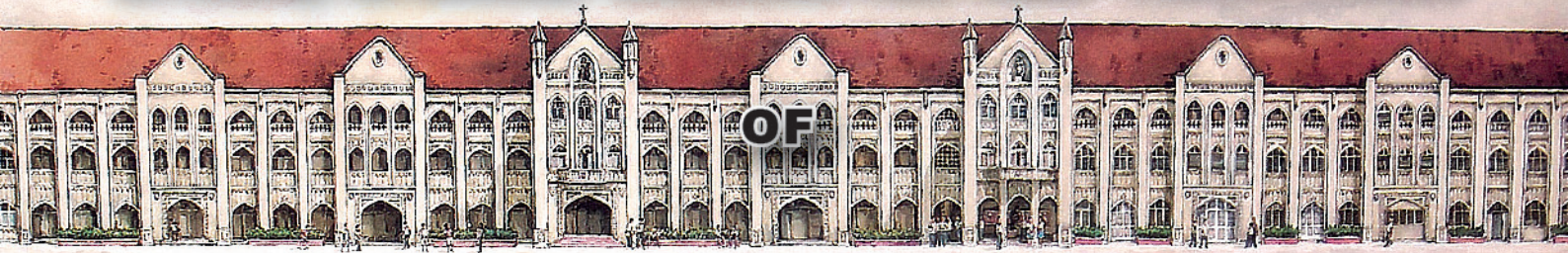


# **ETHOS, SPECIAL CHARACTER AND TRADITIONS**



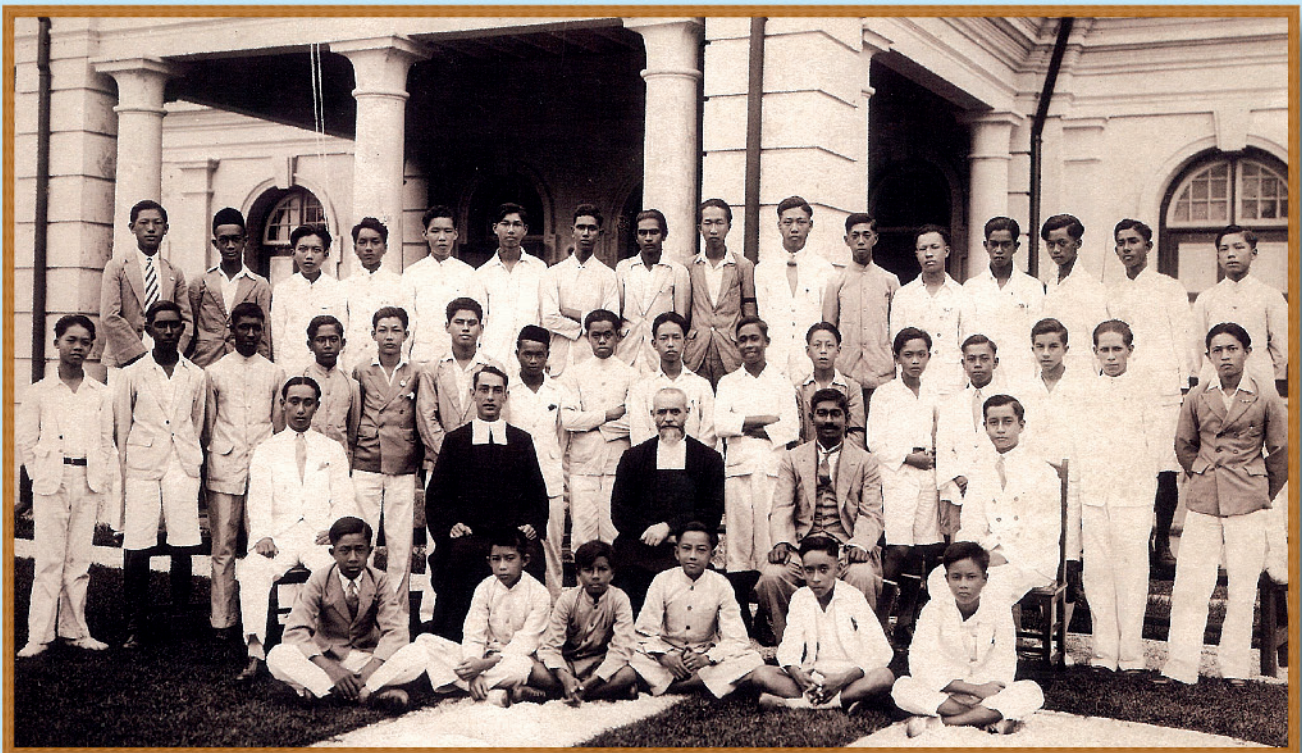
## **MALAYSIAN CHRISTIAN MISSION SCHOOLS**

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by

**MALAYAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS' COUNCIL (MCSC)**

FEBRUARY 2012





## PREAMBLE

This document is prepared by the Malayan Christian Schools' Council (MCSC) on behalf of the Federation of Councils of Christian Mission Schools Malaysia (FCCMSM) which represents all 448 schools in the country. It describes the ethos, special character and traditions of Malaysian Christian mission schools and explains why these must be preserved.

