



Statement of Principles of The New Eccles Hall School

Eccles Hall is a school for pupils aged 5 - 17+. The school accepts children of mixed ability, some with specific learning difficulties for whom special educational facilities are available. The school provides a broad curriculum in which all pupils are able to fulfil their potential and where possible achieve excellence. In order to help pupils in this way it is necessary to understand individual strengths and weaknesses and thus assist pupils to build on what is good and, with help, try to overcome what they find hard. The school is small (c170 on roll) and this is an important factor in being able to address the needs of each individual pupil.

Socially the school's intention is that pupils should accept each other and learn to live easily and confidently with each other and with adults. They are encouraged to hold a sense of self-respect and furthermore a respect for others. In addition, it is expected that when a pupil leaves Eccles Hall School they do so as an eager, adaptable young person well equipped to accept the responsibilities in the adult world.

The School is committed to equal opportunities for all, no matter sex, race or creed. Tolerance and respect for others and their differences are essential parts of the ethos of the school. Pupils are encouraged to treat everybody with courtesy and respect, no matter what station they hold in life.

Pupils will leave Eccles to continue their academic education in another school or college. They may well go on to vocational training in colleges of further education. Some may go into employment. We pride ourselves in helping pupils and parents make firm arrangements for their future during their final year in the school.

How is this achieved? Academically, obviously in the classroom and by individual teaching in our 'College of Knowledge', our Individual Teaching Unit; contact with the world outside school, through visits and speakers, through clubs and fixtures; socially by a close relationship with the teaching staff, with the personal tutor and through close communication with parents.

Boarding pupils are housed in three separate boarding houses, Junior boys *and girls* in the main hall, Senior boys in the school area and girls in the stable block behind the main hall. Sixth form boarding students live in the stables buildings behind the hall.

Introducing pupils to boarding school life and assisting them to settle to a new somewhat strange environment requires care and sympathy from all staff. Pupils are encouraged to spend two days in the school in the term before their starting date; this is to include a night in the boarding house. This helps the pupils to feel more comfortable when they finally arrive for their first term. New pupils from the previous year are able to understand the problems of the very new ones and are asked to help in those vital first days. Each new pupil is paired with a current pupil. Staff are also on hand to explain routine and timetables. Pupils are also introduced to their Personal Tutor.

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Pupils can change their Tutor annually. At the end of the first term in the school, they are able to have a Personal Tutor of their own choice. The Headmaster and his Deputy are not involved as Personal Tutors. The induction period for new pupils lasts for three weeks. Parents are encouraged to telephone the school to talk with the Headmaster and the Housemaster to find out how their child is settling in. Pupils have access to the telephone from day one and staff monitor homesickness closely.

The school believes that the boarding environment cannot replace or compete with the home and family. The school boarding environment strives to complement the guidance and examples of healthy living given in the home.

Living away from home gives pupils the opportunity to develop their independent living skills whilst still being part of a caring community. It is hoped that the pupils will learn respect for others and self-respect, self-discipline and an appreciation of the needs of others in the community.

The Boarding Staff are on hand to assist pupils. The school as a whole encourages pupils to learn and to live a healthy lifestyle through teaching and through example.

The protection of the pupils against any form of abuse is uppermost. Staff have training and detailed guidelines for dealing with suspected or allegations of abuse.

All pupils are made fully aware of the complaint procedure in operation in the school. Pupils are assigned to a Personal Tutor. Through their Tutor, they are able to complain about any matter in their school life. Pupils have a right of appeal through their Tutor on any problem. In addition, the pupils are issued with clear instructions on where help is available to them; the Independent Listener and the Child line Number.