

# OUR VISION AND VALUES



St Michael's Church of  
England Primary School

# Church of England Vision for Education

Our vision for education is deeply Christian, with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart.

In line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, our vision is for the common good of the whole community.



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# BDMAT Vision

## Our vision

- 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good' is inspired, as we are within BDMAT by scripture, in particular John 10:10 where Jesus declares "*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full*". The words of Jesus act as a guide for our vision.



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## The peculiar circumstances in which we stand

St. Michael's Church of England school is continuing on a courageous journey of recovery and restoration after a prolonged season of turbulence in leadership. In another new leadership season, with renewed energy and hope, it is timely to revisit the Christian vision which underpins the life, work and worship of the school.

As we write the next chapter of our school's story, guided and inspired by the biblical principles and theological ideas of God's story, it is wise to give fresh expression to our vision statement so that it has theological, biblical and strategic clarity for everyone in our community.



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# OUR VISION SUMMARY



Courage to Flourish in  
the Love of God

## A theological response to our context

Acknowledging God as creator of the world and everything in it, we treasure the Old Testament image of **everyone being unique** - fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God.

We claim the universal promise of Jesus - who offers **life in all its fullness** for everyone, no exceptions. We recognise our responsibility to enable a lived coherence between these theological ideas and the experiences, opportunities and achievements of everyone - adults and children.

We are inspired by God's charge to Joshua to **be courageous in the face of uncertainty and difficulty** and to be confident that God journeys with us in these.

In our school community we recognise the circumstances and challenges of the individuals and families who make up our school family. We courageously embrace these and commit to **transforming lives, and learning**, so that **each person can be the full version of themselves**, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, as God intended.



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## We will work to to achieve this by:

- Creating an aspirational culture in which everyone matters and has the courage to speak up and act for themselves, others and the world
- Offering an aspirational curriculum, rich in opportunities and experiences, that will inspire each person to grow socially, emotionally, spiritually and intellectually, finding and developing individual gifts and talents
- Developing teaching and learning strategies of the highest quality that cultivate transferable learning dispositions. Developing resilience and a growth mindset so that pupils learn without limit, reaching for at least age-related achievement
- Treasuring and celebrating diversity in our community and the wider world and challenging stereotypical expectations
- Embracing everyone in God's love, and through worship, inspiring everyone to have the courage to share this by living our biblically based Christian values in our daily lives - in our attitudes, relationships, behaviour, choices and decisions.



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'I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10)

[Therefore],

'Be strong and courageous... the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'  
(Joshua 1:9)

These biblical texts underpin our vision summary, 'Courage to flourish in the love of God'.

Jesus' words from the New Testament describe his desire for everyone to be a full and flourishing version of their created selves, experiencing life in all its vibrant fullness, individually and in community.

Our ambition is for everyone to encounter this fullness through the life and work of the school, whatever their background, beliefs or circumstances.

God's words to Joshua from the Old Testament illustrate how life, and learning, can be challenging, bringing setbacks and discouragement. These words inspire us to keep on going in those circumstances, confident that God watches over us and walks beside us.

The joining of these biblical texts is meaningful for the particular circumstances of our school community. It gives coherence to our aspirational vision that will grow courage and resilience as enablers of 'life in all its fullness' for everyone.



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## Courage at St. Michael's might include:

- Trying new things
- Doing things differently
- Striving for improvement
- Recognising and learning from our mistakes
- Persevering through challenges
- Standing up for what is right and challenge injustice
- Following God's ways
- Seeking guidance and accepting advice/help
- Changing course



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## Courage at St. Michael's might include:

- Having mutual respect and respecting the opinions of others
- Difficult conversations
- Disagreeing well
- Using resources wisely
- Making courageous choices or decisions
- Making honest judgements
- Resisting distractions from our vision
- Courage to make the right choices
- Being resilient



To realise our vision, we will ensure that all children have opportunities ...

- To make a difference
- To have fun
- To explore the world beyond the immediate area
- To be challenged
- To aspire to achieve well
- To make mistakes and learn from others in a safe environment
- To perform
- To question- and be curious
- To create and perform



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- To forgive and be forgiven
- To laugh and to have fun
- To have and to follow a dream
- To celebrate and be celebrated
- To be loved and to love
- To wonder and worship
- To listen and be heard
- To be respectful and be respected
- To learn
- To be valued



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# Our Core Christian Values



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We aim to achieve our ambitions through all working to a set of MAT wide values (BDMAT Values)

Hope

Honesty

Helpfulness

Integrity

Dignity and  
compassion

Respect

Wisdom



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# Our Christian Values

Our core Christian values have been chosen so that living them in a real way, in the life and work of our school and community, helps everyone to encounter 'life in all its fullness'.

