



Grace Christian School

# 2026 Senior Secondary Handbook



GRACE  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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# PURPOSE OF THE SENIOR SECONDARY HANDBOOK

During Senior School, students make several significant decisions regarding their studies. This handbook is to inform students and parents about the educational pathways and options available to students at Grace Christian School.

## ACRONYMS

AQF	Australian Quality Framework
ATAR	Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank
BRTTC	Bunbury Regional Trade Training Centre
ECU	Edith Cowan University
HSB	Health Science Hub (RTO 52806)
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy
OLNA	Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment
PAIS	Pre-Apprenticeship in Schools
RTO	Registered Training Organisation
SBA	School-Based Apprenticeships
SBT	School-Based Traineeships
SCSA	School Curriculum and Standards Authority
SIDE	School of Isolated and Distance Education
SR TAFE	South Regional TAFE (RTO 52790)
TAFE	Technological and Further Education
TEA	Tertiary Entrance Aggregate
TISC	Tertiary Institutions Service Centre
UPC	University Preparation Courses
UWA	University of Western Australia
VET	Vocational Education and Training
VETis	Vocational Education and Training in Schools
VETIS	Vocational Education and Training Industry Specific
WACE	West Australian Certificate of Education

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome and thank you for considering our Year 11 & 12 program.

Selecting a place for your son or daughter to finish their schooling is no easy feat. There are many factors to consider, some more significant than others.

Adept marketing strategies, glossy brochures, emotive websites, and use of social media by schools can make choices confusing. Results and achievements are always presented in such a way as to give the inquirer the most favourable impression. We hope as you look into what Grace has to offer, you will see we offer the same access to ATAR and VET pathways, university, apprenticeships and employment outcomes, as the majority of other schools in the Bunbury area.

You may be asking, why Grace?

It is our uniqueness; our difference that warrants further investigation. We are known for our Christian perspective, individual attention, pastoral care, with a focus on holistic education that is not only academic, but strives to nurture the character, and social and spiritual development. At our core is the focus on truth, community and partnership with parents. Our staff are united in purpose and devoted to our mission, sharing fundamental beliefs underpinned by Biblical values. We have enjoyed and celebrate generational loyalty that is a testimony to the School's commitment to each child and family, which is grounded in the centrality of Christ.

Over the past 25 some years in my roles as Head of Secondary and Principal, I have witnessed this school develop to provide an outstanding education for our students, where students excel and develop into young men and women of influence. I work with staff who have a long term commitment to our school, each other and our students. I would ask in your decision making and consideration, you spend time talking to the people that matter; our staff and students. They will give you what a glossy brochure may not: their personal story; the stories of success; the stories of relationships; and the stories around the centrality of Christ.



Mr Hugo de Ridder  
Principal



Mr Hugo de Ridder

# GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL EDUCATION OUTCOMES

Evidence of a successful education program can be measured in many ways. Students can be encouraged by outcomes of our past students. These outcomes lead to further education at university and TAFE as well as employment post school.

WACE Achievement	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of students achieving WACE:	100%	95%	95%	95%	96%
WA Average	91%	91%	91%	91%	TBA

## Outcomes Leading to Employment or Higher Education

ATAR and VET students completing a VET Qualification	79%	52%	81%	90%	78%
Students completing either ATAR or Certificates	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## ATAR Achievement

In 2024 50% of eligible students received an ATAR score over 80 (inclusive of regional bonuses). This placed them in the top 20% of students, with 25% receiving an ATAR over 90. Our school Dux received a regionally adjusted ATAR of 99.95 and achieved direct entry in to the prestigious UWA Doctor of Medicine via Bachelor of Biomedicine (Minimum selection rank of 98.00)

## University Applications and Acceptance

In 2024 all of our ATAR students and 25% of our vocational students applied to university via TISC. 100% of these received their first preference of university and course.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Grace Christian School results were as follows:					
Students offered any of their preferences	100%	93%	89%	100%	100%
Compared to WA results:					
Students offered any of their preferences	91%	91%	94%	95%	TBC

