

# Educational Statement



It is the primary purpose of a Woodard education to awaken a love of learning in young people, and to do this within a value rich and value driven context that recognises the unique value of each individual person and our responsibility towards each other.

## We recognise that education has many aims:

- Education should help young people develop character – people with largeness of soul, personal dignity and integrity.
- Education should encourage students to become active, compassionate, inquiring and life-long learners, in search of truth.
- Education should nurture creativity and capacity for independent and critical thought.
- Education should help young people to recognise the importance of the spiritual, moral and cultural dimension of life.
- Education should help young people to become confident individuals and understand how to be happy and to develop and maintain their own spiritual, emotional, physical and mental well-being. Education should help young people develop a positive self-awareness and self-confidence.
- Education should help young people to become active and responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society and are encouraged to participate, care for others and show leadership wherever that is possible.
- Education should equip young people with the confidence, aptitude and skills they need for life and for work.
- Education should develop internationally minded young people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

# We recognise that education is value rich:

- Woodard schools/academies provide a strong and distinctive vision and ethos based on Christian beliefs and values. However, it is fundamental that we provide education to students of all faiths and of none. The vision and ethos of all our schools is a core principle underpinning and permeating all that each school seeks to undertake and achieve.
- The characteristics of the ethos: we actively teach the importance of the value of love, forgiveness, truthfulness, integrity, courage, generosity and respect to all people. It is expected that such values will underpin the aims, objectives, shared values, policies, code of conduct, rewards and sanctions of each school/academy. Teachers have a special place in encouraging students to acquire these characteristics.
- We believe that education is much more than a 'service industry'. At its best it should have a prophetic voice and should work to change the world for the better, to pursue peace and justice.
- Each of our schools/academies provides a broad and balanced education. We do not embrace extreme views and we do not evangelise.
- Our schools/academies are inclusive, creative communities that build understanding, respect and empathy in young people. Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths and of none are welcome.
- Our schools/academies are communities that celebrate religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourage dialogue and understanding. We believe that we can all learn from each other. Therefore Religious Education is a central § element in curriculum design. RE is taught throughout Woodard schools/academies (subject to the legal right of parents to withdraw their child). Whilst the curriculum model followed will give priority to the teachings of Christianity it will also teach students about the other principal world religions and will treat each with integrity and respect. Students and parents of all faiths and of none will find Woodard schools/academies welcoming communities.
- It is recognised, understood and welcomed that teaching and support staff will come to a Woodard school/academy with a variety of faiths, beliefs and backgrounds. Against this background, staff will be required to agree to uphold the ethos of the school/academy. As part of the recruitment process, all potential staff are introduced to the vision and ethos of Woodard Schools. This vision and the ethos are underpinned by activities such as participation in collective worship, commemorative events and the celebration of the Christian (amongst others) festivals. As a consequence all staff are encouraged to attend such activities and feel comfortable in doing so.
- Woodard schools/academies are collegiate communities which strive for excellence in all that they do. Woodard requires that the leadership of its schools/academies support this vision and ethos. They expect that the Head/Principal of their schools/academies will be able to demonstrate their ability to promote the Woodard vision and ethos. While the Head/Principal is likely to be inspired by a personal Christian faith and is likely to be a communicating member of the Church of England or another mainstream branch of the Church, this is not mandatory.
- Experience of worship is an educational entitlement. All pupils will have opportunities to experience Christian worship, and specifically the Eucharist. Each school/academy has a place for quiet contemplation. All students (subject to the legal right of parents to withdraw their child) will participate in a daily act of collective worship wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The principal festivals of the Christian year and other major events in the school year are marked by an appropriate act of collective worship.
- A Woodard Chaplain is attached to each school/academy. The Chaplain helps to lead collective worship and works closely with the Head and the Senior Provost in being the custodian of the Woodard ethos. We also endeavour to provide appropriate spiritual care to those of other faith traditions and to provide separate worship facilities if required.



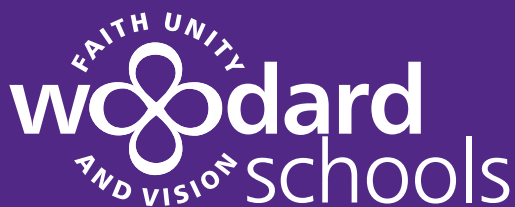


## We place children at the heart of all that we do:

- The Christian faith acknowledges the value and uniqueness of every human being regardless of gender, age, ethnic origin, creed or sexual orientation. We believe that each person is of sacred value because they are made in the image of God.
- A Woodard education champions the cause of child-centred holistic learning, paying particular attention to the development of the whole person: spiritually, morally, culturally, academically, aesthetically and physically. This means that education begins at the point of the child's need and places a high value on developing self-respect and self-esteem. Every student is valued for who they are and are encouraged to give their very best. We believe that every young person has the right to develop their full potential.
- A Woodard school/academy strives for educational excellence. It recognises that each person has a unique set of skills and that it is the school's duty to enable them to fulfil their potential. We recognise that ability comes in many forms and learners need to be supported to enjoy success no matter where their talents lie. The educational success of learners should not depend on their background. Education should engage the learner with exciting, relevant content with opportunities for learning through experience. We offer a personalised curriculum for each pupil based upon clear progression pathways which build upon each individual's strengths. We offer an appropriately tailored broad curriculum of both vocational and academic study
- Woodard schools/academies are places in which young people and adults are particularly cared for, nurtured and valued, as witnessed in a strong pastoral system. Our spirituality is evidenced in the quality of the relationships we build between all members of a Woodard school/academy.
- Woodard schools/academies are collegiate communities. We are part of one large family.

## Education must be an exciting partnership:

- Learners have a valuable role to play in contributing to the design of their own learning, and in shaping the way their learning environment operates. Teachers have a responsibility for developing students as individual and collaborative learners.
- The education of young people should be a partnership of schools, parents and the wider community in a local area.
- Every teacher should be a creative professional involved in the design of curriculum and learning environments. They should have a commitment to learn from and share good practice wherever they find it and especially within the Woodard family of schools/academies.
- Every school/academy should be distinctive, every school/academy innovative.
- Our schools/academies are outward looking communities. They use their faith foundation to build community cohesion.
- We believe that young people should be taught the value of living lives in service to others, especially those who are more vulnerable. Education should provide young people with opportunities to work on projects in the local, national and international community.
- We offer a lively critique of a purely utilitarian view of education (which sees education merely in terms of teaching certain skills which enable young people to be employable and economically useful).
- We are committed to each school/academy developing innovative relationships with partner organisations, including businesses and universities.



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