

## **Christian Ethos Policy**

Godliness with contentment, is great gain

### **Background.**

The Memorandum and Articles of 1963 stated that School Worship and Religious Instruction given at the School shall be upon the basis of an acceptance of the Bible as the authoritative Word of God and the teaching of the Christian Faith without any denominational bias. While promoting Christian values it is open to all children, irrespective of their background.

### **Principles.**

All education is grounded on a philosophy and the Christian faith has provided an outstandingly influential example of such. Great Walstead is proud to stand in that tradition. Certain core values are intrinsic to this philosophy:-

People are created in the image of God and therefore each child is of infinite value.

People are flawed in need of God's restoration.

As Christians we have the indwelling Holy Spirit enabling us to live the Christian life in a world in need of God's redeeming love.

God's word is truth which speaks to every aspect of life; the current divorce between the secular and the spiritual is artificial.

The Christian faith, its texts and traditions, give us a unique vehicle through which to express these values.

Our religious faith should not be expressed only in Chapel but should inform and shape every aspect of our school life.

### **The Educational Experience Provided.**

The preservation of the Christian ethos depends on the recognition that God should be present in everything we do; His glory is our chief aim. This should be celebrated in such a way that there should not be one rule for one area of our corporate life and one for another.

### **Religious Education.**

Religious Education is concerned with the learning about and learning from religions. It is a subject that can be studied by those of any faith or none.

At Great Walstead the main focus is on Biblical Studies. It is important that children become conversant with the scriptures because they not only show the way of salvation but they form the basis of our Judeo-Christian society and have shaped much of our history and literature. In addition, in our pluralistic society

and with an increasingly global awareness, it is important that children become aware of the teaching of other World Religions in a way that is both informative and respectful of the faith of others.

**Staff and Governors.**

It is clear that in order to maintain its status as a non-denominational Biblical foundation the school needs leaders who will promote and protect its Christian ethos.

In seeking suitable people to be **Governors** it will be expected that in addition to other qualities and professional expertise they may bring to the board they will be united in each having an active and committed Christian Faith.

**The Head-Teacher** should be a committed Christian in communion with a recognised Christian denomination.

**The Deputy Heads** should be committed Christians.

**All Teaching Staff, Teaching Assistants and Support Staff** should be happy to promote and protect the Christian ethos of the school, particularly in as far as they have a responsibility in planning chapel.