



The Aims and Ethos of the School

DJCF

Updated September 2022

Summer Fields Mission Statement

Summer Fields is one of the country's pre-eminent prep schools and the mission of both Governors and the Headmaster is to develop that position. Its character and reputation are based firstly on the quality of Summer Fields' academic teaching: boys are expected to stretch themselves and aspire to academic excellence. A string of scholarships to leading public schools is testament to the success of this, and Summer Fields will continue to attract accomplished teachers to encourage and inspire boys to achieve to the best of their potential. Summer Fields remains a single-sex school because we believe boys of this age flourish best without the competition of girls: it caters for boys of widely differing abilities.

Equally importantly, Summer Fields is overwhelmingly a boarding Prep School: most boarders embark on their school career in Year 4, and we believe that they gain a great deal from a positive, safe, well-disciplined environment. Summer Fields also has many day boys and they participate fully in the life of the school.

A wide variety of activities, a busy programme and well coached games develop a happy and fulfilled boy. The quality of pastoral care at Summer Fields is outstanding and our aim is constantly to examine what we do and in this, and in all areas, improve where we can. Whilst we believe strongly in the value of boarding from Year 4 in nurturing a boy's self-confidence and potential, it is perfectly possible to commence boarding in the prep school from any age up to 11. All pupils benefit from being part of a community with strong moral and Christian values, from peerless facilities and from an education which offers excellent teaching and coaching both in the classroom and outside, musically and on the sports pitches. Our mission is to continue to provide Summerfieldians with the best chance to find and develop those talents latent in each.

Summer Fields Aims

- To promote teaching and learning for boys of all abilities and to ensure that they reach their potential and achieve excellence.
- To promote a boarding education, with some day boys, in a positive, safe and well-disciplined environment.
- To create a happy and caring environment in which boys respect each other, become responsible for their own actions, grow in confidence, and acquire self-discipline and resilience.
- To ensure that the quality of pastoral care at Summer Fields is outstanding.
- To educate boys in the widest sense whereby the foundations for future success are laid at a young age. The aim is to provide a wide variety of activities, including music, art and drama, and a busy programme of well-coached games.
- To encourage boys to reach the highest possible standards in terms of their own ability in everything that they do.
- To emphasise developing character and personality so that Summerfieldians can go out into the world and achieve.
- To ensure boys understand the role that they can play in the community.
- To encourage strong moral values.
- To instil in the boys the confidence to discover and express their own individuality.

Ethos

Summer Fields is a very special place where boys and staff live in a close, busy, caring and friendly boarding community. It is an all-boys school. Unlike many schools, most of the staff live on the campus and this enables them to play a very important part in the life of the school. It is often remarked that Summer Fields has a real family atmosphere with a committed staff and boys who thoroughly enjoy the Summerfieldian experience.

The school motto is *Mens Sana in Corpore Sano* – ‘A healthy mind in a healthy body’.

The school is well resourced and it has many very good facilities. The buildings are joined together by corridors and this helps to ensure that the boys are safe and secure at all times.

At the heart of the school is the Chapel and the role played by the Lay Chaplain is extremely important. Christian principles pervade the life of the school at every opportunity. However, whilst being a Church of England School, there are also boys of many other faiths and none. The community worships together on a regular basis.

All staff play a very important part in the development of each child. The staff are highly committed. They work hard, they support each other and they want the best from every child. They understand the importance of ‘Every Child Matters’. Much importance is placed on the pastoral care of the boys and the staff play a very important role as Lodgeparents, as helpers in the Lodges (boarding houses) or as Tutors. Indeed, the horizontal structure of the Lodges, according to age, is a great strength of the school. There is a medical Sister on duty at all times who is in charge of the health of the boys. The boarders are well looked after in a caring, homely and family environment

A happy child will enjoy the Summer Fields experience. A Summerfieldian is confident in himself and proud of his achievements and has a real ‘can do’ attitude. He is confident but not arrogant and is keen to make the most of everything on offer at the school. He is a happy, busy, purposeful and caring individual who wants to do well. The foundations for future success at senior school and beyond are laid at prep school.

Boys are encouraged to give of their best at all times and it is recognised by boys and staff alike that it is good to do well in all aspects of life at Summer Fields. There is a broad depth of ability and boys are encouraged to reach their potential academically. Summer Fields has an outstanding academic record and staff and boys are proud of the scholarship and Common Entrance successes to major senior schools. The boys are recognised throughout the term in assemblies, with merits, distinctions, SUGs and in the regular assessment Orders. Individual successes are recognised and applauded.

Education is not confined to the classroom. Boys are educated in the broadest sense and they are encouraged to take part in many different activities including sport, music, drama, art and design technology, activities and societies and outdoor pursuits. Confidence gained outside the classroom will encourage boys to do well in the classroom.

Much importance is placed on traditional values including politeness, good manners, and sportsmanship. Core values include respect, honesty, kindness and understanding of others. Boys are encouraged to support each other and to treat others as they would like to be treated themselves.

David Faber
Headmaster