



River of Life Christian School

**Prospectus
2006/2007**

Dumfries, Scotland

History

The River of Life Christian School began in August 1991 with a small home school in a dining room!

By April 1994 it had moved into the current premises at the River of Life Christian Centre in Dumfries and was formally registered with the Scottish Office as an Independent School. It now has the capacity to accommodate up to thirty children. The school caters for primary and secondary education to university entrance level. In February 2000, the Scottish Executive confirmed Full Registration as a recognised independent school.



Vision & Ethos

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Prov 22 v6).
Biblical advice for every generation.



Christian education is all about giving your child the very best he/she can have. That's what your children deserve; that's what we endeavour to provide. We bring God into every area of the curriculum. Genuine Christianity is about everyday life attitudes, decisions, behaviour and, of course, beliefs.

Our vision is to help you prepare your child, by the grace of God, to be fully equipped to be a success in the outside world and keep their faith.

The School is a member of the Christian Schools Trust, a cross-denominational grouping of some 100 British Christian Schools and the Association of Christian Schools International, which is a

worldwide association to enhance Christian education and support Christian schools in a wide range of different cultures.

Dumfries - a town with a heritage



Dumfries is an old market town with a rich heritage. It's royal charter was granted over 800 years ago, and the town originated from a strategic river crossing over the river Nith, close to where it runs into the Solway Firth.

The Dumfries of today is undergoing some exciting changes as it sees a brand new university and high tech business park established on the Crichton Campus, on the edge of the town.

Dumfries is the administrative centre for the region of Dumfries and Galloway which stretches almost 100 miles, from romantic Gretna Green in the east, to the busy port of Stranraer in the west

Farming, tourism and small industries are at the heart of the local economy and in 1999 it was voted the best place to live in the UK.



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Facilities

The River of Life Christian Centre in Dumfries provides an ideal location for learning: a warm, spacious environment, close to Dumfries town centre, with adequate playing facilities.



School equipment is increasing all the time. Pupils have access to computers, gym equipment, audio visual, books, etc. God has provided so much for the school and it continues to come in. For certain specialist subjects (gymnastics, home economics, workshops etc.), we have access to local facilities.

The school has developed particular strengths in new media - especially TV/video and radio - and outdoor pursuits - mountain biking etc.

The one to one environment allows students to develop their potential in many fields.

Curriculum

We use a highly successful individualised, integrated curriculum package; Accelerated Christian Education (ACE). This allows each individual to progress at a rate appropriate to his/her personal abilities. Consequently, no child is left behind, unable to keep up with the rest of the class and no child is held back through being ahead of others.



Each pupil can maximise the achievement of his/her own potential and feel the sense of having done their very best. Achievements are frequently recognised and rewarded through merits, privileges, certificates and other incentives. Discipline is maintained through demerits, sensitively administered punishments and disincentives for wrongdoing.

Every child is regarded as a precious individual, valued by God and treated as a vital part of the school family. More information is detailed in the later section of this prospectus, under the heading; "Curriculum Handbook".

Qualifications

The National Christian Schools Certificate Board (NCSC Board) awards qualifications which are recognised in the UK and abroad by colleges and universities to enable access to further education and employment. The NCSC is a viable alternative to Scottish Standard/Higher Grades or English GCSE's. Our own graduate students have gained entry to St Andrews University, Cambridge University, local colleges and apprenticeship training schemes. Many universities and colleges we have had contact with have indicated they will be glad to accept students from the River of Life Christian School, with the appropriate NCSC qualifications. Nationally, students have entered major universities including Oxford, with NCSC's.

To take advantage of Christian Education at the River of Life School, your child will not miss out in relation to future prospects for further education or employment. In fact they can expect to go further, having the confidence to achieve their full potential.

Fees

Per calendar month:	Junior	Senior
1st child from a family:	£150	£180
2nd child from a family:	£140	£170
3rd child from a family:	£130	£160

A £50.00 registration fee is charged, per child enrolled, to cover the costs of diagnostic testing and parent orientation etc. (For pupils transferring from an ACE school or homeschool, the registration charge is reduced by 50%).

These school fees cover all ACE materials, but do not include the costs of field trips, special materials e.g. for take-home crafts and clothing etc.

The school is non-profit making and the fees represent a valuable contribution towards running costs. If finance is a major hindrance to your child joining the school, please do contact the principal; he may be able to help. At present, independent Christian schools don't normally receive state funding, so we are dependent on fees and gifts to finance the day to day running of the school.

One term's notice of leaving is required, otherwise fees will be due accordingly.



