

Statement of Ethos and Aims

Reviewed: January 2025

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This document is the collective work of all the Moulsford staff and children and aims to summarise the guiding principles of a Moulsford education.

THE SCHOOL

Moulsford is a Preparatory School for children aged 3 to 13, situated on an idyllic 30-acre site on the banks of the River Thames in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. From September 2023, Moulsford Pre-Prep (Pre-School to Year 2) became co-educational, giving girls of Pre-Prep age the opportunity to benefit from a Moulsford experience. In May 2024, we announced that both girls and boys will enter Year 3 in September 2026, and we are very excited that by September 2031 all Moulsford year groups will be co-educational.

Moulsford aims to nurture the whole child, providing opportunities for each individual to develop their talents and abilities. The culture is one of achievement within a vibrant learning environment, ensuring positive reinforcement at all levels of ability. The school has high academic expectations of the pupils and excellent teaching ensures that they move to their senior schools extremely well prepared.

Great emphasis is also placed on the extra-curricular side of school life, with a very broad range of activities. Sport, Music, Art, Drama and river-based activities play a particularly prominent role in the timetable.

Moulsford is predominantly a day school, but has a strong boarding house for up to 35 children, mainly in Years 6, 7 and 8. The school week runs from Monday to Friday, and there are also a number of sports fixtures that take place on Saturdays. There is neither Saturday School nor boarding on Friday nights or at the weekend.

Moulsford has an outstanding track record of children achieving entry to a broad range of schools beyond Moulsford, via Common Entrance or Scholarship at 13+. These include: Abingdon, Radley, Marlborough, Wellington, Magdalen College School (Oxford), Eton, St Edward's (Oxford), Pangbourne, Harrow, Shiplake, The Oratory and Winchester. As girls progress through the school, this list will expand.

ETHOS AND AIMS

Core Values: Both a Moulsford education and the School's Vision are underpinned by our core values of:

- Kindness
- Courage
- Curiosity

Our school values guide how we live our Moulsford lives on a daily basis, and also aim to give Moulsford children a very solid set of foundations on which they can build through life's long journey.

Our Vision: To be the Best Co-educational Prep School in our Area instilling Kindness, Courage and Curiosity in all our pupils.

The Pillars, which support our Vision:

- Build and reinforce our **Community**
- **Excellence** in everything we do
- **Innovation** in all areas

Please see the 'temple' below, which illustrates how our Vision, Pillars and Values interact with each other.

To be the best Co-Educational Prep School
in our area, instilling kindness, courage and
curiosity in all our pupils

Build and
reinforce our
COMMUNITY

EXCELLENCE
in everything
we do

INNOVATION
in all areas

KINDNESS

COURAGE

CURIOSITY

HOW WE CHOSE MOULSFORD'S VALUES - AUTUMN TERM 2023

Keeping Moulsford's values fresh, relevant and inclusive for all members of our community is so important and every few years we have a root and branch review of the values that define our wonderful school. I am so grateful to all members of our immediate community who were involved in choosing our values of Kindness, Courage and Curiosity in the Autumn term 2023.

The process was as follows: we started by having a focus group of fourteen children (from across the year groups) and staff, who had two meetings to discuss the values which they felt were intrinsic to the Moulsford experience. Fuelled by sandwiches, crisps and chocolate, this group settled on the following longlist:

1. Authenticity
2. Integrity
3. Kindness
4. Understanding
5. Respect
6. Communication
7. Curiosity
8. Enthusiasm
9. Courage
10. Determination

Following this we gathered the whole school community together in the Sports Hall for an extended assembly on Values. It was a delight to have all pupils in the school present (Pre-Prep and Prep children), and all the Moulsford staff from every department - in total roughly 450 of us participated in the assembly. At this event, we discussed the importance of values, and why different organisations adopt them, using the examples of the John Lewis Partnership, the NHS, England Rugby and another Prep School. We also talked about how we had a number of different values systems in the school (e.g. Pre-Prep values, Sports values and our previous whole school values) and that our aim was to review and simplify this to create one set of values which would define the Moulsford experience. The children, including those from the Pre-Prep, performed some short role plays to illustrate some of the values on our longlist of ten.

After the assembly, the whole school went 'off timetable' for ninety minutes of workshops to explore the ten words in more detail in smaller groups through discussion, drama, art and literature. As Headteacher I was fortunate enough to be able to visit virtually every group and witness the energy, interest and sense of purpose present throughout the school during this very special time. Following this there was a real buzz in the staffroom, as experiences from the morning's discussions were shared.

At the end of these workshops, each Prep School year group, the Pre-Prep and a staff group, then decided on their five preferred words which they believed encapsulated Moulsford's values, and these eight lots of five words were then fed back to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Through this process, Kindness, Courage and Curiosity were the three words that our community collectively decided would be Moulsford's three values.

HOW WE DEVELOPED MOULSFORD'S VISION AND PILLARS - AUTUMN TERM 2024

All Moulsford staff played a central role in developing Moulsford's Vision and Pillars. In the first half of the Autumn term 2024, all the staff had the opportunity to join focus groups to distil what defined a Moulsford education, to help inform the Vision of the School. These meetings were led by members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), who then collated all the extremely valuable staff feedback. Key themes kept emerging and Community, Excellence and Innovation became the natural headings for our three pillars. Following this, the SLT then liaised closely with Moulsford's Governors and it was agreed that to give a very clear message, we would simplify both the Vision and the Pillars, and underpin them with our Values.