The Prime Minister and his cabinet, including the Education Minister, took cognizance of this need to preserve the identity of the mission schools. He gave the assurance at a luncheon meeting with Heads of Christian Churches on January 4th 2012, that the ethos, special character and traditions of Christian mission schools be maintained.

Heads and teachers of mission schools play a key role in the continuance of this tradition as stated in the Revised Report of the Royal Commission of the Teaching Services, West Malaysia, June 1971 by Tan Sri Abdul Aziz bin Mohd Zain.

'To allay any misgiving as regards the status and the special character of some former private schools particularly the mission schools and conforming Chinese schools, we would suggest that in exercising the powers of deployment and assignment of teachers, especially the head teachers, there should be maximum consultation between the deployment authority and the individual Boards of the school so that this character is maintained.'

Article 8.53 page 53

The Christian perspective of ethos is illumined by the Gospel and is attentive to the needs of students. Mission schools place great emphasis on holistic education, balancing character development with academic excellence. It promotes the dignity, self-esteem and full development of the person, empowering young girls/boys to become people of integrity, with emphasis on the formation of the heart, so as to be committed to service to their family, nation and the world. This is in line with the aspirations expressed in the Rukun Negara and the National Philosophy of Education.



## SPECIAL CHARACTER OF MISSION SCHOOLS

Mission Schools believe in :

### (A) EDUCATION FOR ALL AND FOR UNITY

- Education is for everyone irrespective of race, religion, gender or socio-economic status;
- The composition of students and teaching staff reflects the multi-ethnic character of the country

Therefore, the ideal of unity is put into practice among all. Discriminatory and divisive practices are to be avoided. Mutual respect for one another's differences and culture is inculcated.

### (B) COMPASSION FOR THE POOR AND WEAK

- Education in mission schools brings hope to the poor and weak.

Therefore, it gives special attention and care to those suffering from any aspect of poverty: financial, moral, cultural, spiritual, cognitive, physical or emotional.

### (C) EDUCATION THAT IS PERSON-CENTRED

- Each student is a unique individual made in the image of God and endowed with distinctive character, aptitudes and abilities and is worthy of love, respect and acceptance.

Therefore, each student should be nurtured and developed as a whole person - spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially - to his or her fullest potential.

*"We believe that each student is a unique individual endowed with distinctive character, aptitudes and abilities."*

- The Methodist Council of Education

*Care, concern and compassion for the least, the last and the lost*

*It is our intense pre-occupation with the lives of the young and their hopes and aspirations and their anguish and sorrows that move adults to paint new horizons and pave new paths for the generations to come. This can only come about when we are ready to return to our founding inspirations of restoring the sacredness of human persons, as the channel for the building of a more humane world.*

- Bro Anthony Rogers fsc



#### (D) DISCIPLINE WITH LOVE

- Mission schools possess a culture of “discipline with love” brought about through a process of training in Christian values of love, trust, humility, forgiveness, compassion, peace and justice.

Therefore, discipline is inculcated with appropriate punishment, creating an awareness of right and wrong. This takes place within a context of constant encouragement, affirmation and love. This in turn produces students and alumni with compassion, integrity, resilience and diligence.

*“We are what we are because of you, Teachers! They don't make teachers like you anymore.”*

- former students

#### (E) PRAYER AND PRESENCE OF GOD

- Prayer and the presence of God encourage the student to live a God-fearing life.

Therefore there is a culture of awareness of God in the school which stems from traditional practices, icons and references to God and prayer.

*“Education is the moulding of the heart; in order to pursue such an aim it is necessary to use kindness with one, firmness with another, reason with the third. But everyone has to be dealt with love especially the poor girls (boys) who do not enjoy affection in the family. These girls(boys) must find that we are mothers /fathers to them.”*

- St. Magdalen of Canossa

#### (F) PASSION AND PERSEVERANCE

- Teachers in mission schools, led by the Head Teacher, are driven by the spirit of dedication and sacrifice.