## Vocational Education and Training Outcomes

Whilst 78% of our Year 12 students in 2024 completed a vocational qualification, for 56%, this was their main focus. Our top vocational student completed two qualifications including a Certificate IV in School Based Education Support. She has now progressed onto a Bachelor of Education (Primary) at ECU Bunbury.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Grace Christian School results were as follows:					
Number of students completing a Cert II or higher	79%	52%	81%	90%	76%
Number of students completing a Cert III or IV	50%	38%	59%	55%	44%
Compared to WA results:					
Number of students completing a Cert II or higher	66%	53%	53%	52%	TBC
Number of students completing a Cert III or IV	22%	19%	21%	23%	TBC

Students completing a vocational qualification, can have lucrative employment prospects or provide themselves with alternative methods for university entry, through both direct entrance and university preparation courses.

# PASTORAL CARE AT GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## **Students as Individuals**

Pastoral care is an essential aspect of education offered at Grace Christian School. This care is based on a deep respect and love for the dignity and uniqueness of each individual child, created in the image of God and designed to fulfil their God-given potential.

## **Staff**

Our dedicated Christian staff strive to develop safe and healthy relationships with our students. This initial level of pastoral care is integral to maintaining a positive learning environment, acutely aware, “no significant learning will ever happen without significant relationship.”

## **Deputy Principal (Secondary) and VET Coordinator**

Grace is also unique in that the Deputy Principal (Secondary) partners with the Vet Coordinator, whose role it is to assist staff and closely monitor students progress and achievement.

## **Student Executive Team**

Prefects provide a point of contact for students to voice their cares and concerns and have these communicated and addressed by the Head of Student Management (Secondary) and Principal through fortnightly meetings.

## **Pastoral Care Team**

A team comprising the School Chaplain, Student Services, Learning Enrichment, Deputy Principals and the Principal monitor the progress and wellbeing of students regularly throughout the year.

## **School Chaplain**

Our Chaplain offers counselling in a confidential setting to both students and their families.

## **First Aid**

Administration staff and a number of teaching and support staff are trained in First Aid and offer first response medical care and associated support, ensuring the welfare of our students.

## **Camps**

Our Year 11 Camps provide exciting opportunities and experiences for our students coupled with unique opportunities for personal challenges, pastoral input and faith based guidance.

## **House System**

The house system places students at the beginning of their journey at Grace Christian School into one of three houses: Banksia; Jarrah; or Peppermint. Each house is led by a Head of House (staff) and House Captains (students).

## **Home Groups**

These groups are facilitated by a home group teacher enabling students to form relationships, strengthen connections with peers in their year group, provide a forum for discipleship, safe discussion, friendships, goal setting, mentoring and celebrating. Home Groups meet on a daily basis for devotions and administrative tasks.

# THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (WACE)

West Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Requirements	
Course/VETIS Program Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete at least 20 course units or their equivalent.</li> <li>Completion of a full-year course of study will contribute two course units.</li> <li>Minimum completion of four Year 12 ATAR courses or a Certificate II qualification.</li> </ul>
Course/Endorsed Program Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieve 14 C grades in Year 11 and 12 with at least 6 units being completed in Year 12.</li> <li>Completion of VETIS or Endorsed courses of study will be the equivalent of C grades in Year 11 and 12, as outlined in the table below.</li> </ul>
Literacy and Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy through NAPLAN or OLNA.</li> <li>Testing may continue through Year 11 and 12 until this is accomplished.</li> </ul>
Breadth of Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 10 Year 12 course units or their equivalent.</li> <li>Two pairs of Year 11 and Year 12 English units.</li> <li>Completion of one pair of Year 12 course units from each of list A (English/History/Geography) and list B (Mathematics/Sciences/Technology).</li> </ul>
Examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All students taking ATAR courses must sit external examinations.</li> <li>Those completing 6 courses in Year 12 can apply to be exempt from 1 examination.</li> <li>Students studying General courses do not have to sit external examinations.</li> </ul>

	"C grade" equivalence in Year 11	"C grade" equivalence in Year 12
Endorsed Courses	Maximum of 2	Maximum of 2
VETIS Courses	Maximum of 4	Maximum of 4
VETIS and Endorsed Courses Combined	Maximum of 4	Maximum of 4
Certificate I	2	0
Certificate II	2	2
Certificate III	2	4
Certificate IV	2	4

For further information please feel free to contact the school.

