

Society Membership Policy

Membership:

Since the school is not only the responsibility of Christian parents, but also the Christian community as a whole, we encourage all Christians to become actively involved in the school by becoming members of the school society and promoting Christian education to the broader community.

Purpose:

Membership helps enhance the community character of Christian education. Membership supports the vision, mission, and purpose of the school society. Membership focuses on a commitment to a cause rather than participation in an institution. Membership engages the community in the life of the society and the school.

Membership Application Process:

1. All applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
2. At least one parent must apply for membership in order to apply for student enrollment. However, it is encouraged that both parents become members.
3. Applicants will complete the required membership application forms.
4. Applicants will be interviewed by the principal and/or a member of the admission committee.
5. Notification of eligibility for membership will be by the principal or the board.
6. Eligible applications will be brought to the board for approval.
7. Application forms are kept on file for the purpose of renewing memberships annually.

Membership Requirements:

1. Completion of an application for membership and sign agreement with the basis, principle guidelines and purpose of the Society, as expressed in the Objects of the Society and by-law #1.
2. Applicants are obligated to be ready to participate in the activities of the society.
3. Upon notification of eligibility for membership, the applicant will submit the membership payment of appropriate dues.

Membership Privileges:

1. Voting at meetings of the society and eligibility for the board.
2. Participation in society activities.
3. Right to send children to the school, upon approval by the principal and the board.
4. Regular communication about the activities of the school and society.

Membership Dues:

Membership dues are payable on or before August 1st annually at a rate of \$75.00 per member.

Termination of Membership:

A membership in the society is terminated when:

1. The member dies
2. A member fails to maintain any qualifications for membership described in the society's by-laws
3. The member is expelled in accordance with any discipline of members section or is otherwise terminated in accordance with the articles or by laws; or
4. The society is liquidated or dissolved under the Act.

Resignation of Membership:

Any member may resign by filing a written resignation with the board but such resignation shall not relieve the member of the obligation to pay any dues, or other charges accrued, unpaid or pledged.

Associate Membership:

An associate member is one who is interested in maintaining contact with the Orillia Christian School Society (OCSS) and supportive of their activities but, for a variety of reasons, is unable to pursue active membership. Associate members are not eligible to vote at membership meetings but are welcome to express their views; nor are they eligible to serve on the board or its committees. Inability to fulfill the financial requirements will not preclude associate membership in the OCSS. Associate members will be informed of the activities of the Orillia Christian School Society on a regular basis.

Corporate Sponsorship:

A corporate sponsorship is designed for a company or business approved by the Orillia Christian School Society and informed of the aims and purposes: for example, the bursary program, or on-going special projects, etc. Corporate sponsors are not bound by membership responsibilities and privileges.

Article 2 of the Orillia Christian School Constitution

Basis:

The supreme standard of the Orillia Christian School Society for elementary education shall be the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which we believe to be the Word of God. The government of the Orillia Christian School Society is autonomous under God. It is not an ecclesiastical body, nor is it subject to any ecclesiastical organization. However, believing that the Lord God, by graciously giving us the Scriptures, has revealed to His people certain basic principles intensely relevant to education, in obedience thereto, the Orillia Christian School confesses, and is thereto bound by the following principles:

1 – Life: That since human life in its entirety is religion; God summons men to serve Him everywhere and requires that we educate our children in the fear of the Lord.

2 – Bible: We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God: that the 66 books, as originally written comprising the Old and New Testaments, were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and were entirely free from error: that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice and the only true basis of Christian unity.

3 – Creation: That since God, Who has created all things by His Word and Spirit, constantly revealed His wisdom and power in the cosmos and exercises His dominion everywhere, we can rightly understand the world only in its relation to the Triune God. We believe in the doctrine of creation as revealed in the book of Genesis and other Scriptures, and reject the theory of evolution.

4 – God: We believe in one God, Creator of all, holy, sovereign, eternal, coexisting in three equal persons the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This only living and true God has revealed Himself in the Holy Scriptures.

5 – Christ: We believe in the absolute and essential deity of Jesus Christ, in His eternal existence with the Father in the preincarnate glory, in His virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, triumphant ascension, mediatorial ministry and personal, bodily return.

6 – The Holy Spirit: We believe in the absolute and essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit, who convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, who regenerates, sanctifies, illuminates and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ.

7 – Man: We believe that man, having been created as God's image bearer, was given the task of exercising dominion over creation in obedient and loving service to God, glorifying Him in

thought, word and deed, and to interpret all reality in accordance with His design and law for creation and mankind.

8 – Sin: We believe that man, by disobeying God’s command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, willfully turned against God, forsaking the task that God had assigned him. Man estranged himself from God and brought God’s curse upon himself and creation. As a result, fallen man has become blind to the true meaning of life and misuses and represses the knowledge of God which confronts him in creation and in the Scriptures.

9 – Salvation: We believe that salvation is by the sovereign, electing grace of God: that by the appointment of the Father, Christ voluntarily suffered a vicarious expiatory death: that justification is by faith alone in the all sufficient sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and that those whom God has effectually called shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected in the image of the Lord.

