



St Swithun's  
WINCHESTER

## ST SWITHUN'S SCHOOL

### VISION, AIMS AND ETHOS

#### VISION

##### TO BE A WORLD-CLASS GIRLS' BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL OFFERING A COMPLETE EDUCATION

At St Swithun's, **our purpose** is to develop resilient, enquiring, optimistic and collaborative women. They will stand on their own two feet and pull others up to stand alongside them.

We act on our purpose through **our mission** which is to provide outstanding pastoral care and teaching expertise to create in every student a unique tapestry of strengths and interests.

Our mission leads to **our vision** of being a world-class girls' boarding and day school offering a complete education.

Our mission is complemented by the following aims:

#### AIMS

##### Academic

To prepare girls for public examinations and higher education in a stimulating and scholarly environment in which the girls develop intellectual curiosity, independence of mind and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning. They are encouraged to achieve their personal best. Prep school girls are prepared for entry into senior school at age eleven.

##### School community

To provide a happy, safe and supportive community based on Christian values in which all girls are given the space to develop their spirituality and are encouraged to understand and celebrate difference, and to be kind to others

##### Co-curricular

To provide a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom so that girls can discover individual passions and develop a range of characteristics such as resilience, initiative, creativity, perseverance, self-confidence, the ability to work in a team and to honour one's commitments. To encourage habits to ensure good physical and mental health both at school and in the future such as exercise, healthy eating and the art of relaxation.

### **Beyond the school gates**

To teach the girls compassion, an understanding of the wider world and their role in it, a sense of duty and a desire for justice.

### **Looking towards the future**

To provide high-quality higher education and careers advice and a supportive old girls' network.

### **Keeping in touch**

To communicate in a timely and constructive fashion with parents and other members of the St Swithun's family in order to develop relationships conducive to offering the best possible education.

### **While these aims apply across the school, the prep school has the following complementary aims:**

- To provide a secure, nurturing environment where the spirit of cooperation and respect for others is paramount;
- To meet the intellectual, physical and emotional needs of each individual child by offering a broad, balanced, stimulating and differentiated curriculum and by fostering high self-esteem, self-motivation and self-expression;
- To create an environment where children are valued, cherished and challenged, and as a result learn to the best of their ability;
- To have a happy school with smiling, confident and articulate children, where everyone feels a sense of worth.

### **THE ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL**

St Swithun's is an 'appropriately academic' school which means that we celebrate intellectual curiosity and the life of the mind, but not to the exclusion of all else. We expect our pupils to develop individual passions and through them to acquire a range of skills and characteristics.

These characteristics will include a willingness to take risks, to question and to debate, and to persevere in the face of difficulty. In the words of Samuel Beckett "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better."

If a girl can immediately excel at everything we ask of her, we as educators must set the bar higher.

We want all girls to learn about life beyond the school gates, to appreciate the rich variety of our world, to develop an understanding of compassion and to value justice. We encourage all pupils to become involved in fundraising and community work. They should appreciate how their decisions and their actions can affect those around them.

St Swithun's was founded by Anna Bramston, daughter of the Dean of Winchester, and Christian values underpin our approach to education. We provide a civilised and caring environment in which all girls and staff are valued for their individual gifts and encouraged to develop a sense of spirituality and of kindness. We believe that kindness and tolerance are at the heart of any fully functioning community.

A McClure  
Chair of Council  
September 2023

J S Gandee  
Headmistress