

St. Mary's C of E Primary School



SCHOOL VISION 2023-26

**(Incorporating Mission Statement, Christian Values,
Vision and Strategy)**

**Ratified by the Governing Body: Summer 2023
Next Review: Summer 2026**

Introduction

1. Our Purpose or Mission is the unchanging nature of how we approach our role and task. PURPOSE seeks to answer the question: *What are we about?*

2. Our Values express the distinctively Christian ways in which we go about things in thought, word and deed. VALUES seek to answer the question: *How do we do things around here?*

3. Our Vision describes how we are going to achieve our overarching purpose in the next 3 years. Other documentation such as pupil performance and absence targets define specific annual goals. VISION seeks to answer the question: *Where are we going?*

4. Our Strategy is outlined in various school documents: Annual School Development Plan; Leaders' Development Plan; the School Self-Evaluation Form; Staff Weekly Meetings and INSET programme; Management Plan and policies, etc. (see Single Central Record Document). STRATEGY seeks to answer the question: *How will we get there?*

1) Purpose/Mission Statement: *What are we about?*

St. Mary's biblical vision is based on John 15 vs 12: 'Love each other as I have loved you.'

We believe in 'Educating for Life' by encouraging the whole development of each and every child as a person made in God's image, unique, special and deeply loved by their Maker.

Key elements in achieving this are:

1. Seeking to be a School where children can build a personal relationship with Christ and where worship, prayer and the Bible are central to everything we do. Where the gospel of Christ is intrinsically linked with the daily life of the School.
2. Enabling each child to learn and develop skills and knowledge, across the curriculum, centred on the Christian faith, in order to achieve their full potential and encourage enthusiasm for life-long learning.
3. Employing high quality teachers who are committed to excellence and are in full sympathy with the Christian faith.
4. Ensuring excellence in governance, leadership and management of the School and its resources.
5. Ensuring high quality learning support and administrative staff who are committed to excellence and are in full sympathy with the Christian faith.
6. Maintaining and developing our buildings and resources to the highest possible standard.
7. Maintaining close links with the parish church, its staff and the congregation.
8. Developing excellence in parental and local community involvement.

2) Values: *How do we do things?*

St Mary's is a school with a living connection to the local faith and wider community. As a church school, we have always sought to express our Christian ethos in practical ways that make a difference.

Although there is a diversity of belief and emphasis within our existing school community, we do ask that everyone at St Mary's understands our values and endeavours to join us in living them out, whatever their particular task or role.

By values we mean descriptions of the way in which we hope every member of the school, adults and children, will conduct themselves through life. In short, they answer the question: how do we do things round here?

Our values are: **Wisdom, Forgiveness, Caring, Respect, Faith, Truth, Equality**

These values are intended to include every interaction in school life, not just something adults do to children. Everyone has a role in modelling, showing and sharing them. They also form the way in which we hope all our policies and procedures will be applied to situations as they arise. Furthermore, we aim to ensure that our values impact our wider community and beyond.

3) St Mary's School Vision Statement 2020-2023: *Where are we going?*

Our vision is for St Mary's to be a place of transforming growth, where Christian education inspires children and adults for achievement in the whole of life.

Our vision contains 6 major thrusts and is for everyone at St Mary's CofE Primary School. Person-by-person, we will grow through:

1. Developing Resources

We want to see the potential of our existing resources of people, buildings, equipment and finance maximised for the benefit of the school and wider community so that they:

- recognise that teaching and administration are vocational where practitioners teach, administer, develop and enrich pupils with Christian Love and Grace.
- enable all staff to grow and develop skills through established effective developed senior and middle leadership with capacity for further growth and development of new members of the team through a directing, coaching, mentoring and training model;
- extend development of school training and outreach programmes: as Schools Direct hub (with Goldsmiths, University of London), involvement in Teach First, involvement in Waltham Forest 'Primary Challenge' network, the Institute of Education;
- develop business opportunities to enhance, enrich and provide additional educational, vocational, parental and community opportunities: private Nursery, wrap-around care, holiday play schemes, Primary Challenge (local authority group to support local schools), Saturday Plus, venue hire and parties;
- review and develop opportunities of new facilities to serve and enrich the local community including swimming pool, forest school, alpacas, art spaces, our new sensory playground and community events. This is to bring about a love for our environment and celebrate God's gift of life.
- continue to offer high quality breakfast and afterschool club provision for pupils with our extended care offer now running from 7.45am until 6.30pm every weekday.
- manage, develop and establish prudent financial plans to complete and develop new sites and buildings to meet statutory curriculum and vision requirements.

