

Ashford School

Our Ethos and Aims

Ashford School belongs to United Learning. We are proud to share the Group's core values of ambition, confidence, determination, creativity, respect and enthusiasm and the objective of 'bringing out the Best in Everyone'.

Inspiring Minds:

Ashford School is an independent day and boarding School. It provides childcare and education for boys and girls aged from 3 months to 18 years through four constituent sections (we have three Nurseries, a Preparatory and Senior School) sharing a common ethos and led by the Headmaster as one School. It is one, of a number of Schools and Academies operated by United Learning. We are proud to share the Group's core values of ambition, confidence, determination, creativity, respect and enthusiasm and the objective of bringing out the 'Best in Everyone' (see Appendix 1).

Ashford School's Vision:

To be recognised nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence, empowering young people to make a difference in their changing world.

Ashford School's Aims:

In order to achieve this, we aim to:

- Inspire the minds of all our learners to be adventurous inside and outside of the classroom.
- Create a supportive environment where the wellbeing of the child is paramount as we believe that happiness breeds success.
- Foster a sense of respect for individuality by encouraging intellectual freedom and creativity, determination and leadership.
- Encourage academic confidence and curiosity.
- Empower our community of learners with the confidence to be a genuine and best version of themselves.

Ashford School's Pillars:

1. Academic Rigour

Pupils are challenged to think, perform, and grow to a level that they were not at previously: to build skills, understanding and thinking power so that they can achieve at enhanced levels of outcome.

2. Adventurous Learning

Adventure is an unusual, exciting, or daring experience. Outcomes cannot be predicted to any great degree and that it involves a degree of uncertainty and taking risks. Perhaps, most importantly, an adventure is a challenge that will demand the best of our capabilities – physically, mentally, emotionally.

3. Optimising potential

Every pupil has the potential to learn, grow, and become a successful member of society. The real question then becomes, *how do we get them there?* Every student has a set of strengths and weaknesses that will affect his or her ability to learn and the level at which they learn. It becomes the teacher's job to find this potential and develop it.

4. Celebrating individuality

Letting our students be exactly who they were meant to be. Throw out the molds and the standards and instead, provide a space where we can encourage and allow for our pupils to find themselves and appreciate their own unique individuality.

What do we aspire to and what are the characteristics we wish to see in all of our pupils as modelled by adults in the school?

- To develop in every child self-reliance, determination, responsibility, compassion and boldness, and also foster a sense of respect, teamwork, the intellectual freedom to be creative, the confidence and enterprise to initiate and the resilience to cope with adversity.
- To ensure every child is ambitious, confident, articulate, with excellent social skills and a secure, moral framework and, at the end of their school career, gains a place at the school, university or college of their choice.

How do we achieve this?

- By ensuring that learning is motivating, rewarding, stimulating and leads to success. This is the most important thing that happens in the school.
- We encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning, recognising that each pupil learns differently and that making mistakes and taking risks are both part of learning. We set out to create opportunities to realise, recognise and reward the best in everyone. This is achieved through learning that is carefully tailored to the individual and adventurous.
- Adventurous Learning means providing the appropriate mix of challenge and support for each child so that they continually extend themselves and develop the key personal characteristics referred to above.
- We are a diverse community where individuality is valued, and this is apparent in how we behave. We encourage intellectual curiosity and aim to help each boy and girl to develop independence of mind and spirit. Vitally important to this development is the breadth and depth of our co-curricular opportunities. Our pupils discover their own creativity, abilities and strengths through a range of sporting, artistic, cultural and social activities which run in parallel with and are as important as their academic development. Underpinning every facet of our life is a carefully designed and effective system of pastoral care and guidance.
- We embrace diversity and aim to foster understanding between people of different backgrounds. We welcome children of all faiths and of none: our values and traditions are broadly Christian.
- By using and contributing to the considerable, collective strength, experience and resources of United Learning.

These complementary elements give Ashford School its character, with Inspiring Minds being a well understood concept. Our pupils are part of a friendly, stimulating community that prepares them well for whatever life they choose to follow.

Michael M. Hall
Headmaster

This document is available on the school website and on request from the main school reception.

APPENDIX 1:

United Learning Group Ethos and Values Statement

United Learning is a group of schools committed to providing excellent education through which all pupils are able to progress, achieve and go on to succeed in life. Our approach is underpinned by a sense of moral purpose and commitment to doing what is right for children and young people, supporting colleagues to achieve excellence and acting with integrity in all our dealings within and beyond the organisation, in the interests of young people everywhere. We summarise this ethos as 'The Best in Everyone'.

This ethos underpins our core values

- **Ambition** – *to achieve the best for ourselves and others;*
- **Confidence** – *to have the courage of our convictions and to take risks in the right cause;*
- **Creativity** – *to imagine possibilities and make them real;*
- **Respect** – *of ourselves and others in all that we do;*
- **Enthusiasm** – *to seek opportunity, find what is good and pursue talents and interests;*
- **Determination** – *to overcome obstacles and reach success.*

As a single organisation, we seek to bring together the best of independent and state sectors, respecting both traditions and learning from each. We believe that each of our schools is and should be distinctive – each is committed to developing its own distinctive strengths and identity while sharing our core values as institutions which promote service, compassion and generosity.

This ethos is our expression of our Christian roots, in schools which are fully inclusive and both welcome and respect students and staff of all faiths and none.

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