



ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF FAITH

SCOPE

This Statement is intended for all who are part of, or intend joining, the St Andrew's College community. It applies to both St Andrew's College and St Andrew's Preparatory School.

The Statement is the overarching declaration of our fundamental beliefs and values and as such all other policies and practices within St Andrew's College are aligned to it.

OUR FOUNDATION

When Bishop John Armstrong founded St Andrew's College in 1855, he declared that the objective of the school should be threefold:

1. To provide a sound Christian education for the youth of the province according to the principles of the Church of England.
2. To furnish the means of training men for Holy Orders.
3. To form a centre from which the missionary operations may be carried on more effectually.

St Andrew's College remains true to these objectives of our founder. In our school prayer¹ we pray that "we may answer the good intent of our religious Founder" and in our school hymn² we ask that we hear our Saviour's call and submit, serve and love Him above all else.

St Andrew's College is subject to an Act of Parliament³ which requires that, inter alia, the Headmaster and members of Council are all "Christians and members in good standing of their respective Churches".

¹ Included in the Annexure.

² Included in the Annexure.

³ Saint Andrew's College Grahamstown (Private) Act 15 of 1932, as amended by Saint Andrew's College Grahamstown (Private) Amendment Act 82 of 1985.

INTRODUCTION

St Andrew's College is a Christian school founded by and falling within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and the Diocese of Grahamstown. We declare that Jesus Christ is Saviour and Lord and seek to be obedient to Him and His teaching. Our aim is for all pupils to realise their full potential through a well-rounded education, rooted in the Christian faith.

The consequences of this are:

- We prayerfully seek God's plan for the school.
- Worship and Chapel are central to the life of the school.
- Christian values are demonstrated in all aspects of school life.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa is part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures, held by the Primitive Church, summed up in the Creeds and affirmed by the undisputed General Councils, to which the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, the Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons bear witness.⁴

COMPOSITION OF THE SCHOOL

- As required by the Act (Saint Andrew's College Grahamstown (Private) Act 15 of 1932, as amended by Saint Andrew's College Grahamstown (Private) Amendment Act 82 of 1985) the Headmaster of St Andrew's College and the Headmaster of St Andrew's Preparatory School will be practising Christians. The Headmasters will be officially inducted by the Bishop of Grahamstown at the beginning of their headship.
- As required by the Act, all members of the St Andrew's College Council will be "Christians and members in good standing of their respective Churches". In addition, the Chairman and at least two-thirds of the members of Council will be Communicants within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, or churches in communion with ACSA.
- The Chaplain will be an ordained Anglican priest, is appointed by the Headmaster and licensed by the Bishop of the Diocese. The Chaplain reports to the Headmaster in the first instance, and to the Bishop in Diocesan matters.
- The College Headmaster and Chaplain will be jointly responsible for the spiritual life of the school and for keeping the school accountable to the Statement of Faith.
- Staff are expected to support the Christian ethos of the school.

⁴ Canon 16, *Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa*

ACTS OF WORSHIP

1. The Chapel stands physically at the heart of the school. There are weekly times of worship and the Eucharist will be celebrated regularly. Chapel services will be held on Sundays and also during the week.
2. The liturgical style of Chapel services will be Anglican with Eucharists conducted weekly (where practical) as per An Anglican Prayer Book (1989).
3. The Chaplain will endeavour to ensure that the worship in the Chapel is relevant and encourages the boys and other worshippers to grow to spiritual maturity in Christ.
4. All boys, irrespective of their faith, will attend Chapel services. Dayboys may, with the Headmaster's permission, worship elsewhere.
5. All boys, irrespective of their faith, are required to attend Chaplain's lessons.
6. Academic, admin and sports staff are expected to attend Chapel services held during the week and at the start of each term. They are also encouraged to attend Sunday services unless they worship elsewhere in the local community.
7. Other members of the wider Andean community are welcome to attend Chapel services and are encouraged to support the Christian life of the school.
8. The Student Christian Association (SCA) is encouraged as an integral part of the school. All staff are invited/encouraged to attend SCA sessions from time to time.
9. Boys will have access to the Chapel at designated times should they wish to use it for individual worship and reflection.
10. There will be routine acts of worship in the boarding houses and dining halls eg saying grace at meals, evening prayer / devotions, etc
11. Weekly assemblies will include the reading of scripture and prayer.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which a boy affirms for himself the faith into which he was baptised and his intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the Bishop in the context of the Confirmation service.

