

Sydenham School Values and Ethos

Updated September 2018



Sydenham School - Value Statement

We are what we repeatedly do and at Sydenham School we strive therefore to make excellence a habit. Every day, every week and year on year. We believe that everybody in the Sydenham School community can get better and better at what they do. There are no limits to what we can achieve if we put our mind to it, work hard and work together in a supportive and collaborative, but honest way. There may be challenges that we have to face. These challenges may be unexpected or they may be introduced consciously by the school to deepen thinking, accelerate learning and ensure progress.

Facing and overcoming these challenges builds character. We expect everybody in the school community to always be responsible for their actions and feelings and the impact these may have on other members of the school community. Our belief is that it is unacceptable and unnecessary to behave in a way which is upsetting, harmful or undermining of others. The ability to stop, think, be considerate as well as remorseful, are all values that we hold dear.

We believe that the vast majority of students in the school can be academically successful. At Sydenham School, we continually interrogate our systems and structures in order to make sure that equality of opportunity exists for all students, as all of our students matter equally. We are conscious of the fact that females in society suffer discrimination based on their gender. We want the young women that we educate to have a strong voice, to be confident and able to both challenge and thrive in the world beyond school despite the structural inequalities that are inherent in society and they will continually face. Some students may need more support than others at particular points and we believe that it is our social and moral responsibility to identify and provide this with excellence.

Always acting in the best interests of each other and treating each with kindness and good grace are all more likely to make the school, the wider community and indeed the world beyond a much better and safer place in which to live. Our physical, mental and spiritual health are all bound up as one and we have a duty of care to make sure all of these facets of well-being are provided for in the school for students and adults alike.

Finally, we are boundlessly optimistic that we can achieve these goals if we act with purpose and in an honourable and open way.