



# Our Church School Statement: Mission, Vision and Values

We, the Governing Body of St. Bartholomew's C of E Primary School, continuing the long heritage of our church school, endorse the following mission statement, vision, core values and aim as the basis for putting our Christian ethos into practice, for the good of our pupils, their families and our community.

## **Mission Statement**

All those working for and with St. Bartholomew's C of E Primary School aim to offer one of the richest, most engaging experiences for our pupils' formative years, developing moral character whilst achieving academic excellence, underpinned by clear Christian values.

Every child will be given the opportunity to develop into a mature, confident and considerate person within a safe, disciplined and stimulating environment. They will be encouraged to be critical thinkers, citizens who pursue truth, are respectful of others and tolerant of difference, ready to live peaceful, law-abiding lives, full of purpose, in a free and democratic society.

## **Vision**

We uphold that all people, created in God's image, are of equal value and worth and therefore must be treated with respect and given the greatest opportunity to flourish as human beings in God's world. We should all therefore aim to reflect His character as best we can.

## **Core Values**

Based on a clear Christian understanding of the world in which we live, we uphold: truth, forgiveness, compassion, thankfulness, humility, determination, excellence and service.

Each of these virtues runs throughout our curriculum and the whole of school life. These are just some of the virtues we see in Jesus, as recorded in the Bible. He is our role model, the perfect example of how people should be.

Based on these values, we aim to provide outstanding education which encourages all of our pupils to achieve their personal best, make wise decisions, appreciate the wonder of all of creation and look to the needs of others, wherever they may be.

## **Aim**

Our aim is to provide outstanding education, underpinned by distinctively Christian values, developing our pupils academically, morally and spiritually, within and as part of the wider community.

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## Our children's rewording of our values

- TRUTH: "Be honest, always telling the truth and being open about our mistakes and achievements."
- FORGIVENESS: "Be ready to forgive each other quickly."
- COMPASSION: "Be kind and caring to others, being friendly and not letting people feel judged, lonely or left out."
- THANKFULNESS: "Take pride in all we do, being thankful to God for all we have."
- HUMILITY: "Be polite and respectful, having good manners and understanding the views and feelings of others."
- DETERMINATION: "Always keep going, even when things are difficult."
- EXCELLENCE: "Work hard and enthusiastically, praising what is good."
- SERVICE: "Help out when we can, working as a team by sharing and trusting each other."

## Our Instrument of Government states:

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils."

*The historic "belief and practice" of the Church of England can be found in its Canons, with its teachings summarised in the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Ordinal (Canon A5). The "Common Worship" series also aims to provide a wide variety of prayers and liturgical resources for use within a common framework and common structures.*

## Our revised Trust Deed (5<sup>th</sup> September 2014, clause 3.1) states:

Alongside St. Stephen's RC Primary, our school should "preserve and develop the respective religious character of each school in accordance with the principles and purposes of the respective Church."

## The Equality Act 2010

It is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of: age; being or becoming a transsexual person; being married or in a civil partnership; being pregnant or having a child; disability; race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin; religion, belief or lack of religion/belief; sex; sexual orientation. These are protected characteristics. According to Schedule 11, exceptions exist for schools of a religious character that may include the content of the curriculum, collective worship and admissions.

***"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:1-4)***

## References and Theological Background:

### Key Biblical References and Theological Background

Why do we view each other is such high regard, without discrimination?

*"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:27*

*"What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet," Psalm 8:4-6*

What is our motivation for service?

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people." Mark 10:45*

*Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second most important commandment is this: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment more important than these two." Mark 12:30-31*

How does God act towards us?

*"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift - not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do." Ephesians 2:4-10*

Why do we care so much about character?

*"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

*"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Romans 5:1-5*

## References and Theological Background:

### Why does community and meeting together matter?

*Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Genesis 2:18*

*"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25*

### Why is pastoral care so important?

*"So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:7-11*

### Why do we aim to be servant-hearted?

*"If I (Jesus) then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you." John 13:14-15*

*"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2*

### Why do we value such character traits?

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23*

*"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4:8*

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." James 1:5*

*And he (Jesus) said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation." Luke 11:2-4*