



Vision and Values

“The object of The Corporation shall be to provide at the School an education of the highest class” (Royal Charter)

Chairman of the Governing Body Mr R Ringrose | Head Mrs S Kerr-Dineen MA (Cambridge)

Bursar and Secretary to the Governors Mr DJ Toriati MA OBE

Oundle School Values

At the heart of the School's Strategic Plan lie five core values: pupils, staff, opportunities, communities and quality.

Pupils are at the heart of what we value and central to every decision made. We value the **staff** who contribute to the lives of our pupils in whatever capacity. We value the **opportunities** that the School makes available both to pupils and to staff, as well as the various **communities** of which we form part, not least former pupils and parents. We also recognise the value of seeking the highest **quality** in all that we do.

These values not only underpin every development and initiative but serve to ensure an unwavering focus on delivering a distinctive and outstanding education that prepares children for their adult lives.



*Mrs Sarah Kerr-Dineen
MA (Cambridge)*

Our Vision

The pupils in our care are at the heart of all that we do and every decision we make. The education we provide aims to develop in our pupils the skills, attitudes and habits of mind that will sustain them throughout a long life, enabling them to flourish both at School and beyond. This vision informs every element of the School's leadership and practice.

Our criteria for success are not limited to what happens at School: we wish to support the intellectual, spiritual, physical, emotional and social growth of our pupils, so that they may become happy, balanced contributors to society. We encourage aspiration and abhor arrogance, nurturing open minds, authentic self-belief and a sense of service.

We believe that boarding offers the best environment within which to realise these educational ambitions, with day pupils involved fully in the breadth offered by such an education. We also believe in the intrinsic value of partnership and outreach to the various communities of which we form part.

Pupil welfare and conduct

Promoting and safeguarding our pupils' welfare is essential as we seek to empower them to thrive and to flourish, finding personal fulfilment through the various strands of their lives at School. We seek to support the

development of resilience and self-esteem through their participation in a varied programme of enriching activities, celebrating diversity and encouraging individualism.

We place great emphasis on the Oundle Code, which confirms our aspirations for a school characterised by strong values of mutual respect, wholehearted engagement, understated courtesy, considerate behaviour, and above all a cohesiveness which is inclusive of the Oundle town community, to which the School owes so much, living as it does at its heart. Listening to our pupils and responding to their views enables our relationship to be open and trusting, and the pupils to become their own people in a school which looks beyond the boundaries of its own world.

We want Oundelians to be confident, well rounded, fundamentally decent human beings: all aspects of our programme are underpinned by this ethos.

Academic study

Oundle has long shown itself to be open to innovation and change, combining a strong and traditional educational model with new disciplines, techniques and facilities. The School's ability and willingness to develop its delivery of an academic curriculum has been the defining

measure of its success. The firm academic foundation that the School has built allows us to adopt and develop new approaches in pedagogy and technology. We aim to promote scholarship and research, and, in time, to position the School as a global leader of education.

The curriculum must look to engage in creative and productive work across all areas, with sufficient time, resources and expertise. Our pupil-centred education recognises Oundelians' natural curiosity and ability by providing imaginative teaching across a broad curriculum, by acknowledging and rewarding excellence, by pursuing specialised knowledge in advanced fields, by investing in modern classrooms and technologies, by creating an agile academic organisation, and by presenting new learning opportunities for the whole community, both for immediate employment within the School and for our communities beyond.

A love of scholarship – the Life of Learning – is an aspiration for every one of our pupils and staff, sustained by the combination of the academic timetable, intellectual activity beyond the classroom and pursuits beyond the confines of Oundle School. We aim to create an intellectual community that advances knowledge across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

Pastoral care

We recognise that the journey through adolescence is seldom straightforward. An important part of our educational responsibility is therefore to enable our pupils to celebrate their growing maturity, as well as to come to terms with personal challenge. We want every pupil at Oundle to know that they are cared for. They should feel that they are listened to and that we are all working together towards a common goal, which is for them to thrive. All staff have a role to play in the pastoral care of the pupils.

