



STATEMENT OF ETHOS AND AIMS

BRIEF HISTORY OF ALTRINCHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Altrincham Preparatory School was founded in 1936. Bowdon College in South Downs Road, Bowdon, was closing down and some Altrincham Grammar School masters decided to take over this building to use it as a preparatory school for boys. The main intention being to use it as a feeder school for Altrincham Grammar School. The new school expanded rapidly and after the war, in the 1950's, the Governors acquired another building - Highbury, at West Road, Bowdon. Just after this the school developed into a two form entry school such as we know it today.

A widening curriculum and the poor state of the original South Downs Road building (leased) made it imperative in the nineties to acquire a site for building a complete Infant & Junior School. After a fruitless search (land is at a premium in this area) the Governors took the decision to build on the school playing fields at Marlborough Road. However, restrictions on space meant that we could only build a Junior School and Nursery. The lease on South Downs Road was allowed to expire. Highbury was refurbished for the Infants and the summer of 1997 saw the new school opened and the Infants re-housed in West Road.

In 2013 the school purchased an additional building, Bank Place, which was refurbished to provide an 'Early Years Centre of excellence' housing Pre-School 3+ and Reception 4+. Along with this purchase came the use of Bell Field, an enclosed outdoor space which also has an all weather tennis court, which is accessed during school hours. A 16 place Nursery for boys aged 2+ opened in April 2015.

APS has some 320 pupils and is universally described as a friendly and happy school. It has a distinctive atmosphere which couples academic excellence with breadth of opportunity and respect for variety of achievement. APS sets out to provide a compassionate, caring and benevolent environment in which pupils are encouraged to achieve their potential. There is a healthy demand for places at APS with each year which long waiting lists of 60+ boys for entry at Reception.

STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Education, we hold, is a moral enterprise and APS aims to provide stable, uninterrupted, high quality education for its pupils, producing well-rounded articulate and confident young people who are well-equipped to face their next challenge in life. The implied educational challenge is the provision of an environment which encourages social, moral, physical and intellectual education. Our philosophy is directed by the opinion that the great thing to be gained from learning is that everything learnt leads to something further; learning should give the person the power to do something beyond itself. Education should not concentrate solely on the acquisition of knowledge and schools should not be just academic forcing institutions. If a school judges itself solely on mere scholarship (important as this is) by recognising success only in terms of examination pass rates then it is, we feel, failing to discharge its duties and obligations properly. Teaching should tell on a person's thoughts, speech and writing. Pupils should be prepared for the next stage of life by being equipped with self-reliance, modesty, practical good sense and a freeness of behaviour towards others. This cannot be achieved through classroom teaching alone requiring that you look to the person as a whole, trying to encourage the development of all their gifts and talents. The importance of the pastoral care provision and of extra-curricular activities (both athletic and aesthetic) is paramount in this respect.

MISSION STATEMENT AND SCHOOL AIMS

Mission Statement

We aim to provide a learning environment of the highest quality for all the boys and to promote in them a spirit of respect which is sensitive to the needs of others.

Aims

- * Provide a safe, happy and stimulating environment**
- * Make school an enjoyable experience**
- * Develop each boy's individual potential**
- * Encourage the boys to develop self-discipline**
- * Plan and deliver a broad, balanced curriculum**
- * Provide equal opportunities for all boys**
- * Foster an awareness of the needs of others**
- * Develop self-confidence and self-esteem**
- * Promote high moral standards**
- * Establish good home-school links**