The school's **mission** is to open doors, hearts and minds through the power of an outstanding education. Our **aims** for our pupils are:

- To develop a love of learning and curiosity about the world, and to fulfil their academic potential.
- To be confident in who they are, to find their voice and pursue their interests.
- To be kind and respectful of others at school and in the world beyond, and appreciative of difference.
- To develop the perspective to live fulfilled lives in the world beyond School where they can make their presence felt as a force for good.

Our **vision** is to differentiate SHHS as an exceptional and distinctive girls' school by:

1. **Offering** a joyful, broad and intellectual education with curiosity, creativity, collaboration and conversation at its very heart.
2. **Developing** in our pupils the aptitudes and attitudes, the resilience and perspectives to thrive in their lives at school and beyond.
3. **Fostering** a kind and open-minded community of individuals with a strong sense of self and respect for others.

Our **ethos**

At South Hampstead we believe that education should be a truly enriching experience, a gift for life. We want our pupils to develop some sense of the sheer size of the world and all there is to learn about it – past, present and future. We believe in the power of knowledge as a tool for thought and creative endeavour, and a source of lifelong inspiration and curiosity.

In and out of the classroom, we want our pupils to find their voice, spoken and written. We want them to explore the big questions, the searching questions, the difficult questions. Debate, discussion and oracy lie at the very heart of a South Hampstead education. We aim to create abundant opportunities for creative output and to encourage pupils to take intellectual risks in the context of a very supportive school environment. In our teaching, we seek to model a culture of lifelong learning by putting research and reflection at the heart of our professional development. Our staff are central to our success and we aim to create a culture where they can thrive through the sharing of ideas, aims and best practice.

We aim to provide outstanding opportunities in our curricular and co-curricular programme and to open our pupils' minds to a myriad of possibilities. We believe that involvement in school life is a key factor in our pupils' happiness. But it's not just about taking part; we aim to instil in our pupils a sense of purpose, pride and determination and the belief that they can compete on the biggest of stages. We are proud of the fact that there is no typical South Hampstead student and that they bring an incredible range of interests, talents and passions to life at school.

We aim to create a warm, welcoming and deeply supportive community where girls can be themselves and make friends for life. We want them to play their part in our community and in the community beyond South Hampstead. We believe we have a critical role to play in preparing our students to live and thrive, work and lead in tomorrow's world; we are proud to be a school which shares this broader mission with the goals of the GDST, which is dedicated to championing girls and women.

Reviewed by A Paul, July 2026

Review date: July 2027