

THORNIE

INTRODUCTION -THE COLLEGE

a) Background

Until 1994 The Australian Islamic College was the only Muslim School in the State of Western Australia. Founded in February 1986, it started with 50 children and 2 teachers in a rented location at 151 Brisbane St, North Perth.

From its humble beginnings it has steadily expanded to over 2600 students in 2006. We now have a body of teaching and supporting staff of over 280. Students from Kindergarten (4 years old) to Year 12 study at the college. Our college has been classified as “an efficient school” by the West Australian Education Department.

The year 1990, marked a very significant event in the history of our school - the official opening of the school at its premises at 17 Tonbridge Way, Thornlie by the Minister of Education (at the time), Dr. Geoff Gallop. A second College opened at 20 Surrey Rd, Rivervale in 1992. Dianella primary school was purchased in January 1996 to form a new College called Australian Islamic College (North of the River). The students at Rivervale were transferred to Dianella during 1996.

In 2000 we acquired the Kewdale Senior High School site to accommodate the increasing number of students and established our Ladies and Boys Colleges.

VALUES ETHOS & PHILOSOPHY

a) College Philosophy

Students and teachers, whether Muslim or not, are encouraged to derive maximum personal and professional benefit from their experience at AIC. The College seeks to provide an enriching academic stimulus, under the umbrella of Islam integrating all aspects of day to day life, providing guidance for religious, cultural, vocational and recreational matters. The college further seeks to ensure that all associated with AIC realise their full potential, spiritually, intellectually, socially and emotionally.

The Australian Islamic College was founded to provide high quality education, which integrated good values within an Islamic environment.

The College Mission Statement is to assist students to:

“Achieve success in this life and in the hereafter”.

AIC aims to help develop the individual through obedience to God (Creator of the heavens and the earth)and by encouraging a positive attitude and familiarity with three facets:

- The ability to think in a logical manner within a God related values framework
- To be familiar and up to date with technological skills, and
- To obtain confidence and understanding in the spiritual, personal and community aspects of their development.

As a consequence the aim of the colleges is to create a school environment which instills in its students love and obedience to Allah (SWT) (Creator of the Heavens and the Earth) and Islamic morals and values in accordance with the practice of the Prophet Mohammed (SAW), and to enable them to benefit from the teachings of the Holy Quran in their daily life.

The Australian Islamic College strives to provide the highest Islamic moral guidance along with quality education to prepare students for further education and equip them to succeed in the 'real world' and also be of benefit to society.

b) College Goals

1. To develop a new generation that is God loving and God fearing and will, be successful in this life and the hereafter.
2. To provide quality education following Australian and West Australian curricula and sound Islamic teachings.
3. To develop a good Islamic moral outlook amongst all students.
4. To give Muslim children the opportunity to learn and to practice their faith in a school environment.
5. To help students grow a respect and appreciation for their own culture and the culture of others.
6. To encourage harmony, unity and mutual understanding between parents and children, and to establish the best possible understanding between students, parents, teachers and the College.
7. To develop balanced and pleasant personalities of students.
8. To select qualified teachers. Each teacher must inculcate moral and scholastic growth in each student and endeavour to promote a classroom environment in which the children can learn to know, love and serve ALLAH and our country, Australia as practicing Muslims.

c) College Policies

To provide an environment based upon the principles of Islamic society and education. Islamic society and education are based on the principles of Islam, Iman (faith) and Tawhid (oneness of God) - to draw one closer to Allah (Creator of the Heavens and the Earth) and to be productive Australian citizens.

1. To provide programs and courses that primarily emphasise proficiency in English (the language of instruction) as well as the applied sciences of mathematics, science and computing.
2. To provide a current and challenging curriculum of studies according to the West Australian Government syllabus.
3. To broaden the curriculum by integrating it with Islamic morals and values.
4. To meet moral, religious, philosophical and academic requirements according to Islamic beliefs and values.
5. To provide opportunities to engage in activities that promote physical well being; and to develop interest, abilities and positive attitudes.
6. To integrate actively into the Australian community as a whole by interschool relations (visiting and inviting other schools) and participating in community activities and events.

EXPENDITURE AND TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Whole school staff professional development occurs on a weekly basis for a one-hour period (40 hours)

In addition all teachers participate in professional development opportunities at system and school level during staff development days and staff meetings.

Average expenditure per teacher on professional development: \$58

Expenditure on staff training and welfare: \$4,148/ Thornlie staff: 72 = \$58

PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION

While there is no formal data on Parent satisfaction, this has been gauged through the receipt of positive correspondence, word of mouth and parent-teacher interaction at the college.

Parent meetings are regularly held for significant events for each year level including transition programs etc.

Parents show strong satisfaction with the school by supporting with strong attendance school events including school fetes, award ceremonies and openings.

Community events organized by the college are also well attended by parents.

Word of mouth promotion is strong in the parent community and new arrival families are generally encouraged to enroll their children at the AIC due to its intensive ESL program. There are also instances of families who have moved their children to other school but then returned back to the AIC for a multitude of reasons including the strong morals and values training the college and the strong sense of community.

The administration also received on average 5 inquiries a month from families overseas who plan to enroll their children at one of the three AIC colleges as international students or as PR's migrating to Perth.

Staff satisfaction is ascertained by the strong sense of commitment demonstrated by the staff towards the college and the students. The regular weekly staff meetings allow the opportunity for teaching staff to discuss and pass on matters regarding the performance of the schools. The director adopts a 'Open-door' policy for all staff to meet with him and express any concerns.

Students express their satisfaction with the college with their enthusiastic participation in the schools activity and their strong sense of belonging to the college. An example is that students at the Kewdale College were so keen to assist in the renovation of the schools grass area that they initiated a fundraising drive to raise money for the project.

Students are given the opportunity to express concerns and voice their opinions in all school related matters.