



FRANCIS HOLLAND
SLOANE SQUARE

Our **Philosophy** and **Values**

Looking Ahead to our 150th Anniversary



Introduction

As Francis Holland Sloane Square continues its long tradition of educating girls, we find ourselves not only reflecting on our rich history, but also looking ahead with clarity and ambition towards our 150th anniversary.

For generations, the school has shaped character, cultivated curiosity, and opened doors for young women. Now, we look forward with purpose, ensuring that everything we do in the coming years contributes to a bold and meaningful vision for the school at 150 and beyond. It is both a joy and a privilege to lead this community at such a pivotal moment.

In the coming years, we will continue to build on the strengths that define us: our values, our relationships, and our excellence in teaching, while deepening ambition, courage, and opportunity for every girl. Our core values of love, courage, and hope will remain at the heart of this journey, guiding our growth and ensuring we stay rooted in what matters most.

Looking ahead, our philosophy is shaped by three pillars that will guide every aspect of school life: **BELONG, BELIEVE, BECOME**. Underpinning all of this is an unwavering commitment to **EXCELLENCE**.

Alexandra Haydon

Alexandra Haydon, Head

Belonging means knowing that you matter, and strengthening this sense of belonging for every girl remains at the heart of our vision for the future.

Belonging begins the moment a girl walks through our doors and feels that this is a place where she is seen, known and valued; a place she can truly call home. When girls feel this deeply, they grow in confidence - confident to laugh at themselves, to think beyond themselves, and to engage with the world with empathy, purpose and self-belief.

At Francis Holland, our pastoral approach is not about lowering expectations or offering ruinous sympathy. Belonging is built through strong, respectful relationships that develop genuine resilience - the kind that comes from within and allows each girl to say, "I know who I am, and I know what I can do."

As we move forward, we will continue to strengthen this through explicit and purposeful teaching and intentional spaces, building on developments such as the *Collaboration Space*, the *Hive* and *Cornerstone*. Yet we know that belonging is shaped most powerfully in the everyday: the teacher who notices, the warm welcome back, the quiet word of encouragement.



These moments remain the heartbeat of our school.

Looking ahead, we are committed to going further. There is always more work to do, more voices to hear, more moments to do better and get right. Through our bursary programme, we are committed to widening access so that talent, not circumstance, shapes opportunity. True belonging means creating a community where all girls flourish, contribute and feel entirely at home.



BELONG

BELIEVE



The second pillar is **Believe** - and, most importantly, self-belief. One of our alumnae, Diana, a former bursary student, scientist and recently named on the Forbes *30 Under 30* list, said: *"FHS believed in me before I believed in myself."* This sentiment lies at the heart of what we do and continues to shape how we strengthen our practice.

Self-belief is cultivated first and foremost in the classroom, already a defining strength of our school. I am deeply passionate about pedagogy and curriculum design, the focus of my academic research, and this will remain central to our work. We will continue to shape learning environments that are intellectually stimulating, psychologically safe and rich in questions: classrooms where girls feel safe to be seen, to try, to speak up and to get things wrong, because getting things wrong is the beginning of getting things right.

At Francis Holland, accountability, independence and curiosity are actively nurtured, replacing perfectionism with progress, and self-doubt with self-compassion and courage.

Our curriculum development is equally deliberate. We prioritise strong foundations: critical analysis, creative thinking, intelligent questioning and deep understanding, before introducing advanced digital tools. Our aim is for girls to understand before they automate, to evaluate before they accept, and to improve on what technology produces rather than be led by it. Intellectual curiosity is not an add-on; it sits at the heart of our teaching. We will continue to deepen metacognitive habits so that every girl understands not just what she learns, but how she learns best, enabling thoughtful ownership, clarity and confident self-reflection.

Beyond academic rigour, we equip girls with the skills the future demands: interdisciplinary thinking, adaptability, creativity, confident communication, digital literacy, entrepreneurship, collaboration and empathy. Our co-curricular programme is already a significant strength of the school, and in the years ahead we will strengthen it further - expanding opportunities, deepening participation and ensuring that every girl not only discovers her strengths, but develops the confidence to use them with purpose.



Becoming is the natural outcome of belonging and believing - the point at which a girl moves forward with confidence, clarity and a strong sense of who she is.

When girls feel secure in themselves and supported by those around them, they are able to look ahead with ambition and purpose. It is from this foundation that they begin to shape their own path, guided not by expectation, but by conviction.

Our commitment is both simple and profound: that every girl leaves Francis Holland with the confidence, courage and character to shape her own future.

We want her to pursue her aspirations wholeheartedly, to lead with integrity, to find joy in learning and to live a life of purpose. Becoming is not about creating a single version of success. It is about giving each girl the freedom, skills and support to define success for herself - to be bold in who she chooses to be and ambitious in the future she wants to create.

As we continue to develop this pillar, we will ensure that every aspect of school life, academic, co-curricular and pastoral, works together to prepare girls not just for their next steps, but for a lifetime of growth, contribution and fulfilment.



BECOME

EXCELLENCE



Underpinning all three pillars is an unwavering commitment to **excellence**. Ambition demands high standards, and our girls deserve nothing less.

Excellence begins with people. We are committed to recruiting, developing and retaining outstanding subject specialists so that our teachers continue to combine expertise with care, inspiring girls to think deeply, bravely and independently. This is strengthened by a highly qualified leadership team, united in its commitment to both pedagogical excellence and community wellbeing.

Through our bursary programme, we are equally committed to widening access so that talent, not circumstance, shapes opportunity.

Excellence is also shaped by environment. Our plans to **unlock the full potential** of our site at Sloane Square are rooted in the same themes outlined here. They reflect our ambition to create spaces that elevate learning, support wellbeing and inspire every girl to aim higher.



Looking Ahead

As we move towards our 150th anniversary, we do so with gratitude for our heritage and excitement for our future. Our direction is clear: a school where every girl is supported by exceptional teaching and an environment designed to lift ambition and achievement.

The next chapter will be one of continued excellence, amplified ambition and lasting impact: **a place where every girl belongs, believes, dares to be bold, and is inspired to dream fiercely.**





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