Application

We are very happy to show people the school in operation. It would be best to phone first to make an appointment.

Application forms are attached with this prospectus and further copies are available from the school.

If you are interested in applying for one of our limited places, please complete an application form, following which you may be offered a parent interview. No place is guaranteed until offered in writing.

School Term Dates

Academic Year 2006 - 2007

Staff return Monday 28th August
Students return Tuesday 29th August

Autumn/Winter Term

Tuesday 29th August 2006 to Wednesday 20th December 2006

Half term Holiday

Monday 16th October 2006 - Friday 20th October 2006

Christmas Holiday

Thursday 21st December 2006 - Monday 8th January 2007

Spring Term

Tuesday 9th January 2007 to Friday 30th March 2007

Half Term Holiday

Thursday 15th February 2007 - Wednesday 21st February 2007

Easter Holiday

Monday April 2nd 2007 - Monday 16th April 2007

Summer Term

Tuesday 17th April 2007 to Thursday 21st June 2007

May Day Holiday

Tuesday May 1st 2007

Summer Holiday

Friday June 22nd 2007 - Tuesday August 28th 2007

Autumn Term starts

Staff return Tuesday 28th August 2007

Students return Wednesday 30th August 2007

The school day is 8.40am - 3.30pm for Juniors, 4.00pm for Seniors. We work a nine-day fortnight, with every other Monday as a day off.

Uniform and Equipment List

BOYS UNIFORM :

- White shirt - short or long sleeved
- Black/Charcoal trousers
- Black Watch tie†
- Navy jumper with school logot
- Black leather shoes -- smart, no boots or Dr. Martens.

GIRLS UNIFORM :

- White open-necked blouse, short or long sleeved
- Black Watch kilt †
- Navy cardigan with school logot
- White socks - short or long
- Navy blue tights {winter}
[Senior girls have option to wear opaque/nylon tights]
Black shoes - smart leather, no boots, platforms, or Dr. Martens)
- Optional Summer Dress - Blue/White check (Marks & Spencer)



P.E./GYM KIT:

- School T-shirt with logo. †
- White trainers or black gym shoes {juniors}
- Trainers {seniors}
- Navy Shorts
- Navy Sweatshirt with logo (Optional)†

Gym kit preferably to be kept at school in gym bag, for fitness on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In the Summer term, gym may be done at short notice, depending on the weather so it is wise to have kit at the ready!

School bag and outer clothes to be smart and suitable for the season.

LUNCHES :

Packed lunches to be provided from home in a suitable container.

A tuck shop with crisps, sweets and drinks runs every lunchtime for the benefit of students.

Staff



The staff are all committed Christians and are highly dedicated to the school.

In addition to five salaried staff, there are a number of teachers who take specialist areas of the curriculum at certain times.

Pictured from left to right are:

Dr David Rudd; Mr Mark Smith (Principal); Mrs Helen Smith (Head Teacher); Mr Duke Miller. *Mrs Mary Bond is not pictured*

Desk Equipment



New students are asked to provide a desk tidy and open box file (available from stationery shops).

At the start of each term all students need to provide:

- At least 2 pencils and a fountain pen (seniors only) and an eraser
- Protractor, compass (seniors only), 12" ruler and a pencil case
- Ring binder with plastic pockets and A4 ruled paper in pad
- Felt Pens and coloured pencils
- Craft/art apron (old shirt or equivalent)
- New King James version Bible
- Dictionary

Parent Orientation



Once a student place has been offered and accepted, the student's parent(s) will be expected to complete a 'Parent Orientation' course within two months of the acceptance.

The purpose of the Parent Orientation is to enable parents/guardians to grasp the techniques and philosophy of the school and the ACE core curriculum package. It normally takes place in the school, with parents taking the place of their children for an experience which mirrors the daily experience of the student. It will normally take place on a Saturday evening, with a group of parents together and is usually an enjoyable time!

CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

AN OVERVIEW

The school curriculum centres around the A.C.E. - 'Accelerated Christian Education' (formerly School of Tomorrow) individualised learning scheme, which originates in the USA and is currently used by more than 500,000 students throughout over 7000 schools in excess of 120 countries world wide. A.C.E. is a well respected and highly acclaimed programme, used by the majority of Christian schools in the USA and the United Kingdom. In the UK, there are around 100 schools and 350 home schooling families using the programme at the present time. Where appropriate, the materials have been anglicised by 'Christian Education Europe' (CEE), based in Swindon, Wilts.. CEE administers A.C.E. materials in the UK and Europe and supplies support and training for schools registered with them. The River of Life Christian School receives the full benefits of a long standing relationship with CEE and the associated organisation, the 'Maranatha Foundation' which seeks to further the concept of Christian education in the UK.

