's strategic plan, vision, values, mission and tenets.

Faith Basis of Employment

Appointment to this position is conditional upon you having and retaining during the term of the appointment a firm personal belief consistent with the Statement of Faith attached to your letter of offer from the College. This is inclusive of an active commitment to and involvement with a Christian Church holding a doctrinal position consistent with the Statement of Faith, this being an essential condition and inherent requirement of your appointment and continuing employment.

Should you cease to have a firm personal belief consistent with the Statement of Faith or cease to maintain an active commitment to and involvement with an appropriate Christian Church you must inform the Principal and/or Board immediately. In such an event the College may terminate your employment opportunity summarily in accordance with the provisions outlined in your letter of appointment

Position – Defence School Mentor

The Defence School Mentor is crucial in supporting students and families connected to the Defence community. This position is designed to foster a nurturing and inclusive environment that addresses the unique challenges faced by Defence families, particularly during times of deployment and transition. The position is part-time during the school term from 2025.

Position Overview/ Responsibilities

The Defence Mentor is a pivotal role, dedicated to supporting students and families associated with the Defence community. This position is designed to create a welcoming and inclusive environment that acknowledges the unique challenges faced by Defence families, particularly during periods of deployment, relocation, and transition

Key Responsibilities

1. Attend Principals tours to promote and liaise with potential Defence families considering the school
2. Provide continued ongoing support for separated Defence families within school community
3. Work with Defence students who are struggling with parent who is deployed or living away from the family home.
4. Work with Defence students who have parents with mental health issues and may need outside assistance/referral. This includes a parent effected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder caused by Defence service.
5. Liaise with Defence services such as the Defence Family Helpline, Defence Special Need's Support Group, Kookaburra Kids Program and Soldier On.
6. Provide emotional support to Defence students who are struggling with friendship issues, academic concerns or home situation and liaise with the College Psychologist.
7. Keep accurate and factual record of conversations had with Defence students.
8. Provide support to Defence spouses who may be new to the area – help to connect with groups and other Defence families
9. Input into Defence section of the school newsletter
10. Send regular emails to families linking them with Defence related activities and happenings in Canberra region.
11. Run weekly Defence club for College students.
12. Work closely with teachers to ensure that Defence students are meeting their targets and feeling supported. This includes discussing tutoring assistance for new Defence students who have posted into the area
13. Work with Heads of Pastoral Care (Junior, Middle and Senior Schools) and Psychologist to identify Defence students and coordinate best approach to student wellbeing.
14. Work closely with Enrolments Officers to assist transition of Defence families into BCC
15. Hold Defence function each term for all Defence students – pizza lunch, easter egg celebration, Christmas party.

16. Send welcome pack to new students coming into BCC
17. Farewell gift for students leaving BCC – photo of class, bookmark, etc
18. Attend activities day with other schools to help BCC Defence students meet other Defence kids in Canberra region.
19. Plan and run ANZAC Day Service for the school.
20. Plan and run Remembrance Day acknowledgement for the school.
21. Provide educational material to teachers to use with students around ANZAC day and Remembrance Day.
22. Care Packages to Defence Personal deployed at Christmas.
23. Work with Defence Community Organization to have Defence related workshops held at BCC – Tyler Turtle, Kidsmart, etc
24. Prepare the Defence acquittal each year and provide statistical data with the Business Manager

Essential Selection Criteria

Applicants for this role should address the following key criteria within a two-page response:

1. Understanding of the Defence Community
 - Demonstrated knowledge of the unique challenges faced by Defence families, including issues related to deployment, relocation, and family dynamics.
2. Interpersonal Skills:
 - Strong communication and relationship-building skills, with the ability to connect effectively with students, families, and staff from diverse backgrounds.
3. Mentoring and Support Experience
 - Previous experience in mentoring, counselling, or a related field, with a proven ability to provide emotional and practical support to students.
4. Commitment to Christian Values
 - A strong alignment with the mission and values of the Christian school, including a commitment to fostering spiritual growth and integrating the Christian faith into mentoring practices

Each criterion should be addressed concisely with examples reflecting the applicant's suitability for supporting students' pastoral and spiritual well-being within the Christian school community.

According to the children, the following are their criteria:

"We want one that is kind, careful, and one that we are able to talk to if we have problems. The one that you hire has to be able to play and talk things out with us when we need it. The thing is that us defence kids struggle a lot from time-to-time, so please hire one that is in defence and one that is funny and good with kids. We'd like one that is not strict and gives us things that will make us feel calmer and safer and is also very supportive".

Desirable Criteria

1. Educational Background
 - Qualifications in education, counselling, social work, or related fields, providing a strong foundation for mentoring and support.
2. Experience with Youth Programs
 - Previous experience working in youth development programs. Programs focused on supporting military or Defence families

Defence Mentor Duties

Duties will be assigned by the Principal, or delegate, and will be stated in the employment contract.

Appraisal/Review Conditions

All General staff will undertake annual performance appraisals.

Faith Basis of Employment

1. Demonstrated ability to ensure that the Biblical worldview is integrated into all programs and teaching based on the infallible Word of God

2. Act consistently with the Christian content within the 'Faith Basis of Employment' and the 'Lifestyle Agreement and Intention to Continue' statements within the College letter of offer and the Multi-Enterprise Agreement (all documents are available from the College website)

Personal Skills and Attributes

Applicants for the role of Defence School Mentor should demonstrate the following personal skills and attributes:

1. *Christian Faith and Integrity:* Demonstrates a strong Christian faith, modelling positive values and behaviours aligned with the school's mission.
2. *Leadership and Initiative:* Exhibits strong leadership skills, inspiring and guiding students with confidence and a sense of adventure.
3. *Resilience and Problem-Solving:* Approaches challenges with a calm, resourceful mindset, quickly adapting to changing circumstances and addressing issues as they arise.
4. *Passion for Defence Mentoring:* Show enthusiasm for defence mentoring and a deep commitment to supporting students and families in navigating the unique challenges of military life, fostering resilience, and helping them thrive academically and personally.
5. *Collaborative and Community-Oriented:* Works well with other staff members, the broader faculty, and the school community, contributing positively to a cohesive and supportive environment.

These personal qualities are essential for supporting a caring, inclusive, and Christ-centred educational environment that aligns with the school's mission and values.

Terms of Appointment

The remuneration package includes an attractive annual salary commensurate with the applicant's qualifications and experience according to the current MEA.

There will be regular performance reviews based on agreed criteria. The appointment is for **2 days to 2.5 days a week** during school term time, for 12 months (the 2025 school year) with a 6-month probationary period. There is the possibility of renewing the contract on an annual basis.

The College reserves the right to fill the position by invitation or to re-advertise the position.

Salary Range

\$35,000

Other Documents

Please note that the following documents are available on the College website for your reference:

1. Faith Basis of Employment Statement
2. Lifestyle Agreement and Intention to Continue Statement
3. Multi Enterprise Agreement

Applications

Applicants for the advertised teaching position at Brindabella Christian College are required to complete the teachers application form found on the [BCC website](#).

Specific Position Enquiries to:

Suzanne Power

Executive Principal

Phone: +61 (2) 6190 7300

Or Email jobs@bcc.act.edu.au

Lodgment of Applications

Applications can be lodged electronically by email to:

Email to jobs@bcc.act.edu.au

Closing Date

Applications close on 20 January 2025. Applications will be reviewed and interviews will be held shortly after.