



St George's Junior School

WEYBRIDGE

POLICY ON THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN NATURE OF ST GEORGE'S JUNIOR SCHOOL 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 Junior School. 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 Junior School is a 'Child-Centred but God-Focussed' Christian Faith School with an underpinning Roman Catholic and Josephite Ethos. Fundamentally, it is the Junior School's responsibility on behalf of the local Roman Catholic Bishop 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 pupil support in helping the Junior School to achieve this objective. The Junior School's Mission Statement states that we are '*Learning to live and love like Jesus*'.

Parents who send their children to the Junior School 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 Roman Catholic Church. The Gospel message lies at the very heart of the St George's Junior School 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 religious elements of the current school timetable which are compulsory for all students presently include:

- A daily Collective Act of Worship.
 - Daily prayers at the start of the day, before lunch, and at the end of the school day
 - The attendance in Chapel for Masses (Upper Years) and other Liturgical celebrations and services (Lower Years)
 - The attendance at weekly assemblies which include a religious theme or element.
 - The attendance at a yearly half-day Christian themed retreat in Year 6.
 - The following of a Religious Studies course – 'The Way, The Truth & The Life' – from Nursery to Year 6.
2. The Junior School endeavours to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect (*Politesse*) and compassion (*Douceur*) and this can be seen by the attitude and behaviour expected from our pupils both inside and outside the classroom as well as away from school. The Junior School undertakes to develop the ethical and moral values of its pupils and, as such, encourages all to develop an awareness of, and a response to, issues of social justice.

3. All members of the Georgian Family are supported by the Chaplaincy in living 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 School 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.josephite.community/***

This policy should be displayed in:

S:\SGW_Policy_and_Procedure_Index\SGJ Policies A-Z	http://www.stgeorgesweybridge.com/further-information/school-policies-
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Associated policies:

Last reviewed: May 2019
Next review: May 2020

Policy owner: Headmaster