

# Dudley House School - Spiritual Master Plan



*'God is the master of our school'*

## **Philosophy**

Adventist education is based on the belief that each child is unique and of immeasurable worth, so the systematic development of the whole child is all important. Pupils learn that God loves them, is the creator of all life and the source of wisdom, knowledge and truth. They are taught to be sensitive to the needs of others, to make a positive contribution to their community, to care of the world we live in and to accept that loving service and telling others of Jesus love is a principle of the Christian life.

At the heart of Adventist education is a belief that children achieve true growth when their mental, physical, social and spiritual needs are met. Dudley House School upholds these beliefs, and with enviable teacher-to-pupil ratios, provides a caring and stimulating learning environment where children learn through discovery and creativity and where Christian values are taught and practised.

As part of the Adventist independent schools system, Dudley House School welcomes pupils from all faiths and cultural backgrounds. Our teaching and faith values the family and promotes respect for all. Through worship and school life we work in partnership with families to raise responsible, well rounded, balanced children.

## **Our Vision**

'For a school where the highest Christian values are upheld and where excellent learning enables all to achieve and succeed.'

## **Our Mission**

At Dudley House ..

'We **inspire** and **nurture** each child in a rich Christian environment, where they **discover** and develop a love of learning and values that impact on a changing and diverse community.'

*'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'* Philippians 4:13

## Spiritual Master Plan

### WE BELIEVE THAT GOD **LOVES**

God is Love, Power, and Splendour. His ways are far beyond us, but He still reaches out to us.

### WE BELIEVE THAT GOD **CREATES**

We are surrounded by wonder, yet the beauty of creation is broken. God created and is in the process of recreating.

### WE BELIEVE THAT GOD **SAVES**

Jesus' self-giving love shows God's willingness to save so we can be forever friends.

### WE BELIEVE THAT GOD **LIVES IN & THROUGH US (Inhabits)**

Jesus left humanity with the epic mission to demonstrate to others his love and promise to return

### WE BELIEVE THAT GOD **TRANSFORMS**

God's commandment principles inspire us how to live and love

### WE BELIEVE THAT GOD **TRIUMPHS**

Jesus through his promise of return will renew this sin-stained world and will reign forever.

Principles, values and beliefs are chosen as a focus each year based on the needs of the children to help their understanding and friendship with Jesus grow.

Principles		
1. God, Creator, Sustainer & Redeemer	4. God's Laws	
2. Jesus, as an example	5. Christian Commitment	
3. Love, as a basis of existence	6. Education as a preparation for service	
Values		
1. Generosity	9. Gratitude / Thankfulness	
2. Integrity / Truthfulness	10. Respect	
3. Courage	11. Forgiveness	
4. Perseverance	12. Work / Service	
5. Kindness / Compassion	13. Patience	
6. Trust / Faith in God	14. Responsibility	
7. Friendship and loyalty	15. Humility	
8. Justice		
Christian Beliefs		
1. Holy Scriptures	10. Experience of salvation	19. Law of God
2. Trinity	11. Growth in Christ	20. Sabbath
3. God the Father	12. Church	21. Stewardship
4. God the Son	13. Our mission as disciples	22. Christian behaviour
5. God the Holy Spirit	14. Unity in the body of Christ	23. Family relationships
6. Creation	15. Baptism	24. Heavenly sanctuary
7. Nature of man	16. Lord's supper	25. Second coming of Jesus
8. Great Controversy	17. Spiritual gifts and ministries	26. Death & resurrection
9. Life, death & resurrection of Jesus	18. Gift of prophecy	27. End of sin
		28. New Earth

