



St Michael's

C.E. Primary School

Theological Statement

St. Michael's Church of England Primary School is guided by our powerful vision that inspires and motivates our entire school community:

'Courage to Flourish in the Love of God'

Our vision guides everything we do and is underpinned by two key biblical passages:

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

[Therefore]

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.' (Joshua 1:9)

These scriptures inspire us to create an environment where every member of our school community can experience life in all its fullness, as Jesus promised.

John 10:10: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." Our interpretation of this passage is that Jesus is employing us all to enjoy our lives and be accepting of the fact that there will be lows. We live this out through:

- An expectation that we deliver a truly broad and balanced curriculum.
- Excellent pastoral support for our pupils / students as well as our staff, with systems to support them when they are going through times of difficulty or hardship.
- We are compassionate to those suffering and we seek to help and support them the best that we can.

Joshua 1:9: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

- We believe that each child and adult is fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God, with unique gifts and potential to be nurtured.
- Just as God charged Joshua to be courageous in the face of uncertainty, we encourage our school community to face life's challenges with determination and resilience.




At St. Michael's CE Primary School, we draw inspiration from the Archangel St. Michael in his battle against darkness. St. Michael embodies the values of courage and hope that are central to the ethos of our school. His unwavering courage and victory over darkness symbolises hope, reminding us that light can prevail over darkness even in the toughest times. Just as he fearlessly confronted challenges, we are inspired to navigate obstacles with resilience and faith, trusting in God's guidance. As we reflect on the example set by St. Michael, we strive to cultivate a culture of courage in all that we do. In our school we support one

another, lift each other up and face challenges with determination. Together, we embody the 'Courage to Flourish in the Love of God', just as St. Michael did in his divine mission.

Our school vision aligns seamlessly with both the Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust and Church of England visions. We collectively aim to provide high-quality education within a Christian framework that transforms lives through learning, enabling each person to become the full version of themselves - spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually - as God intended. We demonstrate our dedication to offering a Christian-based education that develops the whole person. By living out our vision in every aspect of school life, we strive to honour God and serve our families. Embracing challenges with courage and faith, we aim to help everyone experience the fullness of life. We believe that through these actions, we create an environment where true excellence can thrive, and where each member of our school community can reach their full potential as God intended.

We empower all individuals to embrace and embody our Christian values, enabling them to flourish both academically and personally. We provide them with the knowledge, skills, and values to make positive contributions to others and the wider world. We acknowledge that not all who attend or work for St. Michaels CE Primary School will be Christian. The school will never seek to push these beliefs on to others. As a school, we believe that the most important thing we can do for God is to deliver a high-quality education rooted in the values of Christianity (these can be interpreted as either religious or moral values).

As a school, we focus on a different value each half term and encourage the school community to reflect on how the value and biblical text can support us in how we live our lives.

<u>Value</u>	<u>Biblical texts that underpin our values</u>
	<p>Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.'</p>
	<p>John 1:5 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'</p>
	<p>1 Corinthians 13:4-8 'Love is patient and kind... it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.'</p> <p>1 John 1:9 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us'</p>

	<p>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.’</p>
	<p>Hebrews 10:24 ‘Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.’</p>
	<p>1 Thessalonians 5:18 ‘Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you’</p>

In our school, we take inspiration not only from biblical scripture but also the following documents which direct the way we work:

Valuing All God’s Children (2019): https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/valuing-all-gods-children-july-2019_0.pdf This text inspires us to support those children from different families and those of all sexuality / genders.

Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good (2016): https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-10/1687943692_2016-church-of-england-vision-for-education-web-final.pdf This inspiring text employs us to deliver an education rooted in Christian values, no matter what the beliefs of those receiving the education.

Our Hope for a Flourishing Schools System: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good (2023): <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/our-hope-for-a-flourishing-schools-system-report.pdf> This 2023 publication builds on the 2016 document and places Church Schools at the heart of the education ecosystem with a responsibility to support the network of schools and communities around them.