

Statement on Spirituality at Somerset College

Vision Statement

Somerset College's vision statement states, *inter alia*, that:

Somerset College has a Christian foundation which fosters respect and understanding of other religions.

Relationship with CUC

Somerset College forms an association with the member churches of the Church Unity Commission (CUC). On 2 March 2006, the College accepted the Statement of Faith which the CUC churches adopted in 1974:

We recognise the Holy Scriptures as the supreme rule of faith and life, we share the apostolic faith confessed in the ancient Creeds of the Church and we observe Baptism and Holy Communion as Sacraments of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

The College's relationship with the CUC is maintained through:

- the accountability of the Chaplain to the local member churches of the CUC through the religious policy committee
- the automatic appointment of one CUC member from one of the participating churches to the Board of Governors.

Spiritual aims of Somerset College

- To expose every pupil to the teachings of the Bible, the message of the Gospel and Christian doctrine as received by the CUC.
- To give every pupil the opportunity to respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- To convey the relevance of the Christian faith in the modern world, and to engender in every pupil the responsibility and desire to reach out to those in need around them.

The role of the Chaplain

The Chaplain is responsible for the nurturing of the spiritual lives of the pupils and staff, and the worship life of the College. The Chaplain also shares in the pastoral care of the community.

The Board of Governors and the Heads

The Board of Governors and the Heads shall be committed to upholding the Christian ethos of the College.

The Staff

Staff shall be required to respect the Christian faith and to be supportive of the Christian ethos of the College.

The outworkings of the Christian faith at Somerset College

The following outworkings are written in the context of the College's commitment to the spiritual and moral development of its pupils. Somerset College seeks to fulfil this commitment under the love and grace of God.

- Christian values will be encouraged at all levels of relationship in the Somerset College community, particularly those of love, compassion, service, care, respect, integrity and justice.
- Chapel services are held regularly at the College and are compulsory for all pupils and academic staff.
- Staff and pupils will be encouraged to take part in all aspects of the spiritual life of the College.
- The fostering of relationships with the CUC and the wider Christian Church will be encouraged.
- The Chapel and/or the school buildings may be used by groups or churches for one-off events at the discretion of the Chaplain and the Heads, but may not become a regular venue for use by any particular group or church.

Other faiths

- Somerset College welcomes pupils and staff from other faiths and will at all times exhibit respect for them, their families and their communities.
- Any religious gathering to be held in the College must be sanctioned by the respective Head, together with the Chaplain.
- The Chapel is open to all individual pupils to practise their faith privately or for individual prayer.
- Pupils may leave school for worship with permission from the Heads.

February 2008