

# Principal's message

The Athena School was established in 1986 by a group of parents who wanted more for their children. They wanted a school where children would not fall through the cracks and where children were taught at the level that they were at, rather than a one size fits all approach. They wanted a school where phonics was taught thoroughly and systematically so that every student would become a great reader. They wanted a school which encouraged a hands-on approach to learning, where students would be able to apply what they had learned and where skills for making good choices were taught. They wanted a school that welcomed and encouraged parent participation. And so The Athena School was born and it is now an independent school in the heart of Newtown in Sydney's Inner West.



The school's mission statement is:

*Our aim is to use the art of teaching to provide a safe and inspiring environment that identifies and expands each student's talents and interests and motivates them in their pursuit of knowledge, resulting in the student's progression to independence and self-confidence.*

It is through our Quality Assurance department that we ensure each student is progressing towards their own personal best, that they are not falling behind but making good progress towards their goals and attaining the skills they will need for those goals. Our alumni career paths range from teachers to tradesmen and from architects to artists. Best of all, they contribute to the betterment of mankind in some way.

School life is about more than academics. Learning is about more than books and information. We take a holistic approach to learning which involves attention to the all-round development of students intellectually, physically, creatively, spiritually, emotionally and socially with good communication and self-discipline.

As you contemplate the education of your child, keep in mind that we at The Athena School have been providing education in Sydney for more than 30 years.

If you have not yet visited us I invite you to come for a tour.

Sarah Matara  
***Principal***

# Learning at Athena

Our approach is friendly and caring and works to develop a passion for learning in the students. To achieve this, we provide smaller classes with a higher teacher/student ratio and more personalised attention. The school's educational focus is on nurturing the student's individual talents and encouraging an enquiring mind.

Students at Athena are introduced to a simple, practical method of study from their early school years. By the time they arrive in High School they are developing the skills to independently be able to use this method of study to investigate and research any topic of interest. Furthermore, this method of study results in the students truly understanding what they have learned, so they can put their knowledge to practical use in the workaday world.

***Students at The Athena School are taught so that they can apply what they learn.***

A common problem with students throughout the world is that they cannot *apply* the information they have studied when faced with practical situations. Students at The Athena School learn to correlate one piece of information with a totally different piece of information taught later on. The information becomes their own, rather than being something they must endure so they can pass a test.

Furthermore, with our Quality Assurance department, we can help any students who are having difficulty and give them one-on-one assistance to help them get back up to speed. Any students who don't get 100% on their tests are likewise assisted by their teacher or Quality Assurance. Here the materials they haven't fully grasped are gone over, so that they fully understand the area before they carry on with their studies. This ensures a solid foundation for further education.

Through this approach we have found students enjoy what they study and find it easier to study as they move through school and into life.

After all, that is where the child must actually use the information – in *life*.



# Curriculum from Kindy to High School

The Athena School follows the guidelines set out by the NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority), and are inspected by them to ensure quality education. Within their curriculum, we incorporate the following subjects into our school curriculum:

Art and Art Appreciation	Music
Computers and digital technologies	PDHPE (Personal Development, Health & Physical Education)
Crafts and Manual Skills	Reading - primarily through phonics
Critical thinking	Research and Study Skills
Drama	Science and Technology
English Language and Literature	Spelling
Handwriting - Printing, then Cursive	Survival Skills
History & Geography	Sustainability
Manners, Morals and Ethics	Writing
Mathematics	

The application of the Study Technology and educational philosophy of renowned writer, educator and humanitarian Mr. L. Ron Hubbard, in combination with a carefully prepared individual programme, small classes, a happy and productive atmosphere and a reason to learn, is producing very pleasing results.

## Excursions & Incursions

Here at Athena, we make it our passion to get out into the world and, wherever possible, see what we are learning about first hand. This brings education to life.

Our Goal is:

**Happy students with the educational tools to competently pursue their goals in life.**





# Ethics and morals

Qualities such as personal integrity, responsibility and respect for self and others are necessary for a happy and worthwhile life. Guidance towards these qualities is considered an important role of the school.

The non-religious moral precepts contained in the *How to Make Good Choices* booklet, based on the works of Mr Hubbard's *The Way to Happiness*, are used for this purpose. Some of the precepts included are:

‘Love and Help Your Parents’

‘Set a Good Example’

‘Be Worthy of Trust’

‘Respect the Religious Beliefs of Others’, and

‘Try to Treat Others as you would want them to treat you’.

While the school is not run on authoritarian lines, positive control is used and self-discipline is fostered through the use of the precepts in *How to Make Good Choices*. The school has a zero tolerance towards bullying.

At Athena we strive for friendliness and approachability between parents, students and staff to help resolve any concerns relating to the child’s progress at school.

## Community Work

Being of service to his or her community plays a big part in the upbringing of a child in today’s world. Community projects and organizations which are proudly supported by our students include:

Tree Planting Day  
Youth for Human Rights  
The Cat Protection Society  
Drug Free Ambassadors  
Harmony Day

Samaritan's Purse  
Clean Up Australia Day  
Indigenous Literacy Foundation  
Volunteer Work  
The Way to Happiness

