

Kin Shin Kai ethos



Kin Shin Kai (balanced spirit group) and its accompanying Kin Shin Kai system of martial arts and self defense were formed in 1997 (and have been further developed ever since) by George Ciechanowicz as an alternative to standard/commercial martial arts styles/dojos.

The ethos of Kin Shin Kai thus is guided by the following general principles:

Firstly, technically and ethically our system is squarely based on (but not limited to) the teachings of the late master Tadahiko Ohtsuka (1940-2012) and his traditionally based Gojukensha martial art.

Ohtsuka o-sensei is missed every day but his example and influence live on including in Kin Shin Kai.

We always put the students and what they are taught, and how they are taught, as our primary concern.

We focus on students as individuals and try and maximise each student's potential without favouring those who are more talented or more likely to bring publicity and attention to the dojos.

As part of this we promote an inclusive and tolerant environment, and a flexible approach in what we expect from each student that matches their strengths, weaknesses and impediments.

We're not just about teaching physical martial arts but also about educating for life including good values, confident and assertive but safe behaviours, and also gently guiding students on an individual basis to become self aware of, and moderate/minimise less desirable behaviours. At the same time we don't believe we are all knowing and are always willing to learn from others including our own students.

We focus on helping students become the best at what they can do rather than focusing and criticising them for what they can't. We are there to help students continually improve and never to just put them down.

Whilst we operate in a businesslike way and certainly look to have enough students to make our activities viable both financially and structurally, we are not about focusing on "the business" and maximising revenue, profits and student numbers.

As part of maintaining our quality delivery to students we are careful with who we choose to teach our classes. We look for our instructors to have a good mix of skills including experience, emotional intelligence, their own mastery of the skills, their ability to pass on skills to a wide range of other students, and their patience and respect for wide range of learning abilities and personality styles and physical attributes. We also look for them to be passionate both about the martial arts and teaching.

Whilst we have no problems in advancing the profile and attributes of the Kin Shin Kai chief instructor and other instructors in order to raise the profile of the group and also to let people know clearly what we are on about, in contrast to many other styles and dojos **we are not about the success, fame, and legend of the chief instructor or other instructors.**

Although often extremely well hidden behind a veil of assumed "humility", this is actually a major preoccupation and goal of a number of instructors and it is our experience and observation that there occurs an inverse relationship to focusing on the students and their learning in these kinds of dojos. **The students suffer...**

It was in fact after having been part of such a group for a large number of years that it was decided by George Ciechanowicz to form the Kin Shin Kai as an alternative to such self-important behaviours and to get back to the true traditional martial arts values.

Lastly, we will always respect, appreciate, be grateful to and publicly acknowledge those who have come before us. They created, developed and/or passed on the tradition, knowledge and values upon which our present practise rests and we can only repay them by honouring them and continuing their good work.

"Gambatte Kudasai!" (Always try your best please!)

George Ciechanowicz, 3rd of December 2017

If after reading this you have an interest in knowing more or perhaps are interested in joining our Kin Shin Kai group, please feel welcome to enquire ☺