



IPSWICH SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF ETHOS, VALUES AND AIMS

ETHOS

At Ipswich School we recognise and welcome the range and diversity of our pupils; we are a fully co-educational School catering for young people from the age of 3 to 18. Our atmosphere is conducive to study and we expect pupils to be co-operative, well-motivated and show commitment to their learning in order to achieve their full potential. We actively encourage pupils' personal development and the variety of clubs and societies throughout the School afford the opportunity of acquiring new interests and complementing pupils' academic studies. These range from the obvious choices available in sport, music and drama to other outdoor activities and indoor pursuits.

Considerable emphasis is placed on pastoral care, monitoring academic progress and encouraging personal development. Confidential help is available from Matron and from the Chaplain who has an important role in pastoral care – all pupils may turn to her for advice and counselling. The School Counsellors are available by appointment. Opportunities are provided to assist pupils to develop spiritual awareness and a personal moral code. Our pupils have drawn up their own Code of Conduct focusing on rights, respect and responsibilities.

RELIGIOUS ETHOS

Ipswich School's Christian foundations are evident in its life in a number of ways. Pupils' personal development is fostered through the curriculum, including our Life Skills Programme, and the co-curriculum, with emphasis on individual development, communal responsibility and service, rooted in the Judaeo-Christian ethos. Pastoral Care is grounded in the same ethos, and the ordained Anglican Chaplain works as part of a team which includes the School Matron and the School Counsellors. Weekday Chapel Assemblies explore spiritual and ethical issues in a way which is accessible to pupils of all faiths and of none. Their purpose is to encourage the students to continue to question and to explore, rather than settling either for an immature faith or a facile atheism. Perhaps for this reason, the majority of pupils of non-Christian faiths do not opt out of Chapel. Other Chapel Services throughout the year offer pupils and families the opportunity of Christian worship in the School context. Annual services such as the Carol Service and the Commemoration of Benefactors Service, are occasions on which the majority of the School gathers together, to help to foster a sense of community and identity.

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CORE VALUES

Our four core values are:

- **Care**
For each individual. For the Community. For each other. For others.
- **Potential**
Within each individual, our pupils and our staff, to grow and excel in all that they do.
- **Passion**
For our subjects and activities. For the transforming power of education to realise potential.
- **Communication**
Clear, comprehensive and timely.

OUR AIMS

Being loved by our stakeholders – pupils, parents, the community – is important to us, and we are embedding the following aims within all we do at Ipswich School with a view to meeting this aspiration.

We Aim

- To provide an environment where pupils feel safe and brave in all that they do.
- To present pupils with a wealth of opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom, and to help them to find their own passions.
- To monitor our provision: pastoral, curricular and co-curricular, learning from the best that we do, to ensure that the only limit on pupils' development is their own potential.
- To look for new ways to achieve the high standards that the School aspires to, working in a smarter way, by using a "less is more" approach, and managing the demands on our pupils and staff.
- To strengthen the links in the 'triangle' joining parents, pupils and School, to ensure that we communicate well and are all working together with a common purpose.
- To encourage our pupils to consider moral and spiritual values, to understand their place in the world and to develop a spirit of service within the community.
- To equip our pupils with the skills to be happy in their success at Ipswich School and beyond.

April 2017