



Statement of Ethos and Aims

DJCF

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Aims

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 to aspire to academic excellence. The boys are recognised throughout the term in assemblies, with merits, distinctions, SUGs and in the 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. 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 their potential. Summer Fields remains a single sex school because we believe boys flourish best without the competition of girls.

Equally importantly, Summer Fields is overwhelmingly a boarding Prep School: boarders start as 8 year olds, who we believe gain a great deal from a positive, safe, well-disciplined environment. Whilst we believe strongly in the value of boarding from 8 in nurturing a boy's self-confidence and potential, it is perfectly possible to commence boarding 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 Games Field. A wide variety of activities, a busy programme and really 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. We aim to lead by example, being considerate and respectful to each other and to the boys we teach. We welcome boys of all faiths and from all backgrounds, and aim to engender tolerance, respect and understanding of one another. 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.

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 or as Tutors. Indeed, the horizontal structure of the Lodges, according to age, is a great strength of the school. There is a 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

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 really enjoy the Summerfieldian experience.

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

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. Whilst being a Church of England School, there are boys of other faiths and there is a sizeable contingent of catholic boys. The community worships together on a regular basis.

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.

D J C Faber