

## **Whole School Mission, Visions, Values and Ethos**

### **Our Mission**

To enable our students to enjoy school, to achieve good academic qualifications and to develop those personal attributes and qualities which will guide them on their journey through life.

### **Our Vision**

To be the first choice independent school for families in Kent who value a well-rounded education for their child. It is our intention that our students leave Gad's Hill as confident, mature, articulate, pleasant and self-reliant young people who are well equipped to enter the world through a university education or career of their choice.

### **Our Values**

We value Excellence, Enthusiasm, Friendship and Success. These attributes underpin all that we do. Our Mission and Vision are shaped by our commitment to educate children holistically, as articulated by our school motto: "First to thine own self be true".

### **Our Ethos**

Children do well when they are happy at school and at Gad's we pride ourselves on providing a friendly environment, where enthusiasm and hard work are the foundations for achieving success.

There is more to life than exam results alone and while Gad's enjoys the reputation of receiving good GCSE results this is not our sole focus. We want to offer our pupils a foundation in life, working with them to become confident, motivated and articulate young people ready for the next stage in their education and life beyond.

## **EYFS Ethos and Aims**

*"Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfill their potential. A child's experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right, and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up."*

"Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage",  
Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2007

Early childhood is the foundation on which children build the rest of their lives. At Gad's Hill School we greatly value the important role that the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) plays in laying secure foundations for future learning and development. It is important to view the EYFS as preparation for life and not simply preparation for the next stage of education.

## Aims

It is every child's right to grow up safe, healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and with economic well-being. At Gad's Hill the overarching aim of the EYFS is to help young children achieve the five "Every Child Matters" outcomes of staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being by:

- Providing opportunities for children to learn through planned, purposeful play in all areas of learning and development
- Using and valuing what each child can do, assessing their individual needs and helping each child to progress
- Enabling choice and decision-making, fostering independence and self-confidence
- Working in partnership with Parents/carers and value their contributions
- Ensuring that all children, irrespective of ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties, disabilities, gender or ability, have the opportunity to experience a challenging and enjoyable programme of learning and development.

## Introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage

The children Act 1989 has now been supplemented by The Childcare Act 2006 and Early Years Foundation Stage. These require that many of the policies and procedure which govern the way we run the department are set out in writing. This ensures that all staff are working to the same standards.

This handbook sets out those policies. It is a working document which aims to show how we intend to comply with the policies. Everyone is welcome to look at it and make suggestions for its improvement.

All staff, volunteers, students and work experience people will be expected to understand and comply with its contents. Parents will be shown the handbook when registering their child so that they understand these are the procedures and regulations that they are agreeing will be used to care for their child.

Staff responsible: DGC/FM

Reviewed: Aug 2017

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Governor responsible: Kirsty Hillocks