



## **DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL - Ethos and Aims**

Rather than be bound by the limitations of specific and prescribed aims, we have recently adopted the over-arching principle of 'Be the Best You Can Be'.

This is woven through all aspects of school life for both staff and pupils. It is also the governing tenet of our development plan; in other words, we strive to continually improve everything that we do

The impact and benefit on the pupils' school experience is always at the forefront of our minds and our prime motivation.

'DH' children are characteristically kind, happy, confident, resilient and articulate; with this in mind:

### **We aim to:**

- Inspire children through a challenging approach to academic learning: we provide each pupil with a stable, supportive and structured academic environment in which they feel encouraged to learn and make excellent progress. Children are also given a wide range of opportunities to experience success and develop self-confidence through the curriculum
- Foster a 'can-do' ethos across the school community and give opportunities for every child to find their niche and experience success by providing sporting, music, artistic and extra-curricular activities, together with a robust leadership programme
- Ensure that every child's social and academic progress is supported by meeting the needs of each child as an individual – we provide for the full range of our non-selected pupils
- Ensure that our pupils value their own and other cultures and we help them to grow emotionally and spiritually by promoting courtesy, good conduct, an ability to relate well to others and an appreciation of British values
- Ensure a smooth transition to senior school by preparing our pupils for their next school and the world beyond Dorset House
- Maintain our valued partnership between home and school through an 'open door' policy and effective communication

### **We will achieve these aims by:**

- Providing a broad and balanced curriculum delivered by our enthusiastic and well qualified staff
- Encouraging children to take responsibility for their learning and the community
- Providing rich and varied extra-curricular activities
- Delivering an academic and pastoral monitoring system that supports every pupil
- Including spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues within lessons and throughout the school community
- Maintaining a close relationship with parents through regular communication
- Advising the parents on the choice of senior schools for their children; arranging visits; helping pupils prepare for the next stage
- Reviewing how Dorset House can include the local community in all it does



## Code of Conduct

The Dorset House school community of Governors, staff, parents and pupils adhere to a code of conduct rather than to lists of rules. DH does not wish to operate according to an exhaustive list of school rules. Instead, the school observes what is a Mission statement: To Be the Best We Can Be.

This statement includes the following expectations:

- Being kind and inclusive to everyone in the school community
- being punctual
- being polite
- maintaining a neat and tidy appearance
- observing good table manners
- safeguarding the fabric, décor and furniture of the school
- always acting as a good ambassador of the school
- not disrupting the work, privacy, sleep or general well-being of others

## Further Information

There is much more information available to prospective and current parents on the school's website

<https://www.dorsethouseschool.com/about-us/school-policies/>

(Hard copies of all policies are also available on request from the school office)

Those to be found on the website include:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- The school's policy on and arrangements for admissions, misbehaviour and exclusions
- Educational and welfare provision for pupils with statements and those for whom English is an additional language
- Curriculum policy
- Policy to promote good behaviour and set out sanctions
- Anti-bullying strategy
- Health and Safety policy
- First Aid policy
- Our most recent ISI report
- Learning Support policy
- Complaints procedure and the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year
- Details of the governing body and how to contact the Chair of Governors, Mike Higham
- Details of our leavers since 2016 and their scholarships and awards to senior schools