In collective worship, stories from the big story of the bible, help us to understand why the values are important to us and how they can inspire the way we live our lives.



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Philippians 4:13

'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.'



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John 1:5

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'



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1 Corinthians 13:4-8

'Love is patient and kind... it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.'

1 John 1:9

'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us'



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## Proverbs 3:5-6

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'



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Hebrews 10:24

'Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.'



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1 Thessalonians 5:18

'Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for  
you'



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Our school logo



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# Understanding the logo

The logo is a visual representation of the Christian ethos and theology in which, and through which we want to enable everyone - adults and children, to live and work with courage, so that everyone can flourish.



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# Hands



The hands represent:

Care

Support

Protection

Compassion

We aim for these to be the guaranteed daily experience of everyone in our school, as we travel together on a courageous journey of flourishing as unique individuals.



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# Cross



At the centre is the cross.  
It represents the Christian foundation of the school which embraces everyone whatever their beliefs, background or circumstances.



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# Circle

The circle can be seen to represent:

- The all-encompassing love of God
- Community
- Togetherness
- Inclusivity
- A sense of being global citizens who stand up for what is right and just



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# Flourishing



As the cross rises from the hand, we are reminded of our vision for everyone to be gently enabled to become the person God made them to be, overcoming obstacles, challenges and setbacks with courage and confidence.



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# Wings



The wings that connect with our patronal saint, the Archangel Michael, represent our vision for everyone to flourish; having spiritual and intellectual wings that enable them to take off into the next stages of their life and learning, with courage and confidence to be world changers.



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# Our curriculum



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## Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum has been designed to enable us to realise our vision for every child to have the 'Courage to flourish in the love of God', spiritually, emotionally and intellectually.

The content, enriching opportunities, and pedagogy of our curriculum are designed to develop spiritual and intellectual wings that will enable our pupils to take off and soar into the next stages of their life and learning, having courage and confidence to be world changers. With God at the heart of everything we do, these will be delivered in the context of our Christian vision and values, and our three key learning behaviours - ready, respectful and responsible.

Spiritual development, equality, diversity, and justice are central themes in our curriculum so that every individual, fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God, can:

- Flourish as the person God made them to be
- Develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to be successful
- Have the courage to overcome difficulties and setbacks
- Live a life that courageously respects and cherishes diversity and difference
- Live and learn well in community
- Learn to be courageous advocates of justice and agents of change
- Be inspired by the stories and traditions of faith and belief



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## Definition of Spirituality

Our school definition of spirituality reflects our belief that each person was uniquely designed by God, with an inner spark that shapes our lives, beliefs, choices and relationships. We each have a unique way of being in the world; for some, but not all, this is inspired by religious faith or belief. Spirituality is expressed in our relating to oneself, others, the natural world and the transcendent.

In our school we recognise that the ups and downs of life cause chinks and cracks that continually transform us; challenging, changing and growing us into a flourishing version of our unique selves.

We talk about these as the WOWS, OWS and NOWS of life.



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# Wows

Cracks may be caused when something so good and breath-taking happens that the pot expands and cracks - the wows of life.

These are the awe and wonder moments. The times when you want to breathe in and capture the feeling, holding on to it as long  
as you can.



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# OWS

Cracks may happen when something challenging happens and threatens the comfort of everyday - the ows of life.

These are the blows life can bring. They can knock the breath out of you. Personal, local, global...



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# NOWS

Cracks can also happen in the stillness and ordinariness of everyday - the nows of life. A moment of stillness or reflection, a pause or prayer can create a crack in the normal, physical everyday.

These are the every day, ordinary times; being able to be present, in the moment, being open and receptive to life and how it changes us or enriches our flourishing.



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# The Golden Glue

In these special moments there is a spiritual opportunity. Kintsugi, the Japanese art of mending broken ceramics with golden joinery or glue, creates something that has been broken into something differently beautiful and even more valuable.

Using this metaphor, the wows, ows and nows of life offer the possibility of becoming cracks that are filled with gold, adding significance and value to life. In all these moments, there is an opportunity to wonder how God might be involved in making sense of these experiences.

Christians might express this through the bible verse Isaiah 64: 8, 'God you are our Father. We're the clay and you're our potter. All of us are what you made us'. (The Message)



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# SCHOOL PRAYER

*God of Love*

*Bless our school and make us strong and  
courageous in everything that we do.*

*Help us to flourish in the love of God.*

*Amen*