	<b>BIBLICAL CORE</b>	<b>THE HEART OF THE MATTER</b>	<b>KEY QUESTION</b>
<b>WE BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES</b>	The Bible as Word of God (1) Trinity (2) God the Father (3) God the Son (4) God the Holy Spirit (5)	The Bible explores a mosaic of authors, styles and perspectives – revealing a God – in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - who is creative, patient, seeking to restore our relationship with Him.	How can we appreciate the Bible as a story of God striving to reach and reconnect with us?
<b>WE BELIEVE THAT GOD CREATES</b>	Creation (6) Nature of Man (7)	God made our world with creativity and tender care, placing man to take care of it. Creation, fractured by sin, needs a Saviour to reconcile us.	How can we appreciate God’s creation, as well as appreciate how God can change us so that we can be what he would want us to be?
<b>WE BELIEVE THAT GOD REDEEMS /SAVES</b>	Great Controversy (8) The Life of Jesus (9) Experience of Salvation (10) Lord’s supper (16)	Disharmony erupted when sin and evil entered the universe. Jesus’ self-giving love showed God’s willingness to reconcile us to Him while transforming our hearts.	How can we understand the presence of evil in the world around us and in us, while at the same time appreciating the love and sacrifice of Jesus?
<b>WE BELIEVE THAT GOD LIVES IN &amp; THROUGH US</b>	The Church Community (11, 12, 14) Our Mission as Disciples (13) Spiritual Gifts and Talents (17, 18)	Jesus left humanity with an epic mission to demonstrate His love and share the promise of his return. The church and school as a community selflessly serves others, relying on God for strength.	How can we experience authentic community within our school, as well as enrich and inspire our neighbouring community with Christ’s love?
<b>WE BELIEVE THAT GOD TRANSFORMS</b>	The Law of God (19) Sabbath (20) Stewardship (21) Baptism (15) Christian Behaviour (22) Family Relationships (23)	God’s commandment principles, as a transcript of his character, outlines a holistic relationship with God, ourselves and others, including our environment.	How can we develop our relationship with Jesus and make wise lifestyle decisions?
<b>WE BELIEVE THAT GOD TRIUMPHS</b>	Heavenly Sanctuary (24) Second Coming of Christ (25) Death and Resurrection (26) End of sin (27) New Earth (28)	Jesus promised a physical return, when He will bring an end to evil, renew our once-stained world and live with us forever. We will finally achieve our true potential, living in the harmony for which God created us.	How can we appreciate the reality of a renewed earth, while striving to identify and live their true potential of doing their best for God?

## Our Christian Values and SMSC

### GENEROSITY

*Acts 20:35: Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, it is more blessed to give than to receive.*

*2 Corinthians 9.7: God loves a cheerful giver*

#### Spiritual

Jesus lived a life devoted to serving God and others, sometimes at great cost to himself. He taught that if our money and possessions are held too tightly and used only for ourselves, they will prevent us knowing God's blessing. We teach that happiness does not necessarily increase with the number of material possessions that we acquire.

#### Moral

Following the example of Jesus, together we explore the Christian understanding that all that we have comes from God as 'gift'. These gifts, whether they be money, possessions, time or abilities, are given in trust, that they will be used for the benefit of all in our school and in the wider community.

#### Social

As a community, we seek to create relationships characterised by a generosity of spirit, believing that, given a nurturing environment, each individual can flourish, achieve their full potential and contribute positively to society.

#### Cultural

As a Christian school we seek to explore the lives of individuals such as Lord Shaftsbury and George Muller who exemplified a joy in giving and who shaped the politics, culture and values of modern Britain. As well Gladys Aylward and Johns Harper who generosity change the lives of others.

### TRUTHFULNESS

*James 3. 17: The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*

*Ephesians 4. 15: Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the Head that is, Christ.*

#### Spiritual

The apostle Paul urges the followers of Christ to speak the truth in love in order that they might become a more authentic expression of Christ's body on earth. We always try to combine truthfulness with kindness so that we encourage each other and build one another up.

#### Moral

As members of a community seeking to live out our Christian values, we believe that knowing the difference between right and wrong will be of only partial use if we do not have the courage to speak the truth and do what is right.

#### Social

Fundamental to the relationships is an expectation of truthfulness. We explore with the children the consequences of lying or lack of integrity, not only in our school community, but in the wider world as well as in the political arena.

#### Cultural

As a Christian school we understand that a person's understanding of the truth and truthfulness will sometimes be influenced by their religious and cultural experiences. We promote curiosity and respect as we learn about the diversity of beliefs and social backgrounds that make up modern Britain's society.

