

St. John Bosco College Wandsworth

Governors Statement of Behaviour Principles

Introduction

Section 88 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires the Governing Body to contextualise the framework of the College's Behaviour Policy by providing a written statement of general principles to which the head teacher is to have regard in determining any measures under section 89 of the Act relating to behaviour policy.

The purpose of the statement is to advise and guide the Headteacher in drawing up the Behaviour Policy by stating the principles which governors expect to be followed. It follows the guidance issued by the Department for Education in September, 2012, and will be reviewed in line with the Behaviour Policy review, and in response to any changes in legislation and DfE guidance.

Principles

St. John Bosco College is a voluntary aided, 11-18 mixed Roman Catholic comprehensive school, which opened in September 2011 under the joint trusteeship of the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Archdiocese of Southwark. The behaviour policy is underpinned by the Salesian ethos based on the educational philosophy of St John Bosco, encapsulated in his maxim that 'it is not enough for young people to be loved they must know that they are loved' The ethos of St John Bosco is summarised in the Vision and Values Statement of the College excerpts from which are quoted below:

DEVELOPING YOUNG PEOPLE IS THE ESSENCE OF OUR SCHOOL.

Our purpose is to fulfil the extraordinary human and spiritual potential of each student. As they grow up we offer them the knowledge and skills necessary to engage creatively in the lifelong task of growing to human and spiritual maturity.

EDUCATING THE HEART IS THE KEY TO ALL EXCELLENCE.

Only when a school radiates an atmosphere of deep appreciation, mutual respect and genuine affection can excellent academic, spiritual, moral and physical education take place.

EDUCATION IS WIDER THAN JUST THE CLASSROOM.

Extra-curricular activities promote genuine inter-personal dialogue between adults and the young and are the key to excellent education. Both staff and students will be open to listening and learning, engaging together in exploring their knowledge and deepening understanding of the new horizons that our world constantly presents.

‘To lead young people you must be prepared to enter through the things that they enjoy.’ - St John Bosco

(St. John Bosco College website January 2015)

In this context the promotion of a vibrant school environment, within which both staff and students demonstrate a solidarity around the school mission, is underpinned by four central Salesian principles, summed up in the word RUAH, which is Hebrew for Breath of God, or Spirit. They are:

- **Respect** - for oneself, and others, and every opportunity
- **Understanding** - a commitment to learning and working well with others
- **Affection** - care and love for each other, always
- **Happiness and Humour** - Don Bosco regarded extra-curricular activities as seminal in this context, creating a joyful optimism which empowered students to engage more fully in aspects of school life which they find challenging.

RUAH could be summed up in the following words:

Don Bosco’s didactic method was not predominantly cerebral in approach, something that could be completed sitting at a desk; it was an educational method based essentially on an effective relationship that spanned the entire day

Statement in Practice

St John Bosco College is committed to the Salesian vision which emphasises pro-active presence of staff among young people, thereby building a College community which take seriously the dignity of every student to the extent that “they experience their dignity as persons before they know its definition”. (Congregation for Catholic Education, (1977), *The Catholic School*:55) In such

a setting students are encouraged to search for excellence in a distinctively positive environment which emphasises achievement and constructive engagement. While it is recognised that sanctions are sometimes necessary in all school and college communities, these will be exercised in a spirit of forgiveness recognising that all are human and deserve a second chance. St John Bosco College supports equality of opportunity and, in this context, structures and rules seek to respect the rights of individuals, especially the most vulnerable, and of the community as a whole. Maintaining a balance between the rights of the individual student and of the College community is canonised in the Behaviour Policy.