



RADLEY

Aims and Ethos

October 2025

The Aims and Ethos of Radley

At Radley, we seek to enable, guide and inspire boys to become outstanding young men.

We are a full-boarding single sex-environment, in beautiful rural surroundings with stunning facilities, four miles from the university city of Oxford: the perfect setting in which to provide the very best education. Each boy is encouraged, challenged and expected to become a self-aware, confident, caring and independent young man such that when he leaves, he will be ready for the world beyond school: able to engage, lead, and shape his own future successfully.

A Radley education is built on:

1. Values

Chapel is at the heart of the school with the College community meeting daily together for worship. A Christian ethos underpins what we are and do, emphasising humility, kindness, responsibility and duty.

2. Aspiration

We unashamedly pursue excellence in all things. Boys are encouraged to better themselves, to be ambitious, to achieve their best: in and beyond the classroom, in mind, body and spirit.

3. Community

We are a close-knit boarding community: everyone is expected to care for everyone else. We place great store by the strength of relationships: between boys and between boys and all staff.

4. Learning

Learning for its own sake is central. We encourage intellectual curiosity and provide countless opportunities to explore, develop and discuss ideas.

5. Independence

We are one community but we celebrate and encourage individuality. Each boy will be treated as an individual and develop as one. Diversity of interest, personality, background, and beliefs matter.

6. Leadership

Boys should develop as leaders. Some will lead with natural authority, others more quietly. All should have the confidence to be themselves, to stand up for what is right and set an example to others.

7. Partnership

We are not a school in isolation. We seek partnerships at home and abroad to share good practice, broaden horizons and develop a balanced and global perspective for all boys.

8. Challenge

Boys must develop resilience and character: they must be stretched intellectually and physically, taking on new things, being exposed to risk and learning to fail as well as succeed with grace and fortitude.

9. Culture

Aesthetic appreciation is a fundamental part of a rounded education. Boys interact with art, literature, music and drama as part of their daily lives, learning to understand and engage with each.

10. Innovation

The school is committed to delivering education in the most effective way, harnessing the benefits of technology and research. We seek to lead the way in how and what we teach.

11. Experience

Breadth of experience is crucial. Within and beyond the College, boys are able to involve themselves in a huge array of activity; whilst each will find their niche and specialism, all will equally benefit from breadth.

12. Enjoyment

Above all things, education is to be enjoyed. Not an indulgent and unambitious enjoyment but rather a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction that we have stretched ourselves and achieved success together.

A Radley education is for life. We measure success not just by outcomes at the age of eighteen but, more importantly, by what Radleians go on to do and to be.