



Mission Statement

The Methodist Church is engaged in education as part of its Christian mission in the world. Its schools will seek to extend the Methodist ethos and character and contribute to diversity in education.

The schools aim:

- to be caring Christian family communities committed to the development of the full potential of each individual, having regard for their personal attributes in addition to their academic aspirations;
- to maintain high educational standards in all their academic, cultural and sporting activities, stimulating excitement in learning and requiring discipline in study whatever the ability of the child;
- to work with and in the communities they serve;
- to worship as Christians in the Methodist tradition; to uphold Christian values in practice as well as in theory and to make religious education a strong feature of the curriculum, whilst welcoming members of other faiths (and none) in a spirit of openness and tolerance;
- to encourage pupils in a critical examination of the standards and values current in society and to discover and develop a personal faith to guide them throughout their lives.

Shared Values

Embodied in vibrant communities which enable people to live their lives to the full and transform society for the better, to the glory of God.

Methodism has a distinctive approach to education, embodying clear Christian values. This stems from the beliefs that have been at the heart of Methodism since its foundation by John and Charles Wesley in the eighteenth century. That is why:

- We challenge, inspire, and support our students as individuals to grow intellectually, personally and spiritually, and achieve their best;
- We encourage a questioning approach which searches for the real truth through reason, research and debate based on freedom of thought and expression;
- We promote high academic standards and the development of talents through a variety of extra-curricular activities because we believe each child has God-given talents to develop;
- We affirm that education is about the acquisition of wisdom and humility as well as the acquisition of academic qualifications and offer Jesus Christ as a model of what it means to grow towards our full humanity;
- We provide opportunities for Christian worship in the Methodist tradition;
- We work to promote social justice and to counter prejudice and intolerance in whatever form that takes by encouraging mutual respect and understanding;
- We encourage an appreciation of working together and of the importance of forgiveness, reconciliation, and renewal in establishing happy communities;
- We encourage environmental awareness, recognizing our responsibility for the welfare of the world God has created;
- We encourage creativity as a way of nurturing the human spirit and improving the quality of life;
- We prepare our students to be responsible citizens and leaders in a fast-changing and complex world, respecting not only the value of cultural diversity but also our common humanity;
- We recognise the aspirations expressed in the 'Every Child Matters' initiative, whilst interpreting them from a Christian perspective
- We are committed to working to the benefit of the local community, whilst also generating an understanding of the concept of service to all communities, national and international

- We encourage our students to refuse to accept that things have to be the way they are and to believe in larger possibilities for good because education should be an instrument for reforming and reshaping society for the better;
- We recognise that education is a life-long process and that the more we are given, the more is expected from us.

John Wesley told the first Methodist teachers to always remember that ‘an ounce of love was worth a pound of knowledge’ and his challenge to teacher and pupil alike was this:

*‘Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.’*

That still remains our challenge today and why we aspire to be beacons of inclusive excellence developing confident, tolerant, and enthusiastic young people who enjoy working with others and are ready to influence the world.

Our Ethos

Methodist Schools are inclusive and welcoming communities where individuals are valued, good order is respected, relationships cherished, and where excellence in its widest sense (academic, extra-curricular, lifestyle) is pursued. Methodist Schools encourage a sense of belonging, seek to improve lives and boldly expect the impossible. In Methodist Schools educational experiences and activities bring mind and heart, intellect and passion together. Methodist Schools work in mutually beneficial partnerships with each other and the wider Methodist Church.

What a Methodist School embodies and aspires to

1. Every student is honoured and challenged to high achievement
 - *Every person is a child of God and loved infinitely by God*
 - *Each student is treated with respect; mutual respect and support is fostered among all staff and students*
 - *Each student is helped to realise their potential to high standards in formal education and informal activities*
 - *Creativity, self-discipline and critical enquiry are encouraged in the search for truth*
 - *Personal development is guided by a vision of Christian discipleship*
2. The school community is welcoming and friendly, inspiring and caring; and aims for excellence
 - *A passion for education in the widest sense, and to the highest standards*
 - *A self-critical, open and inclusive community, offering opportunities of mutual enrichment through team-work and learning from differences*
 - *Each child and staff member is listened to seriously and supported individually*
 - *Pastoral care is a hall-mark of the school's approach to students, staff and their families*
 - *A just and fair community, shaped by Christian values*
3. At the heart of the school: worship and spirituality
 - *Whole school worship and worship in smaller groups have a central place in the school's timetable and imagination*
 - *Worship recognisably in the Methodist tradition*
 - *Provision and respect for students and staff of other faith traditions*
 - *Religious education of the highest quality throughout the school*
 - *The chaplain is accessible to all and has access to all that takes place*
4. The school's vision for the wider world: social justice and peace-making
 - *Encourage students to look outwards, to the local and wider communities and to have a special concern for the poor*
 - *Develop awareness of personal and collective responsibility for the environment*
 - *Education about political involvement and social change*
 - *Focus on issues of reconciliation and peace*
 - *The challenge of overcoming prejudice and discrimination*

5. The school's challenge to its staff and students: citizenship and service

- *Explore how a high-quality education may lead to responsible citizenship in contemporary society*
- *The Christian vocation of leadership as self-denying, loving service*
- *Practical experience of making a positive difference by volunteering in local communities*
- *The role of a personal faith in nourishing integrity and providing a secure guide in a rapidly changing world*
- *The significance of mutual trust and support in families, friendship groups and in groups with a common interest.*