

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST C OF E (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL FINDON



## Our Distinctive Christian Vision and Values

"Setting the highest goals of excellence and taking pride in both our learning and in the achievement, together we learn to value each other's strengths and celebrate each other's differences. As a church school, we learn about God and grow together with Jesus."

"Let us learn together what is good" Job Ch. 34

Updated January 2020

## Distinctive Christian Character

The following document sets out our distinctive Christian Vision and Values. The Vision Statement sets out what we believe our school should be like and how we aim to treat each other. This is based on different parts of the bible and linked to various extracts including stories which highlight a range of Christian values. It also references The Church of England document "Vision for Education" 2016 which drives the SIAMs Inspection schedule 2019. This document has at its heart the desire for us to experience "Life in all its fullness" which within education highlights four key elements central elements of Wisdom, Hope, Community and Respect. These are expanded upon in p.7 "Vision in Education" 2016 and explained in more depth in later in this document.

In summary they are: -

1. Wisdom, knowledge and skills **"Let us learn together what is good" Job ch.34**

This involves gaining knowledge and developing which skills which enable children to successfully acquire deeper understanding across the broadest range of areas incorporating academic and personal development in the full range of subjects.

2. Hope and Aspiration **"Life in all its fullness" John ch. 10**

This involves giving children the confidence to approach the future positively and involves enabling them to cope with the experiences whether they are good or bad and then continuing to move forward, particularly those that are disadvantaged.

3. Community and Living well together **"I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven times" Matthew Ch.18**

This involves being committed to developing strong relationships with each other and within our communities. This is also reflected in schools collaborating with each other.

4. Respect and Dignity **"Love your neighbour as yourself" Luke Ch.10**

This is about the respect of the value of each person, which impacts on safeguarding and provision for SEND children and the way in which we treat each other.

In our school we want these elements of Wisdom, Hope, Respect and Community to be evident in all that we do. They are developed through the exploring a range of values such as perseverance, friendship and compassion throughout the life of the school and it drives all that we do.

These elements and their related values are woven into the fabric of school life through RE lessons, Collective Worship, displays (including Reflective Areas in each classroom), the

quality of relationships between everyone in the school community, our rich and varied curriculum including Open Futures and Elli as well as developing pupil's spiritual development.

All of these give our school its ethos and distinct Christian character which is summarised in this brief extract from Job Ch. 34 v 4

**"Let us learn together what is good."**

## Vision Overview Grid

The principle behind this grid is to show that our School Vision statement is rooted in biblical teaching and linked to the distinctive Christian values. These are then the focus in Collective Worship which in turn enables us to show the fruits of the spirit throughout the life of the school. In appendix 1 the biblical references and stories supporting these elements and values are explained in more detail.

"Setting the **highest goals** of excellence and taking **pride** in both our learning and in the achievement, **together we learn** to **value each other's** strengths and support each other's **differences**. As a church school, we learn about God and **grow together with Jesus**."

### "Let us learn together what is good" Job Ch. 34

School Vision	Biblical Reference (taught in RE and covered in Collective Worship)	Christian Elements and values (Planned for in Collective Worship and displayed in our Reflective areas)	Fruits of the Spirit
<b>Together we learn</b>	Job Ch.34vs 4 "Learn together what is good" Luke Ch.15 vs 3-5 "Good Shepherd"	<b>Wisdom</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Trust</i></li> <li>• <i>Perseverance</i></li> <li>• <i>Peace</i></li> </ul>	Gentleness and Peace
<b>Value each other</b>	Matthew Ch.18 vs 21-22 "70X7" Romans Ch.14 vs 13 "Don't judge others"	<b>Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Forgiveness</i></li> <li>• <i>Truthfulness</i></li> </ul>	Faithfulness and patience
<b>Respect differences</b>	Matthew Ch7 vs 12 "The Golden Rule" Luke Ch.19 vs 1-10 "Zacchaeus"	<b>Respect</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Responsibility</i></li> <li>• <i>Compassion</i></li> </ul>	Self-control
<b>Highest Goals</b>	Luke Ch.10 vs 25-37 "Good Samaritan" Matthew Ch.25 vs 14-20 "Talents"	<b>Hope</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Justice</i></li> <li>• <i>Generosity</i></li> </ul>	Kindness Goodness
<b>Pride</b>	Galatians Ch.6 vs 4 "Pride in achievement"	<b>Wisdom</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Humility</i></li> <li>• <i>Courage</i></li> </ul>	Joy
<b>Growing together</b>	1 Corinthians Ch.12 vs 12-27 "We are one body" John ch.10 vs 7- 10 " life in all its fullness"	<b>Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Friendship</i></li> <li>• <i>Thankfulness</i></li> </ul>	Love

Although these elements and values are most explicit in the planning and delivery of collective worship our vision is the driving force shaping our policies and practice. Our vision impacts on all areas of school life for example: -

## Wisdom                    **"Let us learn together what is good" Job ch.34**

The explanation of Wisdom in "Vision for Education" (2016) states...

