



*Learning and growing together in faith, hope and love.*

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## **Our Vision**

As a school we are: “Learning and growing together in faith, hope and love.”

The apostle Paul writes about these three core Christian virtues in his letter to the church at Corinth:

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)

These three virtues are not only important in Christian discipleship; they are also really important to us at the school. They have strong links to our past, as well as acting as a reminder of what is most important to us in the present, and forming a basis for how we want to help the children in our care to learn and grow in the future. They connect to the wider Church of England vision for education through church schools.

Here's what our vision means to us, and how it links to those wider Church of England priorities:

### **“*Learning and growing together...*”**

This part of our vision statement reminds us that good education requires **wisdom, knowledge and skills**. It is also a process of growth: a gradual and organic process which is unique to each person. Just as importantly this learning and growth takes place *together*. We see ourselves as a family, where every person is valued, cared for and given the opportunity to learn and grow. The staff are also committed to learning and growing, and the governors support this through building a culture of growth and learning at every level of school life.

### **“*...in faith...*”**

We have always been a Church of England school, and we have always sought to embody Christian values at the heart of everything we do. These values lead us to serve and listen to our local community, appreciating the challenges that some families face. We have strong links to our local church – Christ Church – and we seek to ensure that everyone is supported in their spiritual development. We also believe it is important to educate children

about the diversity of faith and belief, and to encourage understanding and positive attitudes towards those from different cultures and backgrounds. This is all part of showing **dignity and respect**.

### ***“...hope...”***

We want our children to know that they have been created with so many wonderful gifts and abilities, and that God has a purpose for their lives. We want the children at our school to dream big dreams for themselves and for the world around them. In the context of Newark - which has challenges surrounding social mobility - we seek to raise awareness of a whole world full of opportunities and new experiences, and we aim to ensure that all children can look to the future with **hope and aspiration**. We work with families to ensure that they share these dreams and work alongside us in equipping the children with the skills, confidence, resilience and education they need to make them happen. We encourage our children to take responsibility for the world around them, and to act as courageous advocates for those less fortunate than themselves, as well as for wider local and global concerns.

### ***“...and love.”***

At the heart of everything we do is love. We want our love for each other to be a reflection of God's love for every one of us, and we trust that we will teach the children in our care the importance of **community and living well together**. We want the way we model love and care for one another to be evident to all our children, so they share in our attitudes, motivations and behaviour. We will model forgiveness and reconciliation. We will seek to reach out to families with an attitude of love and understanding. Whenever difficult decisions need to be made we will be motivated by love and care for our children and staff.

## **Our Vision and Collective Worship**

The three virtues of faith, hope and love are each a focus for the three school terms:

- **In Autumn we focus on Love**, covering topics such as friendship, forgiveness, family, community and charity. This helps us to ensure all children know they are loved and cared for, and it helps us to establish a culture of mutual care and respect across the school.
- **In Spring we focus on Faith**, covering some of the key stories and events from the life of Jesus. We think about what the Bible teaches us about life and faith, and we think about what we ourselves believe.
- **In Summer we focus on Hope**, as we think about the world of work, lifelong learning and other opportunities. We also look at the ways we can change the world for the better, and the changes that will happen as the school year comes to an end.

## **Our Vision and Religious Education**

Given our strong Christian roots, and our links with our local church we are keen to ensure that Religious Education is much more than just a lesson. However our Religious Education lessons offer a greater opportunity to explore the themes of faith, hope and love in more depth as we seek to ensure our pupils are aware of what Christianity teaches as well as understanding and respecting other faiths.