



Lincoln Minster School
Christian Ethos Statement



Lincoln Minster School
The best in everyone

- The Christian faith acknowledges the value and uniqueness of every human being regardless of gender, age, ethnic origin, creed or sexual orientation. It teaches the importance of love, respect forgiveness and the need to work for peace and justice. We believe that true education must encourage the mental, physical and spiritual development of each student. Whilst the Christian faith is the majority culture with historical roots in Britain, we also acknowledge that we are a multi-faith and multi-cultural society. We honour and respect the position of those of other faith, traditions and cultures, and welcome the contribution that they bring to our schools.
- The ethos of all UCST schools is a core principle underpinning and permeating all that each school seeks to undertake and achieve. The objects of UCST call for a liberal , practical and general education and set out clearly the place given to the teachings of Christianity principally as are founded in the Church of England but sensitive also to the teachings, attitudes and practices of other Christian denominations. This has been interpreted over a long period as being of a mainstream nature, inclusive and tolerant. It does not embrace extreme views and does not set out to evangelise: it is much more an expression of service to the local community and a respect for all.
- The interpretation for this underpinning principle within Lincoln Minster School and its community requires sensitivity, respect and tolerance. The aim for Lincoln Minster School is that it will be a place of learning with a clear spiritual and moral dimension. Whilst the Christian faith is the starting point and the central focus for the ethos of the Trust and the school, the beliefs and practices of other faiths are valued and respected. It is hoped that parents and students of all faiths and of none will find the school a welcoming community.
- The leadership of the school requires that the Principal, key members of the teaching staff and local governors are able to support its ethos. Of importance also is the requirement that governors and key leaders within the school recognise and value the contribution that other religions can also make to the development of young people's spiritual and moral education.
- With respect to the employment of the Principal, it is expected that the successful candidate, in order to lead the school with a clear Christian ethos, will be able to demonstrate their ability to do so and their sympathy with it. There will need to be a genuine desire to do so in a way that is thoughtful, creative and sensitive. While the Principal is likely to be inspired by a personal Christian faith and is equally likely to be a communicating member of the C of E or another mainstream branch of the Christian church, this will not be mandatory.
- The expression of the ethos within the school must be both explicit and implicit. The Principal will, for example, ensure that:
 - All students (subject to the right of parents to withdraw their child) participate in regular acts of collective worship wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The teachings of the Bible and other texts including hymns and prayers are central to the acts of collective worship.
 - He or she, other members of the leadership team and the Head of RE take a direct role in the design and delivery of acts of collective worship.

- RS is taught in the school (subject to the right of parents to withdraw their child). The curriculum model followed by the school gives priority to the teachings of Christianity but, as well as teaching the facts about the other principal world religions, treats other faiths with respect.
- The principal festivals of the Christian year (e.g. Christmas, Easter) and other major events in the school year (e.g. the start of the school year, the opening of a major new building) are marked by an appropriate act of collective worship.
- Students, teaching and support staff and parents have appropriate voluntary access to a Christian priest or minister if and when that is required. The school has developed strong links with the Cathedral and neighbouring churches. The need for such access may be particularly important at times of personal, community or national celebration or crisis.
- The school will endeavour to provide appropriate spiritual care to those of other faith traditions and to provide separate worship facilities if required.
- The Chapel and Cathedral are spaces for spiritual reflection and quiet contemplation.
- Students are encouraged to support local charities and community projects with their time, talent and contributions.
- The characteristics of the ethos values such as truthfulness, generosity, loyalty, courage, a sense of purpose and the resolve to achieve find expression in the life of the school. In particular, it is expected that such values will underpin the aims, objectives, shared values, policies, rules, codes of conduct, rewards and sanctions of the school. All this should lead to happiness and a sense of joy. Teachers have a special place in encouraging students to acquire these characteristics.
- It is recognised, understood and welcomed that teaching and support staff come to the school with a variety of faiths, beliefs and backgrounds. Against this background, however, staff are required to agree to uphold the Christian ethos of the school as set out in this statement.
- As part of the recruitment process, all potential staff are introduced to the vision of the Trust 'The Best in Everyone' and to its Christian Ethos as set out in this statement. The vision and the ethos are underpinned by activities such as participation in collective worship, commemorative events and the celebration of, amongst others, Christian festivals. As a consequence all staff are expected to attend such activities and feel comfortable in doing so. If a situation arises, in which a member of staff feels they are unable to participate in these events as a result of religious sensitivities, they are advised to discuss this matter with the Principal in private. UCST will endeavour to respond in a sensitive and respectful manner.
- No teacher will be required to teach RS without his or her full agreement.

This document is reviewed annually by the Principal or as events or legislation change requires

Reviewed: C Rickart, Principal, June 2011

Next review due: **June 2012**