DIVERSITY & SHALOM
UNDERPINNINGS OF SCHOOLING
TO FORM WISE PEACEMAKERS

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TEACH: cyber-safety + anti-bullying + anti-terrorism + inclusion + sustainability + human rights + sexual identity/LGBTIQA+/dysphoria + drug ed. + driver ed. + intercultural competency + mindfulness + mental health + nutrition + etc.
“Without a transcendent and honourable purpose schooling must reach its finish, and the sooner we are done with it, the better. ... Without a narrative, life has no meaning. Without meaning, learning has no purpose. Without a purpose, schools are houses of detention, not attention” – Neil Postman

“Anyone who is sent on a mission had better be clear about what is being asked of her and why. If she is not clear about the nature and rationale of the mission, she risks trying to do too much, or not enough, or the wrong thing entirely.” – John G. Stackhouse, Jr.

– Roz Ward, Safe-Schools founder, Speaking on the goal of Safe Schools at the Safe Schools Coalition National Symposium in Melbourne, 13 June 2014
“Australian schools ... encourage the active participation of all school community members in developing and maintaining a safe school community where diversity is valued.”

– Guiding Principle #4 for safe, supportive and respectful school communities.

Q1. Is all diversity good? Why/not?
Q2. What does the right to safety mean, and how far does support go?
Q3. “Does my school have a coherent Christian definition and practice of what it means for a student to thrive?”
"I can only answer the question ‘What am I to do?’ if I can answer the prior question ‘Of what story or stories do I find myself a part?’ We enter human society, that is, with one or more imputed characters—roles into which we have been drafted—and we have to learn what they are in order to be able to understand how others respond to us and how our responses to them are apt to be construed. … Deprive children of stories and you leave them unscripted, anxious stutterers in their actions as in their words.”

– Alasdair MacIntyre, After Virtue

“The Classic Structure of Virtue [is]: [1] glimpse the goal, [2] work out the path toward it, and [3] develop the habits which you will need to practice if you are going to tread that path.”

– N. T. Wright, After You Believe

The path to “Safe Schools”, discerning good from bad diversity, requires a vision of the GOOD.
WHAT IS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLING FOR?

Under-defined? Over-prescribed?
“Shalom is delight in all one’s relationships: with God, neighbour, nature, and self. Shalom unites the fulfillment of culture with the liberation of justice. Life in the city of God is a life committed to struggling for shalom and to appreciating the flickers of shalom that already brighten our existence. Christian education is education for shalom.”

– Nicholas Wolterstorff, Educating for Life
EDUCATION AS A JOURNEY

• Educare (leading out), Curriculum (path/content), Currere (trek/pedagogy)
• “God’s Curriculum”: A Journey to Shalom
  1. Telos/Destination: Shalom (4 Dimensional: Self, Others, God, Nature)
  2. Path: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration (4 Lenses)
  3. Pilgrims: immaturity to maturity
     (holistic + progressive, forming ‘lovers’)

“The Bible renders to us the story of God’s mission through God’s people
in their engagement with God’s world
for the sake of God’s whole creation.”
– Chris Wright, The Mission of God
OUR VISION FOR THRIVING STUDENTS

• **Learn about** (curriculum: content of shalom):
  Making Sense of the World = **Wise**

• **Called to** (currere/pedagogy: trek to holistic flourishing):
  Work Together for the Common Good = **Peacemakers**

**Forming Wise Peacemakers**
BIBLICAL NARRATIVE

• CREATION: Purpose ... How do God’s purposes illuminate this subject, idea or concept?

• FALL: Problem ... What went wrong, and how has God’s purpose been distorted?

• REDEMPTION: Response ... How does God’s grace save the world and call us to respond in love?

• RESTORATION: Hope ... Where is hope found and what would restoration look like?
• Biblical “knowledge” … head, heart and responsive action
• Essential questions re: Self, Others, God and Nature, to “learn about …”

Godly **WORK**  
Effective **SALVATION**  
Trustworthy **KNOWLEDGE,**  
Transformative **HOPE**

“Wisdom is about trying to integrate knowledge, understanding, critical questioning and good judgement with a view to the flourishing of human life and the whole of creation.”

– David Ford & Graham Stanton, Reading Texts, Seeking Wisdom
## WISE PEACEMAKERS
| KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING |

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### Shalom
- **Formed**: How do God’s purposes illuminate this subject, idea or concept?  
- **Deformed**: What went wrong, and how has God’s purpose been distorted?  
- **Reformed**: How does God’s grace save the world and call us to respond in love?  
- **Transformed**: Where is hope found and what would restoration look like?

**FOCUS**
- The duty and delight of Work
- The promise and peril of Knowledge
- Cooperation and Justice enroute to Salvation
- The virtues and vision grounding our **hope**
• **Vocation and Character/Virtue** …
  neither legalism, indoctrination nor mechanistic/mindless obedience

• **Blessed are the Peacemakers** …
  joining God in our call to journey toward shalom

| CULTIVATE | REPENT | LOVE | CREATE |

“People do not follow bullet points: they will commit to a credible story told by a person bearing the authority of a worthy character evidenced in relationship.”

– Mark Strom, *Leading with Wisdom*
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**FOCUS**
- How do God’s purposes illuminate this subject, idea or concept?
- What went wrong, and how has God’s purpose been distorted?
- How does God’s grace save the world and call us to respond in love?
- Where is hope found and what would restoration look like?

**PEACEMAKER: called to...**
- Cultivate God’s garden, bringing out the latent potential in all creation
- Repent over the ways we’ve deformed shalom, rethinking what is true, good & beautiful
- Love sacrificially, in God’s grace, to bridge divides and truly bless the world
- Create inspired signs of the future City of Peace, out of gratitude and in worship for God’s glory
RE-FRAMING “DIVERSITY”

1 CREATION
(Purpose)
Godly WORK +
Cultivate
(Shalom Formed)

2 FALL
(Problem)
Trustworthy KNOWLEDGE
+ Repent/Rethink
(Shalom De-formed)

3 REDEMPTION
(Response)
Effective SALVATION
+ Sacrificial Love
(Shalom Re-formed)

4 RESTORATION
(Hope)
Transformative HOPE
+ Create/Worship
(Shalom Trans-formed)
WISE PEACEMAKERS SEEKING SHALOM

GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION
FALL
REDEMPTION
RESTORATION

WORK
KNOWLEDGE
SALVATION
HOPE

CULTIVATE
REPENT
LOVE
CREATE
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