

AIMS and OBJECTIVES

Introduction: the school's origins

The origins of Ballard go back to 1895 but the modern School was established in 1995 with the amalgamation of Edinburgh House Preparatory School and Fernhill Manor in New Milton, Hampshire, and in June 2016 we had a large street party to celebrate our 21st birthday! The **Memorandum and Articles of Association** of Ballard Schools Ltd were incorporated in August 1962 and then amended by Special Resolution over the years to reflect changes in the composition of the School. The original Memorandum makes mention of the provision of books, prizes, scholarships, playing fields and even the possibility of a farm on site! One of the 'articles', which remains pertinent today, states this as an object of the Charity: *'To provide first class and academically rigorous education for children and young people by offering a broad and balanced curriculum within a positive Christian and family environment...'* Ballard welcomes all children and families of every background, culture and faith (or none) but continues to be founded on Christian values which will be evident in our pastoral care, our Assemblies and our family ethos.

Summary of our approach

Ballard is a **registered charity** (number 307328) and, in succinct summary, *exists for the education of children*. In our prospectus, publications and advertisements something of our holistic approach to education and our family-centred ethos will shine through. We are a non-selective school and seek to meet the needs of every child in our care. We have a strong school / parent partnership and consider it a privilege to play a part in the upbringing of young people. Ballard encourages a spirit of adventure – we even allow the climbing of trees on our grounds as well as offering the **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme** – and seeks to challenge every child academically so as to realise their fullest potential. The School has received an '**Artsmark**' **Gold award from the Arts Council** in the UK for excellence in areas such as music, drama, dance and fine art and we also have an 'International School Award' from the British Council as well as a CREStED accreditation for learning support. These neatly complement our very full sporting and activities' programme. In all areas we seek to enable children to develop as well-mannered, polite and concerned young people who are ready to go onto further education and able to play a positive role in society aware of what is right and wrong.

The Ballard School Charter

At the heart of our behavioural policy lies this Charter which seeks to emphasise a positive approach to life, clear boundaries and an acknowledgement of the importance of praise, reward and encouragement. The Charter's Key values are as follows:

- Be respectful
- Be responsible
- Be safe
- Be honest
- Be positive
- Be kind
- Be curious

Positive recognition is evident in all that we do but there is also a well understood progression of consequences for inappropriate behaviour. (Our behavioural and assertive discipline policy, along with our anti-bullying policy, are published separately in more detail.)

The School's vision statement

Ballard School provides a supportive and caring environment for learning, based on Christian values and excellent teaching, designed to ensure all pupils achieve their personal best. High academic standards, together with thorough preparation for future education and the world of work, are underpinned by an ethos of concern for others, unselfish attitudes and an awareness of the rights and duties of a good citizen. The diverse range of activities and broad curriculum nurture the self-confidence of all our pupils, and help the development of their personality, engendering also lifelong interests and stimulating a desire to serve the community.

Aims (as revised March 2015)

The aims of the school may be summarised as follows:

- To identify and build on strengths to help each individual pupil **reach their potential** within a secure, caring community and to equip our young people to be well-behaved, resilient, rounded and resourceful members of society and prepared for their future working lives
- To aim for **academic excellence**, so that each individual pupil may achieve his or her personal best. We believe all our pupils are entitled to an education that **extends beyond the purely academic**. Pupils are actively encouraged to take part in a wide range of artistic, creative, cultural, musical, sporting and other extra-curricular activities
- To **recognise the worth, dignity and contribution** of each member of the Ballard Family and to foster self-discipline, self-esteem, mutual respect and co-operation within an atmosphere of friendship and trust promoting an appreciation of the needs and gifts of others
- To offer scope for **spiritual, moral and personal development** within a disciplined and mutually supportive environment which affirms Christian values
- To expect high standards of achievement by developing in pupils the ability to manage change, to think and **research independently and communicate confidently** and effectively
- To **celebrate our achievements**, gifts and diversity irrespective of individual differences
- To respond to the **wider needs** of society through community projects, charitable fundraising and outreach and by increasing awareness of local, national and world issues

Conclusion

I do hope that this survey of our aims and objectives has been helpful in describing our ethos. A visit to the School itself, however, will enable these statements to 'come alive'!

Alastair Reid (Headmaster)