

AIMS AND ETHOS

1. Our Values

- 1.1 Every child is different and treated as an individual in their own right.
- 1.2 By treating young people as individuals we aim to help them develop competence and resourcefulness, social conscience and moral courage, the capacity for friendship and a true zest for life.

2. Modern since 1915

- 2.1 When the School was founded in 1915 the Daily Herald reported that the School was based 'not on the sameness of children, their conformity to type, but on their differences.' This concept of treating children as individuals was revolutionary at the time and continues to be one of the distinctive characteristics of a St Chris education.
- 2.2 We do not have a uniform as we believe that all members of our community should be able to choose the most appropriate clothing for their day at School as this encourages responsible individuality.
- 2.3 The School has long believed that education should be a partnership between the child, the parents and the School. Our Parents' Circle is one of the oldest Parent-Teacher Associations in the world.

3. School days should be great days

- 3.1 There are often enormous pressures on children to become adults too early. This is a pressure we help our pupils resist. We believe childhood and schooling are important in their own right, experiences to be enjoyed and nurtured, not merely a means to an end.

4. Global Citizens

- 4.1 A practical commitment to global issues has always been a central value of the School. Our students visit Rajasthan, Kosovo and Ladakh (Indian Himalayas) to work constructively with local communities and gain invaluable insight into global citizenship.

5. Healthy Food

- 5.1 We enjoy fresh, tasty, healthy food. Our diet includes produce from our local suppliers. Menus are worked out according to season and availability and offer a nutritious and varied selection of hot and cold dishes including a varied selection of salads.
- 5.2 All meals are vegetarian and a meat or fish option is available for Boarders at some breakfasts and evening meals during the week and at weekends. Children throughout the School are taught cookery and are guided on the principles of healthy eating.

6. Environment Matters

- 6.1 The School maintains its commitment to the environment; students grow, harvest and sell vegetables on site, and the vermicomposting project deals with a significant proportion of daily food waste to produce fertiliser. Talks and presentations raise awareness of global environmental issues.

7. Our Approach

- 7.1 We encourage children to think for themselves, work together and act responsibly.
- 7.2 We help pupils to become self-disciplined and self-motivated individuals who are independent learners, creative thinkers and able to make informed choices.

8. High Expectations

- 8.1 At St Chris we have high expectations of all within the School. We expect excellent behaviour and maximum effort and that is what we get from our pupils. We also expect everyone to work together, to enjoy their time at School and have fun working hard.
- 8.2 We are a mixed ability School which aims to help every child to achieve an optimal level of intellectual and personal development.

9. Preparation for Work

- 9.1 We have been pioneering a distinctive and innovative approach to education for over 100 years and our methods have stood the test of time. Universities and employers tell us that our School produces well-rounded, high capability students with the skills and confidence to thrive in the modern world. We can think of no better role for a School.

Richard Palmer
Head

Approved by Governors September 2018