

POLICY ON THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN NATURE OF ST GEORGE'S COLLEGE WEYBRIDGE

These notes are intended as a guide for parents who are considering *making* an application for entry for their son/daughter into St George's College. Particularly, it is for those families where there has been a lack of Christian observance *or* for those whose family backgrounds are based in another Faith. These notes can only give an indication as to our expectations, requirements and restrictions and should not be regarded as being exhaustive. Prospective parents of another faith, must discuss these issues with the Headmaster prior to the close of registrations.

St George's College is a Faith School with an underpinning Roman Catholic and Josephite Ethos. Fundamentally, it is the College's intention to promote the principles, values and practice of the Christian Faith from the perspective of Roman Catholicism but without any attempt to indoctrinate students. We recognise the importance of parental and student support in helping the College to achieve this objective. The College's Mission Statement states "*We are an independent Roman Catholic day school which welcomes those of other Christian traditions allowing all to develop ethical, spiritual and moral values.*"

Parents who send their children to this College should be aware that:

1. The school actively promotes Christian principles based on the Gospel values of Jesus Christ and the teaching tradition of the Catholic Church. The Gospel message lies at the very heart of the St George's College ethos. The school expects all parents and students to support the religious values and spirit embodied in our Community, and to accept the religious elements that are fundamental to the Catholic and Josephite traditions of the school. The College would not sanction any element of worship which was not Christian, nor sanction the external signs of other faiths, including dress.

The religious elements of the current school timetable which are compulsory for all students presently include:

- A daily act of prayer.
 - The attendance in Chapel for Masses and other Liturgical Celebrations and services approximately four times per term.
 - The attendance at weekly assemblies which include a religious theme or element.
 - The attendance at a yearly one-day religiously themed retreat.
 - The following of a Religious Studies course to GCSE level (exam taken in fourth year).
 - The following of one of the options offered by the Sixth Form Religious Education programme.
2. The College endeavours to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and compassion and this can be seen by the attitude and behaviour expected from our students both inside and outside the classroom as well as away from school. The College undertakes to develop the ethical and moral values of its students and as such encourages all to develop an awareness of, and a response to, issues of social justice.
 3. All members of the College family are encouraged to live out their faith in the context of their everyday lives; through prayer and the development of a personal relationship with God and in their service to others. These aspirations are expressed in the College Prayer:

O Lord, give us the wisdom to know ourselves,
the humility to accept ourselves as we really are,
and the courage and independence to defend what we know to be right.
Help us to respect the needs of others,
being always ready to dedicate our own talents to their service.
Give us the strength to suffer the trials and tensions of life with fortitude,
and the vision to see through suffering to the peace which lies beyond.
May we, by our tolerance, be a constant support to each other,
and a source of strength to our families,
whom we commend to your care.

Those wishing to find out more about the Josephite tradition can do so at www.josephiteweb.org