ST STITHIANS COLLEGE

THE SAINTS CHARTER

(12 July 2007)

This Charter sets out the purpose and the core principles which are fundamental to St Stithians College as a Methodist school and *"A South African School Making a World of Difference".*

PURPOSE AND CORE PRINCIPLES

Honour God

St Stithians is a Church school and learners are encouraged to appreciate and develop their own faith and pursue a meaningful relationship with the living Lord. In short, we "Honour God".

Honour Self

The College offers a complete education. We develop the spiritual, social, emotional, intellectual, cultural and physical potential of the student by developing life skills and fostering the growth of the individual and the community through the academic, extramural and reflective life of the school curriculum. The unique richness of every member of the school community is valued and respected, irrespective of class, gender, race or religion. We allow differences to be recognised within a spirit of humility and acceptance, without compromising the integrity of the College. In short, we "Honour Self".

Honour Others

In educating our learners, we expect our graduates to play a significant role in their communities and in South Africa. The privilege of an education at St Stithians College comes with the responsibility of giving back to the community in service to the country.

St Stithians participates in community service encouraging learners to show compassion and empathy for others, including their peers, and to be responsible citizens and decision makers. It aims to inculcate an ethic of service, reinforcing the principle that "*from those to whom much has been given, much can be expected*" (Matthew 25:14-30). We inculcate a spirit of sharing in our learners. In short, we "Honour Others".

Approach to Education

St Stithians strives for excellence in all spheres and a continuation of its fine reputation as a leading South African school at the cutting-edge of innovation and educational issues.

St Stithians encourages learners to do their personal best, fostering a healthy sense of competition while at the same time teaching learners to work collaboratively. It encourages and teaches a sense of self-confidence, self-discipline, humility and respect avoiding any form of arrogance.

St Stithians recognises the need for both educators and parents to provide educational resources and support. All our learners develop a love for learning, through effective communication, respect and courtesy, which forms the basis for the partnership between parents, learners, teachers, management and support staff.

A South African School Making a World of Difference

The College has a responsibility to share its experience with other South Africans in the same way it benefits from the knowledge and research undertaken by others in the field of education. This enables the College to contribute to raising the general standards of learning in the country and therefore to indeed, "*Make a World of Difference*".

As a South African School, the College is committed to upholding the principles underlying the Constitution of the country and, in particular, the Bill of Rights.

COMMITMENT

To give effect to this purpose and core principles all staff, learners and parents are committed to realising the ideals of this Charter. They are committed to abide by and support the policies as adopted or amended by the Council and Management of the College. The Charter does not replace but is the foundation of the Codes of Conduct and policies in place in the schools on the campus.

Council is committed to:

- ensuring that the College adheres to this Charter in all its activities;
- ensuring that the College operates within the confines of the Trust Deed, the Constitution of the College and any policies adopted for the effective administration of the College;
- ensuring that the governance of the College is in accordance with modern corporate governance principles, any relevant statutes and the Constitution of the country.

Management and all staff of the College are committed to:

- developing in each individual learner a sound spiritual and moral attitude, based on the Gospel values of love, justice, compassion, respect, care, mercy and understanding;
- developing a curriculum of excellence;
- setting the highest expectations of work and behaviour for ourselves and all learners;
- protecting the dignity of all who are a part of our community;
- creating a loving, caring and stimulating environment for all;
- fostering open communication with parents as the basis for close co-operation;
- fostering strong communication between the schools on campus;
- conducting ourselves in accordance with our Code of Professional Conduct.

Parents/Guardians/Care-givers are committed to:

- upholding the values enshrined in this Charter, recognising the need to role model these values and behaviours to our children;
- helping and encouraging our children to develop a sense of responsibility and accountability and strong spiritual and moral values;
- taking an active and positive interest in our children's work and progress as the primary educators. In this regard to attend functions affecting his / her overall development;
- supporting the values, authority and discipline of the College;
- supporting the teachers and management of the College;
- ensuring that our children abide by the Code of Conduct;
- reading, understanding and accepting the relevant policy documents that pertain to us;
- displaying loyalty to the College by raising matters in a positive and constructive manner, and by utilising the correct channels of communication;
- respecting and showing courtesy to College staff, other parents, and learners.

Learners are committed to:

- behaving and acting in a manner which reflects the spirit of the Charter both at school and after hours;
- respecting and being courteous and co-operative with teachers, other College staff, parents, other learners and visitors, at all times;
- being punctual in all they undertake;
- participating, as fully as possible, in all activities (academic, sporting, cultural, community, spiritual, etc);
- aiming to achieve the highest standard they are capable of in all they undertake;
- completing all homework and assignments with pride and to the best of their ability;
- undertaking to wear the correct school uniform and appear smart at all times. In so doing, they will be loyal to, and proud of, their College;
- respecting the feelings and property of other people, both in the College and in the community;
- being appreciative of the resources of the College and taking responsibility for them by showing due care for the buildings, furniture, equipment and grounds;
- undertaking to support and abide by the Code of Conduct that applies to them.

Adopted by Council: 16 March 2006
Amendments discussed by Governance committee: 11 June 2007
Amendments proposed to Council: 12 July 2007
Amendment approved by Council: 12 July 2007