10 – The Kingdom of God: That the kingdom of God established the rule of Jesus Christ over all things and makes education and science possible and meaningful. Since we must subject every thought in obedience to Christ, we therefore reject every attempt to withdraw any aspect of life from the divine commandment to love the Lord with all our heart and mind.

11 – Purpose of Education: We believe that the purpose of Christian education is to direct and guide children to commit their heart to Christ the Truth, to attain understanding, wisdom and righteousness, and to perform his competent and responsible service of the Lord.

12 – Parents and Children: We believe that God has given to parents the responsibility to nurture and educate their children. These children, needing direction, correction and instruction, should receive Christcentred education.

13 – The Teacher: We believe that the teacher, as a servant of God, in exercising his calling as an educator of the student, is accountable to the parents through the school board.

14 – The Christian School: We believe that the school is an educational institution established and directed by an association of Christian believers, and possesses the freedom to function in education in total and voluntary submission to Christ.

15 – Christian Unity: We believe that, based on the directives of I Corinthians 13 and Romans 14, and because of the unique nature of the school as being non denominational in character: for that reason, doctrinal views which may be divisive (e.g. baptism by water or Spirit, speaking in tongues) are to be neither promoted nor practised within the Society at any level.

16 – Christian Behaviour: We believe that the Christian life should be an inner attitude and outward demonstration of total commitment to God. Such a Spirit filled life is characterized by loving God with all one's being and loving one's neighbor as oneself, including one's willingness to set aside one's personal freedoms for the sake of those weaker in the faith. The fruit of the Spirit is the evidence of this life, against which there is no law. This spiritual life is also in complete conformity with the Scripture.

ARTICLE 2.1

Marriage:

The Society shall consider God's plan for marriage the union between one man and one woman. Recognizing that breakdowns in God's plan occasionally take place, we strive to uphold God's ideal. God's plan does not sanction or approve of same sex unions.

STATEMENT OF CORE FAMILY VALUES

All members of the board, administration and staff of Orillia Christian School believe that the Bible is the Word of God and without error in all its teachings. Because of our understanding of the Old and New Testaments, our school teaches these Core Family Values:

- That it is unacceptable for Christians to teach hatred against any group or individual.
- That human life begins at conception and that an unborn child at any stage of development is fully human and should be treated as such.
- That extramarital sexual intimacy, heterosexual or homosexual, is morally wrong.
- That marriage is an exclusively heterosexual institution involving one man and one woman.
- That God created each human being with a biological gender

Signature of applicant 1: _____

Signature of applicant 2: _____

Date: _____

APPLICATION FOR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Applicant 1

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail: _____

PERSONAL

Have you professed faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour? Yes No Unsure

If yes, briefly narrate how you came to faith in Jesus Christ:

How would you explain the Gospel?

How is your life different now because of the grace of God in Christ?

What role does the Bible play in your life?

Where do you attend church?

Pastor's Name:

How often do you attend?

Past/Present Involvement:

PERSONAL REFERENCES: List 2 references – Please note that your signature gives the Admissions Committee permission to contact these references

Name:

Name:

Relationship:

Relationship:

Phone:

Phone:

Signature of applicant 1 _____ Date: _____

Membership fee: \$75.00 per member (if applying as a couple, you can submit one cheque)

FOR USE BY PRINCIPAL: Membership approved by board _____ (insert date)

APPLICATION FOR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Applicant 2

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail: _____

PERSONAL

Have you professed faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour? Yes No Unsure If yes, briefly narrate how you came to faith in Jesus Christ:

How would you explain the Gospel?

How is your life different now because of the grace of God in Christ?

What role does the Bible play in your life?

Where do you attend church?

Pastor's Name:

How often do you attend?

Past/Present Involvement:

PERSONAL REFERENCES: List 2 references – Please note that your signature gives the Admissions Committee permission to contact these references

Name:

Name:

Relationship:

Relationship:

Phone:

Phone:

Signature of applicant 1 _____ Date: _____

Membership fee: \$75.00 per member (if applying as a couple, you can submit one cheque)

FOR USE BY PRINCIPAL: Membership approved by board _____ (insert date)

Pastoral Reference Form

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise

Deuteronomy 6:7

At Orillia Christian School, our mission is to support Christian families through a Christ-centered curriculum. As we can see in Deuteronomy, God is clear that parents have the main responsibility of teaching their children so they come to know the Lord. He is also clear that this is to be done at all times! So it is not enough that children learn about Jesus at school, parents are to do this every chance they get. In fact, it can be confusing to children if what they are hearing at school is not mirrored at home. This is an awesome responsibility and a huge task. Thankfully, God has given us help. At OCS we are here to support your family, but more than that, the Church is there to come alongside families in helping them raise their children in the ways of the Lord. Therefore, **it is imperative that families be in regular attendance at a Bible believing Church.** Because of this, **it is our requirement that every family be actively participating, defined as weekly in person attendance for at least the last six months, in a Christian Church.**

Please have your pastor fill out the following and return this form with your completed application

Applicant Name: _____

Church Name: _____

Pastor Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone #: _____

I can confirm that _____ has been regularly attending

Name of Applicant

_____, in person, for at least the past 6 months.

Name of Church

Additional Comments (if any)

Pastor Signature _____ Date: _____