Middle School
Pastoral

We believe that happy students learn best. Consequently, we strive to create a learning community where students, parents and staff feel safe, valued, connected and have a strong sense of belonging.

Whitsunday Anglican School’s Middle School provides a smooth transition for students between the Junior School and Senior School, allowing them to gradually become more independent and confident in their learning, by providing a supportive pastoral and learning environment.

Middle School teachers are advocates for students in a time when they wish to exert their independence but require scaffolding to successfully and confidently grow into organised and compassionate adults. These teachers demonstrate an outstanding team ethic, with a culture of exceptional communication embedded into this approach. This further impacts positively on students with a cohesive methodology taken for dealing with issues that may arise.

In the Middle School there is a strong support system in place to cater for the diverse needs of our students, who range in age from eight to fourteen. Integral to this system is our Tutor Groups, in which students meet at the start of each day to disseminate information. As an interface between the pastoral and academic programs, the teacher linked to each tutor group teaches this class for a number of subjects throughout the course of the two week academic cycle, allowing for positive relationships and feelings of trust to develop both between peers and between students and staff.

Our Pastoral framework is developmental from Year 5 through to Year 8.

Middle School teachers provide holistic support for students – emotional, cognitive, social and academic support. These teachers also offer HATS and co-curricular activities for the Middle School students and are predominately on playground duty in the Middle School, further strengthening that feeling of community and belonging.

Our Chapel program is targeted specifically to Middle School students, embedding our Core Values explicitly. The Character Counts program, with the six pillars of character, (Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Citizenship, Trustworthiness and Fairness) is also a prominent feature during Chapels and Tutor Group, transitioning appropriately from the Junior School ‘You Can Do It’ program. Assemblies are also an important Middle School event, sharing information and recognising the varied achievements of students.

Our Year 8-Year 5 Buddy program has been running successfully for a number of years assisting the transition of Junior School students into the Middle School. Our leadership structure enables all students to develop leadership skills, most noticeable in our class fundraising initiatives that support our four World Vision children and our Middle School Radio Station: MS 5-8. Through the Character Counts Council our Middle School leaders elect to support worthy causes not only in the wider Mackay community but throughout Queensland, Australia and Internationally.

At Whitsunday Anglican School we have zero tolerance to bullying and a proactive approach to behaviour management that quickly involves parents, students and staff to resolve any matters of concern.