Senior boys will be given the opportunity to be confirmed. They will be required to attend confirmation classes where the focus will be on the boy's personal walk with Jesus, his growing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and his finding of his place in our Lord's Church. Once confirmed,

boys will be encouraged to be involved in serving in the Chapel and in the Christian life of the school.

OUTWORKING OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

All staff are expected to ensure that the school upholds the Statement of Faith in the daily life of the school. The Headmaster and Chaplain have the added responsibility of creating a conducive environment in which this can happen.

As an Anglican Church school, St Andrew's College is aligned to "Signs of God's Presence" statement of the Anglican Board of Education (Southern Africa)⁵.

In the Management and Running of the School

- The Headmaster together with his Senior Management Team will ensure that all decisions and policies are aligned with our Statement of Faith.
- Significant meetings will be opened in prayer.

In Recruitment

- Advertisements for new positions will make reference to St Andrew's being an Anglican Church school and that all appointed staff are expected to support, and uphold the Christian ethos and its teachings.

In the Classroom

- Where teachers have discretion as to the topics and content covered they will ensure that it does not contradict our Statement of Faith.

Outside the Classroom

- The behaviour of boys and staff should at all times reflect our Christian values.

In our Relationships

- Christian values are to be demonstrated in all relationships with and between pupils, staff and visitors.

On our Campus

- No activities that detract from or contravene the Statement of Faith should take place on campus.

⁵ Included in the Annexure.

In the Community

- Relationships with the wider Anglican Church will be fostered.
- We will demonstrate our faith in Christ and His gospel message, through living out our faith in active service to the community around us, using the time, talents, and resources that our Lord has blessed us with.
- We will be good stewards of God's creation.
- Christ's ministry consistently illustrates His preferential option for the poor and the marginalised. Jesus' example in this regard underpins St Andrew's College's striving to increase the ease of access to education at the school via its bursary and scholarship programmes, the school's commitment to its community engagement programmes, and its relationship with neighbouring schools and the broader community.
- The school is committed to embodying Jesus' love for all and His refusal to treat as "other" those whom society of His day marginalised. Thus, in line with the school's commitment to be a South African School, St Andrew's seeks to encourage respect for and understanding of a rich and vibrant diversity within its community.

PUPILS AND STAFF OF OTHER FAITHS AND NO FAITH

1. St Andrew's College enrolls boys and employs staff of other faiths (or with no professed faith). This is done on the understanding that they accept the Statement of faith and, in particular, will attend Chapel services and Chaplain's lessons (in the case of pupils) and attend all required Chapel services (in the case of staff). Pupils and staff of other faiths and of no faith are not required to profess anything that contradicts their beliefs.
2. We will at all times exhibit the greatest respect for pupils and people of all faiths, and those with no professed faith.
3. St Andrew's College will not allow the formal practice of other faiths on its campus. However, the Headmaster may grant permission for pupils to attend worship and prayers at their own places of worship.

CEREMONIES IN THE ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

The Chapel may be used by Old Andreans, and members of staff and their immediate families for ceremonies such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. Arrangements must be made with the Chaplain and the times of such ceremonies will be subject to approval by the College.

ANNEXURE

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come.

Amen

SCHOOL PRAYER

We give Thee most humble and hearty thanks, O Most Merciful Father, for our Founder, John Armstrong, and for all our Governors and Benefactors, by whose benefit this school is brought up to godliness and sound learning: And we humbly beseech Thee to give us grace to use these Thy blessings to the glory of Thy Holy Name, that we may answer the good intent of our religious Founder, and become profitable members of Church and State, and at last partakers of Thy Heavenly Kingdom: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SCHOOL HYMN

Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult
Of our life's wild restless sea.
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, "Christian, follow Me."

As of old, Saint Andrew heard it
By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
Leaving all for His dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying "Christian, love Me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love Me more than these."

Jesus calls us! By Thy mercies,
Saviour, make us hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thine obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all.