# CHOOSING YOUR PATHWAY

You have two pathway options to achieve the WACE at Grace Christian School:

- **ATAR program**, studying ATAR courses at school; or
- **VET program**, studying General courses at school and vocational qualifications through a Registered Training Organisation (RTO)

When choosing your pathway, a number of factors should be considered, including:

- future study and career ambitions;
- requirements for entrance into post-secondary TAFE/university courses;
- employer expectations for training and skill requirements;
- progress in current studies;
- ability to study at higher levels; and
- recommendations and feedback from teachers, Careers Advisor and Deputy Principal (Secondary).

## Which Pathway is for Me?

Not everyone would be suited to the ATAR or VET pathway. Consider the following before making a decision.

ATAR	and	VET
<p>Can you...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ work closely with teachers who love God and have a desire to see you achieve your best?</li> <li>▪ handle a challenge?</li> <li>▪ read and prepare for classes ahead of time?</li> <li>▪ complete a large amount of work outside of class time?</li> <li>▪ start major assessments straight away, ensuring they do not accumulate?</li> <li>▪ manage time and commitments like part-time employment and sport?</li> </ul>		
ATAR		VET
<p>Can you...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ handle multiple assignments on the go that may be due at the same time?</li> <li>▪ deal with up to four major assessments per semester, per subject?</li> <li>▪ retain large amounts of information for tests covering a whole term's work?</li> <li>▪ perform well in exams assessing work across the year including externally written exams that are worth up to 50% of the year's grade?</li> </ul>		<p>Can you...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ manage yourself in an adult learning environment away from the school setting?</li> <li>▪ manage reading, bookwork and assignments related to your qualification without school supervision?</li> <li>▪ manage much of your school workload on the days you are not at school?</li> <li>▪ locate and carry out work placement in your own time, often working outside of school hours?</li> </ul>
<p>Do you...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ want to go to school 5 days a week?</li> <li>▪ want to be encouraged to achieve the highest education standards?</li> <li>▪ want to go straight from school to university?</li> <li>▪ want to be able to enter into a highly competitive and highly trained career field like Medicine, Law, Teaching, Engineering, etc.?</li> </ul>		<p>Do you...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ want to go to school 3 days a week?</li> <li>▪ want to go to TAFE, University or enter the workforce?</li> <li>▪ want to enter the trades?</li> <li>▪ want a traineeship or an apprenticeship?</li> <li>▪ want to network with employers and learn to navigate the world of work?</li> </ul>
Then ATAR might be for You!		Then VET might be for You!

# GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## SENIOR SECONDARY PATHWAYS

### ATAR



You will be studying:  
Bible & Christian Living  
+  
5 Subjects + 1 Elective



Desired Outcomes:  
WACE  
+  
ATAR Score



University  
Employment  
TAFE Qualifications

### VET



You will be studying:  
Bible & Christian Living  
English, Maths  
Careers & Employability  
+  
1 Elective  
+  
Workplace Learning



Desired Outcomes:  
WACE  
+  
Nationally Recognised  
Vocational Qualifications



Workforce  
Further training  
University

There is a strong correlation between academic performance in Year 10 and academic achievement in Years 11 and 12. Recommendations made by staff should be carefully considered as teachers are familiar with the knowledge and abilities students must have to be successful in a course of study. Students selecting courses which require higher standards of work than they have displayed in the past, would be counselled against such choices. However, the final choice and responsibility for selecting programs, courses and the levels at which they are studied lies with parents and students.

# GRACE CAREERS WEBSITE

[www.gracecareers.com.au](http://www.gracecareers.com.au)

Students at Grace Christian School use this website to:

- complete an Individual Pathway Plan (IPP);
- design a resume;
- create a digital portfolio;
- carry out career investigations; and
- access hundreds of useful career resources;

This website can be used to obtain detailed information about offerings available to students in Year 11 - 12, by clicking on the drop down menu “Senior School” and choosing :

- Vocational Education and Training
- Year 11 and 12 Course Descriptions
- Elective Descriptions



Scan Me