From pre-reading stages to college/university entrance, A.C.E. supplies a comprehensive and wide ranging degree of courses to suit different ability levels and preferences.

At the River of Life Christian School, we further enhance the A.C.E. core subjects and electives by introducing a range of practical and group learning activities to fill in some of the gaps which are more difficult to fill by an individual study method.

In particular, we seek to introduce a balance of group activities to develop social and team building skills. Home Economics introduces a practical and theoretical approach to cookery, food hygiene, PHSE and other domestic skills, Practical Science to develop laboratory and analytical skills, Design & Technology to prepare

students to meet the ever changing technological challenges of a modern world, Practical Maths, to help develop maths problem solving skills. In addition to this we utilise topic and project work, particularly in the earlier levels in order to expand students abilities in written, imaginative and expressive fields.

PRE-READING AND LEARNING TO READ

ACE Pre-school curriculum, followed by a reading readiness test

ABC's of ACE learning to read package in small group environment.

(this package includes creative work, play based activities and physical activities. It is very comprehensive)

INFANTS AND JUNIORS

On satisfactory completion of the ABC post test, students join the main learning centre and begin all five core subjects using PACEs:

MATHS
ENGLISH
WORD BUILDING
SCIENCE
SOCIAL STUDIES

A.C.E. **MATHS** is strong in enforcing memorisation of tables, mental agility with numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, without the aid of electronic calculators. We supplement Maths, with 'Practical Maths' to provide extra problem solving challenges, and alternative approaches to geometry, fractions, decimals, percentages, probability etc. The practical maths course broadly follows the English 'National Curriculum' in content and aims to give maths and numbers

relevance and excitement.

A.C.E. **ENGLISH** is strong in developing competence in use of English, grammar, letter writing, principles of composition and layout. We supplement English by project and topic work to develop students' creative and aesthetic abilities.

English PACEs are extended by optional subjects, at the teacher's discretion: **LITERATURE & CREATIVE WRITING, BIBLE READING and BASIC LITERATURE**. Creative writing helps develop writing skills and Basic Literature develops reading and comprehension skills. For speed reading and effective comprehension at speed we use a computerised reading programme: **READMASTER**. Our students consistently multiply their effective reading rates up to almost 2,000 words per minute, whilst retaining a high level of comprehension.

A.C.E. **WORD BUILDING** is very effective at developing accurate spelling of words, with the ability to discern between British and American spellings. Students also learn to make the most of dictionaries, learning common root words and correct usage which is invaluable in learning foreign languages.

A.C.E. **SCIENCE** covers all three science disciplines at a theoretical level and is interspersed with a number of simple practical experiments. The general philosophy adopted by the school in relation to the Science subject is to develop knowledge and understanding of science through theory, supplemented by some practical work to demonstrate relevance, develop interest/motivation, teach lab techniques, stimulate analytical thinking and make science fun. This practical aspect is covered by a class-taught **PRACTICAL SCIENCE** subject. **ANIMAL SCIENCE** is an optional PACE series to further enhance Science at a junior level.

A.C.E. **SOCIAL STUDIES** covers very effectively, the disciplines of Geography and History and, at a junior level, is enhanced by project and topic

work on many subjects including the specific areas of British, Scottish and local history.

Foreign languages are not heavily featured at junior levels, but students are introduced to Spanish. **MUSIC** is taught as a separate subject in a class setting - dealing with singing and music appreciation. Tuition for musical instruments is not provided as part of the school curriculum, but tuition can be arranged on a private basis.

ART is taught in class lessons, to develop artistic abilities and an appreciation of aesthetic beauty. Craft work is introduced into the Art lessons, with the aim of building confidence in creative skills.

PE & GAMES is continued throughout the school year and seeks to develop the student's physical health and develop a good attitude towards competitive sports.

SENIORS

The transition from Junior to senior levels takes place around age 11 and does depend, in part, on the PACE level attained. Most students are introduced to senior groupings slowly over two or three terms, subject by subject.

