

DIOCESAN COLLEGE

Statement on Spirituality at Bishops

This statement is intended for all who are part of, or intend joining, the Bishops community.

OUR HISTORY

“that it may hereafter become a great engine for the extension of the pure faith of Christ throughout that part of the African continent, by the education of a body of devoted clergy, and a pious and intellectual laity.” – Bishop Gray

“with the object of supplying a liberal education with religious instruction in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.” – Act of Incorporation

1. INTRODUCTION

1. Bishops is a Christian school in the Anglican tradition.
2. Bishops is an educational institution in Africa which aims at pupils realising their full potential through a well rounded education, rooted in the Christian faith.
3. As a Christian school built on the foundation of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, we seek to be obedient to him and his teaching. The consequences of this are:
 - ⇒ We prayerfully seek God’s plan for the school
 - ⇒ Worship and the chapel are central to the life of the school
 - ⇒ Christian values are demonstrated in all aspects of school life.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE SCHOOL

1. The Principal, the Headmaster of the Prep and the head of the Pre-Prep will be practising Christians.
2. The Principal is the spiritual head of the school and may delegate to, and operate through, the school executive, the school chaplains, the housemasters and others.
3. A high proportion of the academic staff should be practising Christians.
4. All should be seen to be good role models with a vocation to care pastorally for the pupils.
5. The chaplain shall be an ordained priest, licensed by the Bishop of the Diocese.

3. OUTWORKING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

1. Where designated, Chapel services will be compulsory for all boys, and staff will be encouraged to participate in chapel as they fulfil their tasks as role models.
2. The Chapel Committee will endeavour to ensure that the worship in the Chapel meets the needs of the boys and other worshippers.
3. All members of the Bishops community are encouraged to participate in chapel services and in the spiritual life of the school.
4. Relationships with the wider Anglican Church will be fostered.
5. The Christian Union will be encouraged as an integral part of the school.
6. Christian values should be demonstrated:
 - ⇒ in the behaviour of all at Bishops
 - ⇒ in the fostering of a compassionate ethos in the school
 - ⇒ in the relationships of staff and pupils with one another, and with visitors
 - ⇒ in a caring way through the school's outreach programme
 - ⇒ by being a praying and worshipping community.

4. OTHER FAITHS

1. Bishops will at all times exhibit the greatest respect for pupils of other faiths, and indeed for people of all faiths.
2. Interfaith dialogue will be encouraged.
3. By arrangement, allowance can be made for the practice of other faiths in their places of worship.