



EPWORTH

Preparatory School for Boys and Girls
High School for Girls

DRAFT STATEMENT OF TRANSFORMATION AND DIVERSITY INTENT AND PURPOSE

Preamble

Epworth School is proud to be an independent South African school with a history of providing quality education despite the context of our often troubled and challenging socio-political history. Founded in 1898 by two courageous pioneering women who fostered the Wesley brothers' belief in the critical role of education in addressing social ill, between 1919 and 1981 the School was managed by the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of South Africa, before being transferred to the Epworth Trust in 1982. In 1978, after more than one attempt during the decade to open our gates to pupils of all races, Epworth welcomed nine non-white pupils spread between the Prep School and the High School. Another transformative milestone was 1980, when Epworth School boasted the highest number of pupils of races other than White of all the (then) Natal private schools. Our Christian faith remains central to our School but it does not preclude our embracing a pupil body drawn from diverse faiths.

Epworth School consists of a co-educational preparatory school from Grades RRR to 7 and a girls-only high school from Grades 8 to 12. Situated on 15 hectares of land on the outskirts of Pietermaritzburg, the capital of KwaZulu-Natal, Epworth School is an independent, not-for-profit institution.

We are guided both by our faith and the Preamble to the Constitution of South Africa and thus we, as citizens of South Africa,

- *Recognise the injustices of our past;*
- *Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;*
- *Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; (and)*
- *Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, **united in our diversity.***

We will continue to

- *Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;*
- *Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;*
- *Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; (and)*
- *Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.*

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 2, verse 12

Our Epworth School Mission, Motto and Vision inform our Statement of Transformation and Diversity Intent and Purpose.

Epworth School’s Mission:

Our Methodist ethos, diversity, innovative and relevant education promote the development of character and enable individuals to realise their full potential in an ever-changing world. This is provided in a nurturing and enriching environment where our values are fostered and honoured.

Epworth School’s Motto:

Fida Human Fortis: Faith Compassion Courage

Epworth School’s Vision:

To free the potential in individuals to become relevant, resilient and ethical leaders who contribute to our ever-changing world.

Epworth’s School Statement of Purpose:

Together ...

- We keep faith in God, ourselves and others.
- We serve all with compassion and respect.
- We take the courageous option.
- We nurture hope.
- Our integrity is above reproach.
- Our lifestyle cares for, and sustains, the social and natural environment.
- Our commitment to Epworth is fuelled by fellowship and passion.
- We pursue excellence through self-discipline.

Epworth School is committed to making a positive contribution to the transformation and development, through inclusivity and diversity, of our South African society. We will continue to exemplify *ubuntu*; to personify the notion of humanity being developed by our understanding that the individual is humanised through a *compassionate* community driven by *faith* and *courage*.