

H&S Issues

Schools everywhere, it appears, have been transformed into building sites as part of the Federal Government's stimulus package. Temporary fences have been erected and a steady stream of trucks and tradespeople enter and leave the school property daily as classrooms, multipurpose centres and even canteens take pride of place on the school property. All this activity means safety precautions are put in place. Builders are chosen carefully, tradespeople are hired, their qualifications are checked and after they leave, their workmanship is inspected. They register when they enter the school and sign out when they leave.

Schools are responsible when it comes to building programs. No one wants an unqualified tradesperson building a school structure. Schools are also responsible when it comes to choosing teachers. Interviews are conducted, CVs are scrutinised, and references noted. It's a relatively easy thing to check academic qualifications and workmanship but how do we check the hearts of teachers? Is it even possible to do this?

Sometimes we focus on the academic and teaching qualities of staff and forget that the very reason for the existence of Christian schools is more than pedagogical prowess and academic achievement. What lies in the heart of a teacher is difficult to measure, and it is more about being than doing. Teachers are what they teach through applying theory, and through being loving, authentic, and consistent.

Teachers who spend quality time with God will be effective agents of grace who share God's love from the overflow of their hearts. Here are three questions Christian teachers can ask themselves:

1. Is my relationship with God so full that I can share His love from the 'overflow'?
2. Do I spend more time focusing on what I do rather than who I am?
3. What does the quality of my relationships with peers, students and parents tell them about God?

The Eternal Health and Safety of our children is our greatest priority. **TEACH**

EH&S issues are a joint initiative between the Adventist Schools Australia Curriculum Unit and Avondale College.