

Woodstock School Mission Statement – explanation of terms

School: our primary function and identity is as a school.

Excellence: the best that we can be.

Teaching: Recruit, develop, motivate and retain teachers from among the best in the world; utilise the best methodologies with a unique Woodstock flavour.

Learning: Promote lifelong learning, the development of 21st century skills and a breadth of interest.

Exceptional: both “outstanding” and “out of the ordinary”. We will monitor the achievement of this goal by various measures including external test scores and the subsequent careers of graduates.

Education: includes high academic achievement, social development, the cultivation of special interests (including athletics, special or original projects, visual and performing arts), environmental awareness, all of which teach leadership skills and an orientation towards activities which make a difference in the world. We will measure our education against recognised world leaders.

Diverse: in country of origin, language, culture, faith, economic circumstances. We are committed to providing access for academically able students regardless of circumstances, particularly when their families are engaged in “nation-building” activities, and/or are modelling the kind of ethical leadership which we aspire to on behalf of our students. The Board will set policies from time to time which enable measurement of our success in this area.

International: we are an international school; our alumni are spread throughout the world and continue to be part of our community; we desire to build links with other exceptional institutions around the world with whom we share common vision and goals.

Community: as a residential school, Woodstock not only *is* a genuine community, but seeks to *build* community as a way of promoting cross-cultural understanding, bridge-building and lifelong relationships. “The students live here, socialize here, play here, grow here, have family here, AND get educated well here. A child does not get educated in an academic bubble, but in a ‘community’ - it gives children a ‘belonging’ that they need that will only help them to get an excellent education.” (*Paula Mowry, Board member*). Woodstock will promote “community” worldwide, building links with like-minded people and institutions.

Inspired by: we look to these “roots” to sustain us in our vision and to inform us in our decision-making.

Our: Woodstock is personal to so many people; we use the word “our” to include all those who feel a sense of engagement with the school – staff, students, parents, alumni, friends.

Indian: Woodstock is part of and learns from the country and cultures within which we live.

Himalayan environment: the mountain environment should be an inspiration in our programs and learning objectives, promoting health and fitness, and a concern for the world.

Inclusive Christian tradition: we will continually discover how our Christian heritage speaks authentically to each generation, and will encourage students in building character and inner purpose, recognizing that Woodstock is a deliberately diverse community which seeks to welcome and include all, and which promotes Christian and human values of love and respect for one another.

Articulate: able to develop ideas and concepts, and express them fluently through various means – oral, literary, technical, creative and artistic.

Ethical: making decisions on the basis of a properly developed personal view of what is right in any given situation building on the foundations of Biblical principles.

Visionary: creative, having a broad world-view, able to think about the implications of decisions, able to plan and carry through actions

Individuals: people who develop their own personality, goals and priorities; not clones

Full potential: able to aspire after and reach personal targets, using the full range of talent, skill and aptitude, inspired by a staff that supports new as well as traditional interests and means of growth.

In life: what you are comes before what you do; a well-lived life has great value.

In leadership: able to harness a range of skills and abilities to produce positive change, whether in business, entrepreneurial activities, the arts, education, health care, community development and all kinds of other worthwhile endeavours both now and throughout their lives.