

Principal's message

The Athena School is an independent, non-religious school in the heart of Newtown in Sydney's Inner West.

Here at Athena students' interests, talents and abilities are nurtured while we educate in the Australian curriculum in a friendly, enriching environment.

The school's Mission Statement 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.

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, socially, communicatively and all in terms of self-discipline.

We welcome and appreciate parent involvement within the school.

It is through our Quality Assurance Department that we ensure each student is progressing towards the achievement of the school's valuable final goal for each student which is: *a happy student with the educational tools to competently pursue their goals in life*. Our alumni career paths range from teachers to tradesmen and from architects to artists.

Children are best taught in a relaxed and unhurried environment and that is what we provide here at The Athena School.

As you contemplate the education of your child, keep in mind that we at The Athena School have been providing education in Sydney for 30 years. If you have not visited us I invite you to come for a tour.

*Fiona Milne
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 to 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 assist 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 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.

Through this approach we have found students enjoy what they study and find it easier to study as they carry on through school and into life. After all, that is where the child must actually use the data – in *life*.



Curriculum from Kindy to High School

The Athena School follows the guidelines set out by the Board of Studies, Teaching Educational standards for registered schools, and we incorporate the following subjects into our school curriculum:

- * Art and Art Appreciation
- * Computers
- * Crafts and Manual Skills
- * Creative Writing
- * Drama
- * English Language and Literature
- * Handwriting
- * History
- * Manners, Morals and Ethics
- * Mathematics
- * Music
- * Physical Education and Sport
- * Reading
- * Research and Study Skills
- * Science and Technology
- * Social Studies
- * Spelling
- * Survival Skills.

The application of the Study Technology and 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

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



Ethics and morals

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

The non-religious moral precepts contained in Mr Hubbard's *The Way to Happiness* are used for this purpose. Included are:

- * 'Honour 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 *The Way to Happiness*. The school has a zero tolerance on bullying.

At Athena we strive for friendliness and approachability between parents 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.

Many of Athena's students are Drug-Free Ambassadors and help in encouraging young people to lead drug-free lives.

Other organizations which are proudly supported by our students include:

- * Youth for Human Rights
- * Clean Up Australia Day
- * The Cat Protection Society
- * Harmony Day.

