

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. OUR FOUNDATION

- 1.1 Bishops is a Christian school in the Anglican tradition.
- 1.2 Bishops is an African educational institution which aims at pupils realising their full potential through a well rounded education, rooted in the Christian faith.
- 1.3 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.
 - ⇒ We live the life of Christ, humbly and courageously.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE SCHOOL

- 2.1 The school is governed by the Council which is committed to the Christian ethos of the school.
- 2.2 The Principal, the Headmaster of the Prep and the head of the Pre-Prep will be practising Christians.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 A high proportion of the academic staff should be practising Christians.

- 2.5 All in authority, both staff and boys, should be seen to be good role models with a vocation to care pastorally for the students.
- 2.6 The chaplain shall be an ordained priest, licensed by the Bishop of the Diocese.
- 2.7 The school welcomes and accepts boys of all denominations and faiths who are happy to attend Christian worship in the chapel.

3. OUTWORKING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

- 3.1 Where designated, Chapel services will be compulsory for all boys, and staff will be encouraged to participate in chapel as they fulfill their tasks as role models.
- 3.2 The Chapel Committee will endeavour to ensure that the worship in the Chapel meets the needs of the boys and other worshippers.
- 3.3 All members of the Bishops community are encouraged to participate in chapel services and in the spiritual life of the school.
- 3.4 Relationships with the Diocese and the wider Christian Church will be fostered.
- 3.5 The Christian Union will be encouraged as an integral part of the school.
- 3.6 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

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