



St George's  
WEYBRIDGE

## The Catholic, Josephite Nature of St George's Weybridge

*For I know full well the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your well-being and not for your misfortune, plans that will offer you a future filled with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)*

Our ethos is built on Catholic and Josephite traditions and values. The Josephites are a teaching order of Catholic priests and brothers who established St George's in 1869. Founded in 1817 by Canon Constant van Crombrughe in what is present day Belgium, they have established schools on three continents.

Constant van Crombrughe was remarkably ahead of his time; his educational philosophy is utterly relevant to the education of young people today, for example he wrote:

*'You must also identify with the students, not only in work and study, but in everything else and in every detail of their school life.'*

The **Spirit of Family**, central to life at St George's, has ten aspects:

**Politesse** or the art of living appropriately in the world through respect and consideration for others; it makes people feel at ease in the presence of others and so it is the antithesis of bullying.

**Douceur** or firm gentleness, which requires all to be caring and compassionate towards others in the school, the local community and the wider world, including our natural environment.

**Mercy** is compassion and the promotion of forgiving love in action.

**Honesty** as a commitment to truth and personal integrity is a fundamental requirement.

**Zeal** or passionate enthusiasm in all things, taking full advantage of everything our schools have to offer.

**Happiness** or an aim to develop our well-being and capacity to be happy within ourselves.

**Inclusiveness** which ensures that every person is made to feel important and valued. Irrespective of any protected characteristic, all are actively encouraged to live their lives to the full and to become the very best version of themselves.

**Collaboration** which involves aiming to be of one mind and heart and emphasises the importance of teamwork while preparing students to be future leaders in society.

**Pastoral care** which is the active support and affirmation of others so that no person should ever feel they are walking alone or are left behind.

**Hospitality** which contributes to the warm atmosphere we promote to foster the space, support and security in which young people can grow and mature as human beings.

St George's College and St George's Junior School are child-centred and God-focussed Catholic schools. The underpinning Josephite ethos challenges our pupils and students to achieve the highest academic standards, to gain an understanding of the spiritual dimensions of life, be accountable for their actions, and to contribute to the well-being of society,

As a Catholic school:

- We offer an education that takes place in a safe, welcoming, inclusive, and collaborative community, that encourages pupils and students to appreciate their intrinsic worth, that develops a sense of belonging, that values and welcomes equity, diversity and inclusiveness and respects the uniqueness, human dignity and individuality of all people.
- We recognise all children are talented and will be given the opportunity to discern and develop their talents.
- We foster the knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Christian faith through religious activities (see below) and charitable works including community service in the local area.
- We create an environment which encourages each child to explore their own spirituality.
- We encourage everyone to develop a quest for truth, and through the Religious Studies courses to be informed about faith, to become religiously literate and to develop and understand more fully their individual relationship with God.
- We guide our young people to develop a strong moral foundation for life and wisdom to make the right decision in complex ethical situations with an informed conscience.
- We nurture understanding and respect for other beliefs, faith traditions and cultures.

### **Religious Activities for all Pupils and Students**

The religious activities in the current school timetable which are compulsory for all pupils and students include:

- A daily Collective Act of Worship.
- Presence at Masses and other Liturgical Celebrations and services.
- Presence at Chapel Assemblies.
- Presence at their yearly Retreat (Year 6 and above).
- The following of the Catholic syllabus of the Religious Studies course from Foundation Stage to GCSE level.
- The following of the College's Sixth Form Religious Education programme.

## Our Aim

Our aim at St George's is, therefore, to offer an outstanding holistic educational experience within the context of Jesus' Gospel message of love of God, love of our neighbour, and the importance of social justice, mercy and forgiveness.

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