

The Values and Ethics of Hurstpierpoint College

1. Chapel

(Chaplain: The Rev Janneke Blokland)

(Reviewer: Dominic Mott; September 2021)

By virtue of its Foundation as a Woodard School, Hurst is steeped in the idea of spiritual nurture and growth and the Chapel is a focus of our school life. Traditionally Christian in outlook, the College welcomes and encourages pupils and staff of all faiths, as well as those who feel that affiliation to a particular faith or denomination is not for them. The expectation at Hurst is that everyone will give themselves, and those around them, the opportunity to explore new ideas and horizons to provide an environment in which pupils and staff can flourish. To this end, Chapel attendance is compulsory for all pupils and teaching staff. Support staff are very welcome to join any Chapel services too.

In accordance with the Strategic Vision it is hoped that pupils will develop an awareness of life beyond the purely material and a willingness to embrace a spiritual journey. This includes an awareness of the needs of others, both close to home and further afield, and a recognition of the importance of environmental sustainability. Both pupils and staff are encouraged to find ways to give something of themselves for the greater good. The Chaplaincy also seeks to encourage a growing understanding and a respectful conversation between those with different views on faith and human identity.

For the Senior School there is Head of College's Assembly on Monday at 8.50am, which usually takes the form of notices or an address from the Head of College, Congregational Practice and then Chaplaincy notices. The Senior School main service, which the whole school attends, is at 5.00pm on Friday. Pupils and staff are invited to participate through reading, singing, altar serving and leading parts of the service. Regularly, the sermon will be preached by a member of the College Community.

The Prep School main service is at 3.15pm on Fridays. All Prep School teaching staff and pupils are expected to attend. The Pre-Prep School pupils attend Chapel fortnightly; on alternate weeks there is a story time in the Pre-Prep School with a Christian Focus. All Pre-Prep School teaching staff and pupils are expected to attend.

Apart from service times, the Chapel is open for private prayer and reflection. Members of staff and pupils are welcome at any time to pray, or just to find a peaceful place and time.

The Chaplaincy Team work together to produce a range of services and activities in and out of chapel throughout the school year. Members of staff are encouraged to discuss any initiatives they have to nurture the spiritual life of the College Community. The Chaplaincy is also responsible for the Guardian scheme which consists of pupils appointed as peer mentors throughout the College.

Each year, the Chaplain offers a course of preparation for baptism and confirmation to encourage pupils to make an informed decision for themselves about their commitment to faith. The classes are in the Lent term and baptism and confirmation are administered in the Summer Term. Staff are also welcome to take part in this course and should speak to the Chaplain about baptism, confirmation and any other matter, including weddings and funerals.

The confidential role of the Chaplain is an important aspect of his pastoral function. Any safeguarding concerns would be passed on. If you wish to contact the Chaplain about any matter,

her email address is janneke.blokland@hppc.co.uk and direct telephone number is 01273 836889 (or College extension 889). Her mobile is 07554486575.

2. Prayer Policy

(Reviewer: Dominic Mott, September 2021)

As a Christian school, prayer should be an integral part of the College's life. By prayer we strengthen our relationship with God and each other in mutual love. Prayer is a means of grace which will bring blessing to our shared life as a community.

Therefore we work to encourage growth in our shared prayer life together, as individuals and as a community, in public and in private. Prayer is a core element of all services in Chapel.

Each morning, morning prayer is said at 7.45am in the Lady Chapel; on Wednesdays the Eucharist is celebrated instead. Members of staff are welcome to join these services at any time. On Thursday evenings particularly, pupils and members of staff are invited to use the Chapel as a place of prayer and reflection. Quiet music will be playing and there is the opportunity to light a candle.

At present there are two recognised prayer groups:

- Staff – Thursday Breakfast
- Parents – 'The Parents' Chapel Group': led by Amanda Green.

These groups meet regularly and are open to all – staff, students and parents as appropriate.

Matters for intercessory prayer:

A balance needs to be found between meaningful prayer which addresses real concerns but also respects privacy. Prayer meetings are public in nature and cannot offer confidentiality. As a general rule private individual's concerns are not disclosed in a prayer gathering without the relevant individual's request or permission. Similarly even anonymous specific concerns are not mentioned in prayer without the relevant individual's request or permission in case the person's identity can be deduced. Intercessory prayers at whole school Chapel services are general in nature.

Prayer requests:

Request for prayer can be made in a variety of ways:

- Leaving a card in the prayer request box in Chapel.
- Individual requests made informally to individuals.
- Prayer requests made via the prayer request box will be prayed for in the Lady Chapel at daily services. They will not be included in whole school services. The Chaplain will provide prayer information to recognised prayer groups on a regular basis.