Therefore, teachers work with full commitment to guide the boys and girls under their care with charity and patience.



## ETHOS INDICATORS IN MISSION SCHOOLS

### 1) HUMAN DIGNITY

Care for the marginalized students, e.g. feeding programmes for the poor, etc.

A culture of honesty, integrity and justice

Good discipline. Respectful and polite behavior

Home visits

### 2) PEOPLE RESOURCES

Administration by Christian Head

Active Board of Governors in the school

Involvement of Christian parents

Active participation of alumni

Chaplain/Pastor/Priest who visits school regularly and counsels Christian students and teachers

### 3) FACILITIES

Chapel or room designated as Prayer Room

Archives/Heritage room displaying artefacts and records of school's history and list of benefactors, past heads, etc

Room for Board of Governors

### 4) SCHOOL CULTURE

Teaching of Bible Knowledge in the curriculum not just for examination

An aesthetic and clean environment - care for the environment.

A culture of excellence and hard work

Emphasis on the improvement of the English Language and the National Language

### 5) ICONS

School badge / Motto / School song / School building / School Houses named after saints/school benefactors

School magazines to reflect ethos...to have Bible verses, Christian poems, etc; original names must be retained

Christian Icons and artefacts

Commemorative plaques and boards displayed

*The holistic education and national values articulated in the Rukun Negara and the National Philosophy of Education have long been accepted as the hallmarks of the Christian Mission Schools as may be seen through the value placed on loyalty to king and country, development of individual talents and modes of expression and emphasis on strict discipline and codes of conduct set in the ethos and traditions of each school.*

- An eminent educationist



## 6) SPECIAL EVENTS

Celebration of Founder's Day / Remembrance Day, etc

Religious Emphasis Week and prayer services (during Easter / before examinations, etc), respect for other religions, observance of Good Friday

Christian/universal prayer at school assembly, Speech Day, grace before meals

Chapel services

Blessing and dedication services for new additions to school building, commemorative plaques for this purpose

Thanksgiving services

## 7) CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

School Christian Clubs (Christian Fellowship, Young Christian Students and Catholic Students' Society, etc).

Boys' Brigade or Girls' Brigade as a uniformed body in the school

## 8) SELF-RELIANCE

Tradition of community involvement in raising funds for the school

Donations and Fund-raising activities a norm e.g. Canteen Day, Fun Fair, Job Week, Walkathon, etc.

*The ideals of the Christian Mission Schools as expressed in their school badges and school songs have built a bond between generations and nurture an esprit' de corps that is difficult to define. The school Houses named after inspirational leaders and the observation of special days in the school calendar has helped pupils to focus on positive goals that has stood them in good stead all through life.*

- Mrs. Gloriosa Rajendran

# CONCLUSION

The government of the day recognizes that mission schools are a valuable asset to the nation. It is in the nation's interest to make all mission schools succeed. The success and survival of Christian Mission Schools in Malaysia means the success of our beloved nation.

