



Heath Mount School

Section 1

School Values

The Principles and Guidance that make up this Values Document are addressed to each pupil and to each member of staff. Some of them necessarily apply to parents. Compliance with this Values Document, and each new edition, is a condition of membership (and employment) of Heath Mount School.

1. The Central Principles of Education

Heath Mount School endeavours to provide children with the education that is most suited to their own personal needs and abilities and recognises that this will vary from child-to-child. Heath Mount School maintains the belief that every child is unique and strives to provide the education most suited to the individual child:

- i. Heath Mount is a co-educational day and boarding school open to pupils between the ages of 3 and 13 irrespective of sex, race, warranted religion, culture or disability. The School is academically non-selective for Foundation Stage entry, and selects from within the 50th percentile thereafter.
The school has the right to turn down an application if it believes that it is not a sound move educationally for the child to attend Heath Mount or if a move will be detrimental to the learning of others.
- ii. Our central principles are those of: **acceptance; respect; integrity; industry and achievement.**
- iii. Our pupils are entitled to: **be happy, healthy, safe and fulfilled within a community that values them.**
- iv. We believe that '**Childhood**' should be embraced as a distinct life stage in its own right, and that this important time can provide incomparable preparation for adult life.
- v. Heath Mount School recognises the importance of the '**Every Child Matters**' (ECM) framework, and this golden thread runs throughout this document.
- vi. Heath Mount School provides a **Holistic** education and the aims below, although separate, work together to achieve this principle.



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Heath Mount School Aims

It is important that every school has its own distinct ethos and aims. Below is Heath Mount School's mission statement:

"Heath Mount School aims to provide a friendly and nurturing environment which promotes well-being. It seeks to uncover and develop potential, whilst maintaining a balance with traditional childhood experiences. The school wishes its pupils to develop self-confidence, self-discipline, and a strong values system."

2. Heath Mount School Objectives

Heath Mount School strives to meet the following objectives, so that children enjoy a positive and fulfilling all-round education that cares for their emotional and spiritual needs, as well as delivering academic rigour:

a. Teaching:

Heath Mount School is committed to providing excellence in teaching, in order to promote successful learning:

- i. Teachers pursue excellence as professional teachers;
- ii. Teachers understand the importance of managing pupils' emotional states to facilitate effective learning;
- iii. Teachers understand the importance of modelling emotionally intelligent behaviour to pupils;
- iv. Teaching meets the needs of pupils of different abilities;
- v. Teachers create a climate of praise;
- vi. Pupils are prepared for successful transition to senior schools.

b. Learning:

Heath Mount School believes that learning is a life-long process and aims to cultivate this attitude in all of its pupils. It is the school's aim that:

- i. Pupils enjoy school and develop a love of learning;
- ii. Pupils feel optimistic and hopeful about the future;
- iii. Pupils understand their responsibility as learners;
- iv. Pupils develop effective skills as independent learners;
- v. Pupils understand that learning takes place in many different situations and by differing means.

c. Pastoral Care:



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Pastoral care is of the utmost importance to Heath Mount School and all staff/ parents are encouraged to view pastoral care with a collective approach and as a whole-school duty (more information can be found in the school's *Safeguarding Policy*):

- i. Each pupil will receive personalised pastoral care that reflects their needs and the school's central principles;
- ii. Pupils will develop successful relationships with peers and adults that prepare them for their next school and for life beyond;
- iii. Pupils will acquire a sense of responsibility, self-discipline and independence, benefitting from the range of opportunities for leadership and the management of others;
- iv. Pupils are encouraged to develop 'emotional intelligence'; reading and managing their own emotional state and that of others.
- v. Pupils are encouraged to understand and be sympathetic to Restorative Practice (see Section 3 *Restorative Practice*).

d. Pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education:

Heath Mount School believes that education is about far more than academic progress and fully supports the idea of developing the 'whole-child'. As such:

- i. Our pupils participate in a variety of physical activities and experience a sense of well-being and confidence that arises from good health and fitness;
- ii. Our pupils benefit from a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship programme that helps them to lead happy and fulfilling lives and also fulfils our obligations as educators under *KCSIE*, September 2016 and *Prevent*, 2015 (see the school's *Safeguarding Policy*);
- iii. Our pupils develop a moral, spiritual and aesthetic awareness that makes them receptive to the world around them, bringing with it a sense of wonder and openness to the most important ideas in our own and others' cultures;
- iv. Pupils are aware of the school's Christian values;
- v. Restorative Practice is central to our policy for school discipline (see Section 3 *Restorative Practice*);
- vi. Pupils and Staff are encouraged to show mutual respect;
- vii. Pupils are encouraged to show moral courage and judgement.



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e. Pupils' Wider Development:

A child's time at school should provide not only classroom based lessons, but also a range of activities that stretch their personal, social, physical and cultural development. As such, Heath Mount endeavours to:

- i. Provide a broad and varied curriculum;
- ii. Provide a varied range of activities to enhance the curriculum;
- iii. Encourage pupils to be adventurous and to participate in a range of activities, including outdoor activities, appreciating the rewards of teamwork;
- iv. Give pupils the opportunity for personal achievement and fulfilment in a way befitting their own aspirations, and to promote personal enjoyment, both inside and outside of the classroom;
- v. Encourage our pupils to understand that they are global citizens, belonging to a wider national and international community;
- vi. Encourage our pupils to understand the importance of making a positive contribution to their community and appreciate the personal fulfilment that this contribution brings.

f. Managing Staff and Relationships with Parents

Heath Mount School recognises that, in order to maximise children's potential at school and create a positive and healthy work environment for staff, there must be communication and a relationship of trust between; staff members, parents and staff and pupils and staff, as such:

- i. The school recognises the crucial importance of its staff in pursuing these aims and undertakes to provide them with appropriate support such as continuing professional development through the appraisals system;
- ii. Distributed leadership is facilitated by encouraging and supporting appropriate staff involvement in decision making and initiatives;
- iii. The effective 'Virtuous Triangle' between teachers, parents and pupils is maintained as it is central to an effective partnership and communication between home and school.



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School policies are written with reference to these aims and principles. In particular, they influence policies on:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Boarding Policy