2. Living Values

We want to see our Christian values owned, understood and lived out with integrity by all members of our growing school community, so they are visible in behaviour and relationships, policy and paperwork. We will:

- introduce Christian values to new members of the school community to love God, love themselves, love colleagues, love pupils and the community that we serve and revisit with existing members, to ensure understanding, ownership and action by all, within a biblical basis;
- strengthen mental health and wellbeing within our school through the model of developing ways of engaging all members of the school community in the values, especially hard to reach groups. One way in which we support mental health and well-being as a Church school, is through spirituality and prayer;
- develop our Christian values and demonstrate responsibility for God's Creation within an outdoor learning environment e.g. displaying these around the playground, speech bubbles asking children poignant questions about their use of the values: how do we show these during break times, during intra- and inter-school sport activities; how do we show our Respect and Love for our environment through an understanding of God's gift of nature;
- develop our values and vision within a Multi-Academy Trust context to inspire children and adults to achieve during their life.

3. Celebrating Achievement

We want to see all our pupils thrive as successful learners through high quality teaching and a rich and supportive learning environment. We will:

- extend parental involvement in their child(ren)'s education by offering regular opportunities to become involved in lessons, based on the Reception 'challenge time' model, and support via a range of parental support materials and guidance;
- extend our range of extra-curricular experiences/visits based around distinctiveness linked to British values and heritage – including subsidies/payment for Pupil Premium/disadvantaged children as per Romans 2 vs11: 'For God shows no partiality.'
- Through the grace of God, enhance children's tenacity and love of learning by becoming a 'growth mindset' school, to adapt our approach to teaching of the National Curriculum and social, moral, cultural and spiritual education linked to PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and RE (Religious Education) Attainment Target 2: 'learning from religion'. In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be transformed through dedication, ambition and hard work as per Philippians 3 vs 14: 'I can do all things through him who strengthens me' - brains and talent are just the starting point;

4. Enriching Communities

We want to promote and develop community cohesion by creating rich and sustainable links across the community which promote harmonious understanding. We will:

- enhance children's view of the wider world as agents of change and courageous advocates by investigating, choosing (via pupil voice/School Council) and supporting a range of local, regional, national and global charities – timetable and plan (including special days/assemblies);
- enhance the role of parents/carers and the Parent Council, providing regular opportunities to become involved in lessons and church events, based on the Reception 'challenge time' model, parent consultation evenings, parent open mornings and Church celebrations;
- promote our school within the local community by opening up school facilities for

individuals, local groups and families during evenings and weekends;

- work in continuous close partnership with our church and church community to support and add further value to local groups and projects;
- adapt and respond positively to the changing needs of our new children and parents.

5. Encouraging Creativity

We want to see a school community that is enthused by and engaged in the shared ownership of a creative agenda through and civic discipleship. We will:

- review our curriculum to create and embed creative links between all areas of learning including the core text to enhance enjoyment of reading;
- review the range of ways of managing time of delivery of lessons-different models of teaching and different modes of teaching e.g. question and respond learning; the power of visual and audio.
- develop independent learning and reflection, via pupil-led mini topics, homework projects, including through the employment of Philosophy for Children techniques, Godly Play strategies and our shared prayer spaces;
- use pupil voice effectively to impact positively on a curriculum and environment that maximises opportunities for engagement, enjoyment and spiritual growth;
- strive to become a STEM school (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) where pupils and staff embrace and explore new technologies and sciences to form a deeper understanding of God's Creation.
- create an ambitious programme of experiential learning, via enhanced/integrated educational visits, immersion and pre-topic investigation lessons.

6. Optimising Learning

We want to develop independent, thinking children all of whom achieve educationally and are emotionally equipped to make good life choices. We will:

- encourage pupils to approach new learning opportunities and challenges with the courage and faithfulness demonstrated by Jesus;
- become a 'growth mindset' school to develop pupils' love of learning and tenacity, adapting our approach to teaching of the National Curriculum and social, moral, cultural and spiritual education linked to PSHE (including RSE) and RE as per Proverbs 22 vs 6: 'Train up a child as he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.'
- rooted in the confidence and knowledge that we are loved and accepted by God, enhance pupils' day-to-day modelling and understanding of our Christian vision and values through values and spirituality days, introduced by our parish clergy, and having each year group become a 'value champion' by working on a specific value (in addition to having a clear overview).
- seek to further enhance the impact of the consideration of our Christian vision and

values. In partnership with our church, create further opportunities for pupils to gain a deeper understanding of and responsibility for the consequences of their actions and a greater appreciation of how actively demonstrating the Christian vision and values improves and augments the Christian ethos and learning environment of our school. We aim to achieve this through acts of collective worship, RE lessons and opportunities to visit our church for spiritual reflection;

- empower pupils to continue to develop problem solving and decision making skills through working together on enterprising ventures for the benefit of the whole school community;
- establish a set of non-negotiable expectations, including in provision for SEND and EAL pupils, and embed this via our Home School Agreement, Acceptable Use agreement, teacher training and parent workshops.

4) Strategy: *How will we get there?*

Our Strategy is outlined in various school documents: Annual School Development Plan; Leaders' Development Plan; the School Self-Evaluation Form; Staff Weekly Meetings and INSET programme; Management Plan and policies, etc (see Single Central Record Document).