The same five core subjects continue - viz.:

MATHS

ENGLISH

WORD BUILDING

SCIENCE

SOCIAL STUDIES

In addition, a wide range of elective PACE courses are offered for older seniors;

BASIC LITERATURE AND LITERATURE

AUTO MECHANICS

COMPUTER LITERACY

HEALTH

BIBLICAL STUDIES

CHURCH HISTORY

MISSIONS

LIFE OF CHRIST

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

FRENCH

SPANISH*

ART

MUSIC
BUSINESS MATHS
BUSINESS STUDIES
ACCOUNTING
ECONOMICS
TYPING & KEYBOARD SKILLS
SPEECH
GREEK

A range of courses from Alpha Omega are also offered, covering subjects such as;

ASTRONOMY
LIFE SKILLS
MANKIND & ANTHROPOLOGY
GENERAL HEALTH
LIFE SCIENCE
HOME ECONOMICS

Most students are expected to attempt several electives, depending on their preferred educational route. **VIDEO PRODUCTION, ALPHA OMEGA ART, BASIC LITERATURE & SPANISH** are not optional; all students enter these courses.

In the later stages, Maths develops into **ALGEBRA***, Science develops into **BIOLOGY***, **PHYSICAL SCIENCE**, **CHEMISTRY*** and **PHYSICS***. Word Building develops into **ETYMOLOGY**. Social Studies develops into **WORLD GEOGRAPHY** and **WORLD HISTORY** (*Enhanced by A.C.E. videos)

A.C.E. is very effective at teaching concepts and facts, but lacks strength in developing critical, analytical and opinion forming skills. At the River of Life Christian School we introduce **MODERN STUDIES**, a class based discussion subject drawing out student's abilities to assimilate reasoned, cohesive arguments and addressing modern day issues, dilemmas and moral ethics.

Other practical and local subjects are developed at a senior level:

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY seeks to introduce students to concepts of technology and considerations of design, in a way which is applicable

and relevant to everyday life. The subject interfaces with PACE work in the areas of Science, Auto Mechanics and Art. A particular emphasis on hands-on activities is intended, in order to equip students to more effectively relate to an increasingly technically developed society.

PRACTICAL SCIENCE continues the philosophy initiated in junior Practical Science, developing student's skills to observe, analyse and make informed, rational deductions. In addition, safe laboratory procedures are taught and developed. Most students are able to benefit from the videos accompanying the science disciplines, which demonstrate practical work and experiments in laboratory conditions. For instance, Biology videos demonstrate dissection in some detail, probably beyond the level normally experienced in a school lab environment and so forth

DRAMA. The school produces at least one major dramatic production every year which is performed to a public audience and is a wonderful opportunity for students to develop confidence and ability in performing in front of a crowd.

BRITISH & EUROPEAN HISTORY is a class taught subject covering some of the history PACEs don't cover.

HISTORY OF REVIVAL, particularly in respect of Scottish and British church history. Project centred, local history of the Covenantors in the Scottish reformation and St Ninian's role in establishing Christianity in the UK.

HOME ECONOMICS is a mixture of theory and practice to enable students to understand and apply principles of good hygiene, cookery, housekeeping and basic life skills.

PE & GAMES is continued throughout the school year and seeks to develop the student's physical health and develop a good attitude towards competitive sports. A particular emphasis is made on understanding and adhering to correct rules and good sportsmanship. The

curriculum covers all the major sports and gymnastics, in addition to fitness training.

ENHANCEMENTS FOR ALL LEVELS

ORAL REPORTS. Students are encouraged to prepare and present oral reports on topics of their choice, with feedback from the member of staff supervising the presentation. Students are encouraged to develop effective styles and techniques of presenting verbal presentations.

MORNING DEVOTIONS. Like oral reports, morning devotions are open to students to give a short sermon or presentation on a Bible verse or Christian principle. This is a great way for students to grow in their confidence to minister the Word of God.

DUMFRIES FESTIVAL. Every year the school encourages students to prepare for and enter the Arts society festival and compete with pupils from other schools in the region for

shields and commendations for a variety of expressive arts. Coaching is given by the school for students willing to take part.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. We find IT is best suited to a small tutorial teaching method, with wide ranging experience and aptitude towards computing skills. The aim is to equip every student with sufficient IT knowledge and expertise to work with and get the most out of common applications. The school is well equipped with computer hardware and a wide range of commercial software. Internet access is available for all students and the River of Life web site holds limitless potential for students to create and manage their own web space. If they desire, each student can request their own personal email address, @riveroflife.org.uk.

RSA CLAIT (Computer Literacy and Information Technology) courses are offered as appropriate and the school is a registered **CLAIT** testing centre.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this prospectus and we do hope that it has answered some of your questions. If you would like to find out more about Christian education and in particular the River of Life Christian School, then please do get in touch with us.

If you would like to apply for entrance to the school for your child/children, then please fill in this form and send it to the address below.

Thank you again, and may God richly bless you and your whole family.

Contact details:

**The Principal
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Scotland**

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www.riveroflife.org.uk/school**