“Signs of God’s Presence”

Appraising the distinctive character of an Anglican school

The school’s educational philosophy is fundamentally Christian

If we were to ask ourselves the question: “What is the soul of our school?” some pointers would be that life is considered a gift of God and therefore we should live it with generosity and gratitude. Every child is beloved and belongs and is a child of God. The pursuit of knowledge is seen as an exploration of God’s truth about God’s created world, and is embarked upon in that intellectual framework. We have an incarnational and sacramental understanding of life. We make Christ the centre of our life at school and at the same time we are welcoming and sensitive to the diversity of faith found in Anglican schools.

There is regular worship

God is acknowledged daily as the Creator and source of our life and strength. As humans we have been created as spiritual beings with the desire to discover God’s meaning and purpose in our lives, and endless horizons beyond ourselves. There is a rhythm of worship in the life of the school that allows for times of thanksgiving, devotion, prayer and reflection. There are times of celebration and sorrow.

The Christian faith is taught

This is essentially about teaching a Christian worldview so that children can explore this understanding of life and are free to identify with it. Without dogmatism, we seek to make known our understanding of ‘God’s world and God’s truth’ together with its relational and moral consequences. Children need to understand that they have an inherent spirituality; we need to be talking about the mystery of God and how to be hopeful, loving, trustworthy and patient, and how to pray. Children need to have their eyes opened to the will and work of God and the seeds need to be sown so that they will be able to put their hope and trust in God. This should happen in the classroom through lessons and in the chapel through services as well as through confirmation classes. The school community, parents and teachers must also be educated in the Christian world view of the school.

The school’s daily life reflects the beauty, truth and goodness of God

Because an Anglican Church school operates out of God’s truth in God’s world, it will reflect the truth, beauty and goodness of God in the fabric of its life - and seek to grow in reflecting all of them. Therefore it will serve its community with a quality curriculum, disciplined teaching and learning, supportive and loving pastoral care, committed and hardworking teachers, children who are engaged and participating in the learning environment and sound governance structures. Self-assessment and quality assurance is part of an Anglican Church school. An Anglican Church school is a “good” school in every sense, and is able to reflect critically on its progress.

There is a generosity of spirit

One of the hallmarks of an Anglican Church school is a spirit of kindness, compassion and respect for all people. This expresses itself in healthy relationships in the school and toward the wider community. Concern for the common good is shown through community service and support of charity, and in healthy relationships with those of other faiths. The school is a welcoming and safe place. The school quickly identifies and responds appropriately to any member of the school community who is in need and who needs healing and wholeness.

The school's Christian character is reflected in its governance and leadership

The difference between a broadly Christian school and a specifically Anglican one, is that the latter are connected formally to the Anglican Church through the provisions of the school's constitution, whether founded by the Church or formally agreed to between school and Church. This may be expressed in a variety of ways.

There needs to be a commitment from the school board and the leadership of the school to ensuring that the school maintains its Christian character and its formal relationship with the Anglican Church, as is essential to the mission of the school. This would be reflected in vision and policy statements and in the branding of the school. The authority of the Church needs to be acknowledged through the Bishop and Chaplain.

Anglican school constitutions generally provide that the school reports to the Diocesan Synod and Council and the Church acknowledges the school as an Anglican Church school. The authority of the Church is integrated into the governance of the school, and the school legitimately expects the support and guidance of the Church through the Diocese in which it stands. This would include but is not confined to the Bishop's personal interest and presence, diocesan representation in the governance of the school, the ministry of a chaplain, and accountability through regular reporting to the diocese.

There are Signs and Symbols

In the school there will be signs and symbols of the Christian faith which remind the community of their faith heritage and challenge them to continue to live by faith. An obvious example is a chapel which is used for worship or a simple cross on the wall of every teaching venue would be another. Appropriate posters pointing to our common faith and how to live can also be helpful. There are many ways to show the school's commitment to the faith, one needs to be creative and intentional. It would be natural for the name or symbols of the Diocese or the Anglican Church of Southern Africa to be displayed in any diocesan school and on its letterhead.

Conclusion

An Anglican Church school in all its varied activities and in all its relationships seeks to honour and acknowledge the presence of God and allow God's Spirit of light, life and love to be present as the foundation on which the school exists.

These characteristics can be used as a benchmark for self-appraisal of your school as an Anglican Church school.

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