MCSC  
29Feb2012

*"We owe our success to our school!"*

- former students

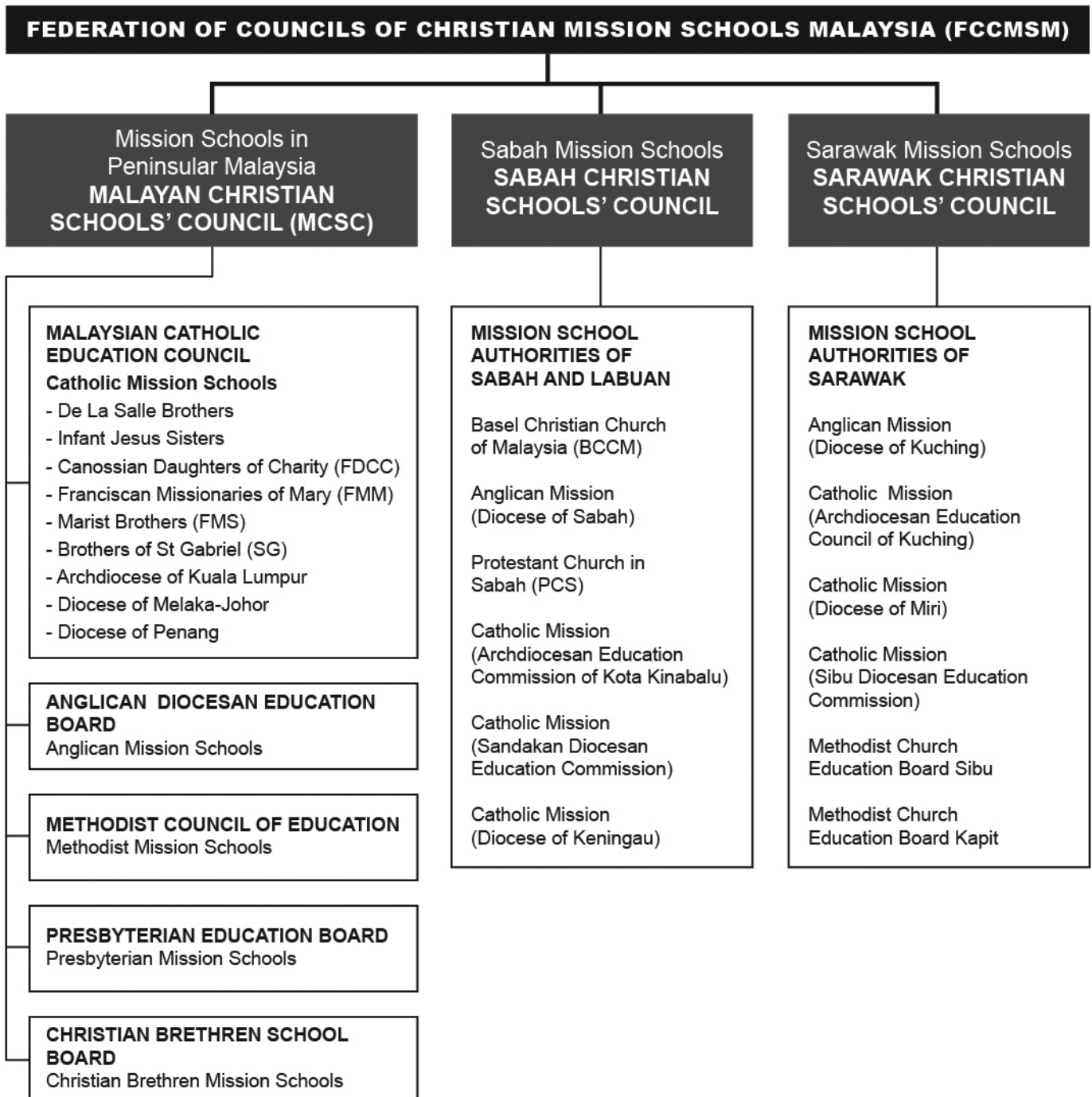


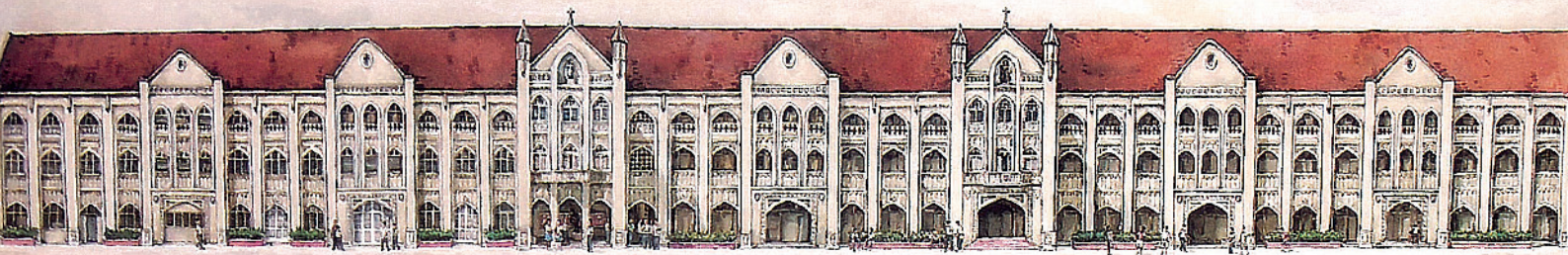
# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF CHRISTIAN MISSION SCHOOLS IN MALAYSIA

The Mission Authorities which owned mission schools in Malaya set up the MCSC (Malayan Christian Schools' Council) in 1957, to look after the affairs of all mission schools in Malaya.

On 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010, the Federation of Councils of Christian Mission Schools Malaysia (FCCMSM) was set up when three bodies (1) the Malayan Christian Schools' Council or MCSC, (2) Sabah Christian Schools Council, and (3) Sarawak Christian Schools Council, accepted the FCCMSM Charter.

The ownership and organizational structure are reflected in the chart below:





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