The House system lies at the heart of our pastoral care. The Housemaster or Housemistress (Hsm) oversees the whole House and, along with the Deputy Hsm, Matron and Tutor team, ensures that the pupils have a supportive and nurturing environment in which to grow up. A vertical Tutor system within each House enables the Tutors to know their tutees well, to operate meaningfully as the principal point of contact for parents and school staff, and to enable their charges to navigate a successful path through their time at Oundle, both Tutor and tutee being supported and guided by the Hsm. The third element of the tripod of care for each pupil is of course their parents or guardians; prompt and open communication is therefore highly prized.

An important part of the School's vision for the pastoral care of children is the Learning for Life programme. This aims to provide pupils with the resources and opportunity to have informed discussions about the issues which concern them as they grow towards adulthood. The direct and regular involvement of the Chaplaincy, the Health Centre and the Emotional Wellbeing team in pastoral decisions signals the breadth of care provided.

The Co-curriculum

The Co-curriculum is vital to the achievement of our broad educational vision as a School, and for this reason all pupils and all staff are involved in the teaching and learning opportunities it offers. Its span is broad, including Sport, Drama and Music but also wider opportunities for creativity, service and leadership.

We seek to provide a broad range of enriching opportunities that foster growth, responsibility, tough-mindedness and excellence. Growth includes the testing of personal limits, the taking of appropriate risks, the acquiring of skills and the development of aesthetic appreciation. Responsibility includes caring for oneself and others, caring for the natural world, balancing self-interest with community interests, and taking an active part in defining meaningful goals. Tough-mindedness includes

keeping to a task until finished, honestly evaluating results, rooting out evasion and learning from failure with good cheer. Excellence includes loving high standards, respecting things done well, the courage to take initiative and the aiming at worthy goals.

We provide three development strands:
a) leadership and adventure,
b) service and
c) creativity and culture.

We aim to balance guidance with individual flexibility, looking to ensure that there is a structured approach to each pupil having valuable experiences within each strand, whilst also enabling the flexibility for each individual's innate aptitudes to be appropriately fostered. At the same time, we see the camaraderie engendered by sharing deeply felt experiences and working towards a common purpose as richly life-enhancing.

Admissions

Much of the School's recent success has been built on a reliable and broad intake of pupils keen to make the most of the extensive educational opportunities available to them at Oundle. These opportunities extend beyond the academic curriculum and into character education through the co-curriculum.

Scholarships programmes provide the support for nurturing specific talent and those revealing potential later in their School career can join these programmes. There is no shortage of talented pupils wanting to come to Oundle to develop their intellectual potential and their character. For many families aspiring to send their children to a full boarding school, financial help with paying fees will be required. The willingness of the School and its communities to provide financial support through a means-tested bursary scheme is instrumental to ensuring access to the School is widened.

For the School, through Admissions, the challenge is to present the School openly and with integrity in order to help prospective pupils and their families to find the right School in which to realise their children's potential. The journey to joining the School needs to develop confidence in the community they are joining and help them develop resilience by understanding that challenge is an essential part of education.

The wider School

The role of the Bursarial team is to support the vision of both Oundle School and Laxton Junior School. The pupils and their education guide all decisions.

We aim to provide a world-class, inspiring environment in which the highest standard of education is delivered, instilling confidence in the School's community by ensuring value for money and respect for the charitable funds we manage. We make the most of the freedom we have as an Independent School. We seek to ensure that the School's resources are directed in the most efficient and focused way, through thorough planning and coordinated activity. Part of our strategy is to manage and develop our financial resources to support the education of children from as wide a range of backgrounds as possible.

The Bursary is responsive to the needs of the School, integrated within the School's planning processes and coordinated in response. We work together to forge a resilient School, able to navigate successfully the contemporary environment for independent schools and to plan thoughtfully for the future. We aim to be an employer of choice, sought out by the talent that can bring the School's vision to life.

*Oundle School Leadership Team
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