

Membership in the Kingston Christian School Society

Information for parents

What is the mission of Kingston Christian School?

The mission of Kingston Christian School is to provide Christ-centred education. It may not be immediately clear to everyone what that means. The Preamble to the Constitution quotes a well-known passage from Colossians 1, which begins “Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God”. The thrust of this Bible passage, written at a time when the Roman emperor had taken to himself God-like powers, is that not the emperor, nor our modern idols (success, wealth, power, and fame), but God himself is over all things. Our work, our worship, our family interactions, our friendships, should all be done in Christ. This means that they should give visible testimony to the invisible God. It is our job, yours and mine, to figure out what that means in all parts of our lives. It is the task of KCS to work out what that means in the area of education. KCS is not just about educational excellence, nor is it about isolating children from the bad influence of teachers or other children. It is about realizing the vision of Christ’s presence in the area of education.

What is the Kingston Christian School Society?

The Kingston Christian School Society is the body that owns and operates Kingston Christian School according to the goals set down for it in its constitution and in keeping with provincial laws for corporations and federal laws for charitable organizations. The Society governs the affairs of the school through an elected Board of Directors. KCS is not a government-controlled school. The school is not associated with any particular church, though it is unabashedly Christian in its educational philosophy. Nor is it correct to say that it is a parent-controlled school, though sometimes that language has been used to express the sense of community we like to maintain between the parents and students associated with the school, and to emphasize a Christian vision that embraces school, family and church. The school is controlled by the Kingston Christian School Society.

KCS receives no government funds. The cost of education is borne primarily by parents (71%) and by donations (12%) and rental income (11%). This is a very high burden on parents, and the Board is concerned about this. If we go back several decades, the proportion of the cost covered by donations was higher.

The Board of Directors provides the governance of the school, and strives to do this in a manner that reflects the wishes of the Kingston Christian School Society and that respects the School’s Constitution and Bylaws. The Board of Directors is elected by the Kingston Christian School Society at its annual meeting. The Board meets monthly, and the Society meets twice a year. The Board is assisted by a number of standing committees, which advise the Board on matters of finance, human resources, education programme, public relations, membership, building maintenance, and so on.

The day-to-day management of the school is provided by the Principal, who is responsible to the Board. The Constitution and Bylaws of the school, together with other policy documents approved by the Board, describe precisely the way in which decisions are made in the school, and how concerns and disputes must be handled.

Why should I consider membership in the Kingston Christian School Society?

There are several good reasons why we urge you to consider membership. One of them is that the School needs your input. Without a healthy Kingston Christian School Society, there cannot be a healthy school. A second reason is that participation in the Society will give you a greater sense of participation and ownership of the school attended by your children. A third reason is that we would like the society to function as a community in which parents and other stakeholders support each other, not as consumers of education, but rather as participants in the enterprise of Christian parenting, Christian education, and believing citizenship. A fourth reason is that we would like the commitment to KCS to extend beyond the period of time when your children attend the school – we hope eventually to see you here, or at another Christian School as grandparents or ‘grand friends’ who continue to share in the provision of Christian nurture for the next generation.

To send your children to Kingston Christian School, you do not have to be a practicing Christian (though you have to agree to allow your children to participate in all aspects of a deliberately Christian education); but to have a voice in the operation of the school you must be a member of the Kingston Christian School Society. To become a member of the society is to change from a consumer to a supporter, from a bystander to a participant.

How do I become a member of the Kingston Christian School Society?

It is basically very easy: To become a member, you must express agreement with the constitution and bylaws of the school, and you must provide evidence that you are a practicing Christian believer.

To ensure that applications for membership are made with care, we expect parents to have been involved in the school for a year before inviting them to apply. Once that year is over we invite them to consider applying. The application process is completed in a few simple steps:

1. Complete Form 100 (attached)
2. Complete Form 101 (attached) and obtain a letter from a pastor or priest
3. Submit the completed forms and the pastor’s letter to the School secretary, who will pass it on to the Secretary of the Board of KCS

Date

Dear:

Should you be interested in becoming a member this year we would ask that you complete the following and return this letter to the School office before _____.

1. Carefully read the enclosed KCS Constitution and, if you are able, sign the statement below.

I/we hereby declare my/our agreement with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Kingston Christian School Society.

Print Name & Sign

Date

Print Name & Sign

Date

2. Sign the Application Statement below and check one:

I/We _____ of _____
(Names) (Address)

hereby apply for membership in the Kingston Christian School Society. Having read the KCS Constitution, I/we subscribe wholeheartedly to the purpose and basis of the Society and will contribute a minimum of \$25 (\$50 per family) annually to the Society. Membership is due each year on the first of September. Families with children enrolled in KCS do not need to pay the annual membership fee.

Signature

Signature

3. We ask you to submit a letter of reference from your pastor or priest (form 101 enclosed). It should comment on your faith, your church involvement and your commitment to Christian Education.

Please note that the Semi-Annual Society meeting will be held on (end of November). If you have any questions, please feel free to call the School.

In His service,

Secretary of the Kingston Christian School Society

*Membership application form 100
revision, 01/10*

Date: _____

Dear _____
(Pastor/ Priest)

_____ is/ are applying for Membership in the Kingston Christian School Society. This membership privilege will allow the above named:

1. The right to vote at all membership meetings.
2. The opportunity to serve within the school community on committees and on the Board of Directors.
3. The privilege of contributing, in an active way, to the support and fellowship that is an integral part of the Kingston Christian School community.
4. Preferred consideration for enrolment.

It is important for us to know that our members are practicing Christians. We are asking you to provide a letter of reference for the applicant. A requirement of membership into the Kingston Christian School society is regular worship in a Christian community.

We would appreciate your cooperation in taking a few minutes to comment on their faith, their church involvement, and their commitment to Christian Education. Please write a separate letter that addresses:

1. How long you have known the applicant?
2. Is the applicant a member of your church?
3. How regularly does the applicant attend worship services?
4. How active is the applicant in church ministries?
5. Any other pertinent information that will support their membership application.

Thank you for your assistance and your time,

In His service,

Membership Committee