## COURAGE

*Deuteronomy 31. 6: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*

*2 Timothy 1. 7: For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*

### Spiritual

Jesus lived in the assurance that his Father God would provide all that he needed. This gave him the courage to face even the cross. At our school, the words from the book to Timothy (see above) guide the way we approach any challenges that face us.

### Moral

Learning from Jesus, we recognise that taking a moral stand or tackling a challenge will require courage but we also know that we can pray for God's strength and his help.

### Social

As a community, we explore the Christian belief that almost anything is possible because God is for us. We therefore encourage one another to reach our God-given potential and participate in artistic, sporting and cultural activities that take us outside of our comfort zone.

### Cultural

As a Christian school we take inspiration from those who have been uncompromising in standing for justice and have been true to their Christian faith in the face of persecution. We celebrate individuals such as William Wilberforce and Elizabeth Fry who through courage and perseverance have influenced the political and social life of Britain, and those such as Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela who have also powerfully informed our values and culture.

## SERVICE

*Matthew 20.26: The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.*

*John 13.12-15: After Jesus had washed his disciples' feet ... he said: "Do you understand what I have done?... And if your Lord and teacher has washed your feet, you should do the same for each other."*

### Spiritual

Jesus' gave us an example of servant leadership at the Last Supper when he took a towel and washed his disciples' feet, a job usually carried out by a servant; he then told his disciples to go and do likewise. As those values are rooted in the example and teaching of Jesus, we are inspired by this act of love for his friends.

### Moral

Following Jesus' example, we value a model of servant leadership in our school. We encourage children to seek the common good in all that they do, striving to put the needs of others before our own.

### Social

As a community, we believe that our gifts and talents are to be used in ways that will improve the lives of others. We provide opportunities in school for serving as monitors, house captains and to stand as elected members of the school council. We help children to develop skills that will allow them to participate fully and contribute positively to the social and cultural life of modern Britain.

### Cultural

As a Christian school we create a culture in which serving one another and the wider community is celebrated and seen as an important mark of character development. We invite to our school others who are making a difference to society through their service and charitable works, to inform and inspire us and to present positive role models for us to follow.

## PERSEVERANCE

*Hebrews 12.1: Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us that is before us.*

*Deuteronomy 31.6: The Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you or forsake you.*

### Spiritual

Despite opposition and adversity, Jesus did not compromise or lose heart in his determination to accomplish his mission. We recognise that sometimes we will face difficulties and personal challenges in life but we know that we can pray for God's help because he has promised never to leave us.

### Moral

As the life of Jesus exemplifies, standing for justice and doing what we believe to be right, may not always result in change immediately. Sometimes we may feel discouraged. At our school, we teach that perseverance and endurance are important qualities in developing character.

### Social

As a community, we value and celebrate perseverance, encouraging one another consistently to take one step at a time to achieve our goals. We offer different opportunities for children to volunteer in social enterprises and to work with others from a range of ages and backgrounds to foster co-operation and collaboration in problem solving.

### Cultural

We aim to foster a culture that recognises that 'quick wins' are not always possible and are often not sustainable. We believe that the principle of 'training well' is usually more fruitful in building character than 'trying harder'. We actively seek out contemporary as well as historical role models who have achieved their goals through persevering, even in the toughest of circumstances.

## COMPASSION

*2 Colossians 3.12: Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

*Luke 10.25-37: (The story of the Good Samaritan) Matthew 7.12: Treat others as you want them to treat you.*

### Spiritual

Jesus' works of healing were always rooted in his compassion for others. In the story he told which is known as the Good Samaritan, the compassion shown is directed toward someone totally unexpected. Jesus was making the point that we are called to care for those outside our own cultural or social circle as well as our friends and family. The literal meaning of the word 'compassion' suggests suffering with or alongside someone else. In developing character, we encourage an attitude of empathy and understanding of others, trying to imagine what it is like to stand in the shoes of another.

