



Culture, Race and Religion Policy

Policy number	BS020 / ISI 17a
Applies to	Whole School
Endorsed by	Head Master
Responsibility	Head Master
Date reviewed	March 2021
Next review	March 2022

Bedford School has its origin linked to a medieval monastic foundation. The School remains Christian in outlook, and the Chapel and Chaplain are Church of England. A Christian morality therefore forms the basis of common life, and provides the framework in which it seeks to educate the boys in the spiritual dimension. This is not to say that the School is exclusive, and boys from all religions, national and racial backgrounds are welcome.

Chapel services are held for different parts of the community throughout the week; their purpose is not indoctrination but a shared time together. Boys are addressed by a cross-section of the community and we seek to explore a further dimension from that normally undertaken in the classroom. Boys may opt to attend Holy Communion on Friday lunchtimes. The boarders' chapel service on Sunday morning is a Christian service, and a wide variety of formats are routinely in use. All boys are expected to attend chapel.

School assemblies take place in the Great Hall for the Upper School and in the Erskine May Hall in the Prep School, and will usually have a broadly Christian structure with a hymn and prayer. In the Upper School, the Head Master will also give a short address on either a religious or secular theme, the aim of which is to stimulate debate and encourage thought.

Religious education is taught with a stress on morality and the common human values within a framework of the study of comparative religions. Because of this, it is unlikely that boys of other faiths would want to be exempted, and their input from a different perspective is always appreciated. Any difficulties in this regard are dealt with sensitively by the Head Master and the Head of Religious Studies.

Considerations are given to the race, religion and culture of the individual pupil. If their dress or hair, for instance, is a recognised part of their religious culture, the School is sensitive to that and seeks not to discriminate against them in any way.

The Upper School and Prep School both have significant programmes to ensure that the above is realised, whilst also recognising that such values are inculcated in every aspect of school life, from tutoring to teaching to life outside the classroom. Within these programmes, the school is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act and actively promotes the Prevent strategy. The school does all it can to keep both boys and staff up-to-date with the latest policy changes.