"The biblical wisdom tradition, in Job, Proverbs and the teaching of Jesus, also saw the natural world as a place of wonder, exploration reflection and self-discovery. The pedagogical potential of study in and of the natural world should not be squeezed out through timetabling pressures. In an age of multiple ecological challenges and increasing disconnection between many people and first hand experiences of nature, it is more important than ever."

*This is reflected in our strong commitment to outdoor learning and experiences through Open Futures, the use of the Spiritual Garden and Nature trail.*

## Hope                    **"Life in all its fullness" John ch. 10**

The explanation of Hope in "Vision for Education" (2016) states ...

"The worth of each student impels us to work to fulfil their God-given potential, whatever the religious or other tradition with which they or their family identify, and with special consideration given to those who are disadvantaged. Each is to be understood as respectfully and deeply as possible; to be encouraged to stretch themselves spiritually, morally, intellectually, imaginatively and actively, and to aspire to be well educated."

*This drives us to have in place strong pastoral support when a child needs it and to maintain an optimistic approach to what each child can achieve whatever their starting point, whilst giving support to those that need it.*

## Community            **"I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven times" Matthew Ch.18**

The explanation of Community in "Vision for Education" (2016) states ...

"Each school is to be a hospitable community that seeks to embody an ethos of living well together. Here the flourishing of the pupils goes along with the flourishing of the teachers and other staff."

*We work to ensure that this school community has a "strong family feel", which means that no one slips through the net, whether pupil or adult. We are on a journey together and so the school ensures that all are included and that all are given many chances to succeed.*

## Respect and Dignity "Love your neighbour as yourself" Luke Ch.10

The explanation of Dignity and Respect in "Vision for Education" (2016) states ...

"Jesus embodies the love and compassion of God for each person, and Christians are called to follow him in this, and to join with others in demonstrating it. He paid special attention to the disadvantaged, excluded, despised and feared."

*This is reflected in our strong commitment to children being treated equitably and for them to treat each other well. This is reflected in our safeguarding, behaviour and SEN policies and procedures.*

# APPENDIX 1

## More Detailed explanation of Biblical References

School Vision Statement with Values highlighted linked to biblical references

"Setting the **highest goals** of excellence and taking **pride** in both our learning and in the achievement, **together we learn** to **value each other's** strengths and support each other's **differences**. As a church school, we learn about God and **grow together with Jesus.**"

**"Let us learn together what is good" Job ch.34**

School Council version

"Try your best, no matter how you feel. With Jesus as our guide, we learn and play together"

**Below the vision is broken down and the biblical references are highlighted.**

"together we learn"

Job Ch.34 vs 4 "Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good."

and

Luke Ch.15 vs 3-5 "Then Jesus told them this parable: 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'"

"value each other"

Matthew Ch.18 vs 21-22 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven times.'

and

Romans Ch14 vs 13 Therefore let us stop passing judgement on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling-block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

### "respect differences"

Matthew Ch.7 vs 12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

and

Luke Chapter 19 vs 1-10 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today. "So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

### "highest goals"

Luke Ch.10 vs 25-37 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

'What is written in the Law?' he replied. 'How do you read it?'

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbour as yourself."

'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live. 'But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?'



In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have."

'Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'

The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Matthew Ch.25 vs 14-27 'Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

'After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.  
<sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more."

'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

'The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more."

'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

'Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

'His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest."

## "pride"

Galatians Ch.6 vs 4-5 Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load.

## "grow together with Jesus"

John Ch. 10 vs 7-10 So Jesus said again, "I am telling you the truth: I am the gate for the sheep. All others who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever comes in by me will be saved; they will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life-life in all its fullness.

1 Corinthians Ch. 12 vs 12-27 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. And so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Now if the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.