### Moral

We try to explore what it means to live out Jesus' teaching, exemplified in the command to do to others as you would have them do to you. (Matthew 7. 12) This is sometimes known as The Golden Rule and underpins all our relationships and our Behaviour Policy

### Social

As a community, we try to share one another's burdens and to help everyone to know that struggling and failure are not signs of weakness but opportunities to learn more about ourselves and others, and to grow as an interdependent family. We actively look out for opportunities to support charities and good causes that improve the quality of life for people in our own country and the wider world.

### Cultural

We recognise that our nation has, throughout its history, offered a safe place for those fleeing persecution and disaster. We celebrate the rich diversity that this has brought to our culture and seek to play our part in offering a welcome to all those joining our school community especially anyone in any kind of need.

## TRUST

*John 14. 1: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me.*

*1 Corinthians 13. 6-7: Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth, it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

### Spiritual

Jesus demonstrated his trust in God throughout his life. He also entrusted his ongoing work in the world to his special friends - the disciples, and ultimately to us. We explore together the Christian understanding of being the Body of Christ on earth.

### Moral

We try to follow the example of Jesus and trust each person in our school will live by our core Christian values including truthfulness, respect and justice. We encourage children to reflect on why trust is so crucial in our relationships and what the consequences might be when it is broken. Our experience in school has been that this trust is rarely betrayed but we know that when it breaks down, forgiveness is needed and the capacity to offer a new start.

### Social

As a community, trust is the glue that holds our relationships together. To develop character we give each individual important responsibilities (with appropriate support) and, in so doing, seek to encourage trustworthiness from the youngest age.

### Cultural

We recognise that in the wider culture of our nation, citizens are trusted to live by the laws of our country. We trust that our leaders (children and grown-ups), in school and in the wider nation, will have the highest moral and ethical standards and will lead with integrity. We teach the skills required to respectfully hold to account those in authority.

## RESPECT

*Mark 10.14: Let the children come to me (Mark 10. 14)*

*Matthew 10.29: Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.*

### Spiritual

Jesus valued every person equally regardless of status, gender or wealth. He showed a particular bias to those who were poor, in need or at the margins of society at that time. At our school we explore the Christian teaching that every child and adult is made in God's image and is uniquely precious and worthy of respect and kindness.

### Moral

Following Jesus' teaching and attitude towards children, our school values every child equally and is proactive about ensuring that no individual is disadvantaged or treated differently due to their social background, gender, sexual orientation or cultural or religious background. We equip children with the skills to recognise prejudice in the media or in the political process. We encourage all within our community to learn about and engage with our nation's democratic processes both locally and nationally to help to support, protect and sustain for the future the respect due to every citizen.

### Social

As a community whose life is founded upon Christian values, we do not merely tolerate difference and diversity, we actively celebrate the uniqueness of all individuals. Whilst it may not always be possible to respect the opinions of every member (e.g. if they are sexist, homophobic or racist) we do respect the individual and their right to hold views that are different from our own.

### Cultural

As a Christian school, we strive to create a culture that is characterised by openness, empathy and respect. We try to foster humility and thankfulness in our relationships with one another and the natural world. We continually strive to improve our understanding of different faiths and cultural diversity, celebrating the richness of experience and beliefs represented in British society

## JUSTICE

*Matthew 21.12-13: ...my Temple will be called a house of prayer. But you have turned it into a hideout for thieves. (Jesus turning the tables in the temple)*

*Micah 6. 9: What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

*Matthew 5. 13-14: 'You are the salt of the earth..... You are the light of the world.'*

### Spiritual

Jesus was passionate and uncompromising in standing against the injustices that he saw in his society. The heart of his message was the proclamation of the 'The Kingdom of God' i.e. God's rule on earth as it is in heaven. The Kingdom is glimpsed when justice and mercy are being lived out. We try our best to model these Kingdom values in our school.

### Moral

Following Jesus' example, we believe that we are called to speak up for the truth and out against injustice. We therefore equip children with the skills required to be reflective, become informed and be able to make just judgements for themselves based on facts and evidence.

### Social

As a community, we are constantly seeking ways to make our school an even more inclusive, democratic community in which everyone has a voice. We also foster an engagement with our national system of democracy, learning how it operates and how decisions that affect all our lives are made.

### Cultural

As a Christian school, we believe that justice must be seen to be transparent and unbiased. Children as well as adults therefore will contribute to policy making on Behaviour and Anti-bullying. We learn about the values that have informed our nation's justice system and the way this system functions to maintain law and order and keep us safe.

## THANKFULNESS

*Luke 22.19: Jesus broke bread and gave thanks.*

*1 Chronicles 29.12: All things come from you and of your own do we give you.*

### Spiritual

The Gospels record that Jesus gave thanks as he broke bread with his disciples in the upper room at the Last Supper. Throughout his whole life Jesus' attitude was one of trust in God and thanksgiving for His provision: Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin. (Matthew 6.28)

### Moral

Following Jesus example, we believe that an attitude of thankfulness comes from an active appreciation of what we have. We take time to reflect upon the many blessings that we enjoy acknowledging that some people in our own country as well as in the wider world do not have access to basic necessities such as clean air and space and time to play, education, adequate health care, communication technology or even a healthy diet. We regard as a moral imperative the need to work for a more just world out of an attitude of thankfulness for all we have.

### Social

As a community, we recognise the Christian belief that each person is made in God's image and reflects his glory. We are thankful for the uniqueness of every individual member of our school and the gifts that we all bring and share to enrich our corporate life.

### Cultural

As a Christian school, acknowledging the Christian belief that creation is a gift from God, we foster an attitude of thankfulness and respect for nature, aware of its fragility and the impact of human activity on the environment. In all that we do, we try to create a culture of making informed, ethical choices in order to minimise any negative impact on the environment. We also work with other organisations to improve the environment for the future generations.

## FRIENDSHIP

*John 15.15: 'I no longer call you servants', said Jesus..... 'Instead I have called you friends.'*

### Spiritual

Jesus called his disciples friends. He trusted them, encouraged them and ultimately gave his life for them. Jesus extends the hand of friendship to everyone. We explore together, what friendship with Jesus means for Christians.

### Moral

Jesus' example of self-sacrificial love and commitment to his friends is one that inspires us to place the needs of others above our own and make our friendships faithful and resilient.

### Social

Jesus' friends came from a wide range of backgrounds and included fishermen, scholars and tax collectors. We encourage an attitude of inclusivity and openness to others, regardless of religious, ethnic or socio-economic background.

### Cultural

The culture in our school is democratic, diverse and inclusive. However, we know that if our children are to be fully equipped for life in modern Britain, we need to be pro-active in forming links and building relationships with schools in a wide range of social, cultural and religious settings.

## FORGIVENESS

*1 John 1.9: But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.*

*Mark 11.25: If you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you.*

### Spiritual

Jesus came into the world to show us how much we are loved by God; by taking the sins of the whole world upon himself on the cross Jesus made forgiveness and a personal relationship with God possible. We strive to offer every member of our school community a life-giving encounter with the person of Jesus Christ.

### Moral

Following Jesus' example, we always offer forgiveness and a fresh start to children and adults who have made mistakes. We teach that an individual's behaviour can have a positive or negative impact on others and that this consideration must be paramount in deciding whether behaviour is appropriate. When sanctions are deemed necessary because behaviour falls short of expectations, we endeavour to demonstrate justice with compassion.

### Social

As a community whose life is founded upon Christian values we recognise that forgiveness, offered and received, will be at the heart of all our relationships. We teach about how we can show we are sorry in practical ways and equip individuals with strategies to prevent them from repeating mistakes in the future. We believe that learning from the past and not holding grudges will help to develop character by making us more resilient.

### Cultural

As a Christian school, our behaviour policy is informed throughout by our Christian values. We try not to make assumptions about people or situations before knowing all the facts and circumstances. Decisions about sanctions are made carefully and after consultation. We teach children about the justice system in modern Britain and the emphasis on principles such as the presumption of innocence until proven guilty and the concept of restorative justice.