Bathwick St. Mary Church School

Our Mission **Our Values** **Our Vision**



The Church of England vision for education is for all children to, 'Have life, life in all its fullness.' [John 10:10]. Bathwick St. Mary Church School's ethos is built upon our Christian Values, which support our children, staff and school community to experience and enjoy life in all its fullness. Bathwick St. Mary Church School has long held core inclusive Christian values at the heart of what we do. Starting in early 2018, Governors, staff, the School Council and our children, refined, refreshed and developed a fresh expression of our school mission statement and our core Christian Values.



Our Mission

Our mission explains what we are doing and why what we're doing matters and how we enable all our children to flourish:

Bathwick is an inclusive and joyful school that provides a stimulating environment in which we celebrate and nurture every child. Through an inspiring education rooted in core Christian values, we challenge and support our children to reach their full potential and become compassionate, courageous individuals. Our creative and rich curriculum and committed staff promote a lifelong love of learning, encouraging children to become caring and confident advocates for others and our world.



Our Christian Values

Values help define our character and ethos and by doing so affect our behaviour, beliefs and actions. Bathwick St. Mary Church School's Christian Values are represented by six words that give purpose, direction and a firm grounding in all we seek to do.



- *We **love** others, ourselves and God*
- *We **respect** others and the world around us*
- *We **forgive** others and ourselves*
- *We **persevere** and aspire to be our best using our unique gifts*
- *We seek **fairness** in everything*
- *We celebrate the gift of **joy** in each day*

Our six Christian Values are physically represented in each class and in the hall where a beautiful piece of art has been created involving each child from Year 1 to Year 6. The artwork is on permanent display in the hall for all our school community to share, enjoy and regularly revisit and refer to through the school day, week, term and year.



Our Vision

A vision is an aspiration for the future. Bathwick St. Mary Church School's vision is built upon our Christian Values and complements and enhances our Mission. We aim to nurture every child to be the best they can be and by each member of our community striving to do their best, we all will be:

'Pursuing good, achieving excellence'



The foundation for our Vision: *'Pursuing good, achieving excellence'*

Our school's vision has a clear Christian theological underpinning, based on the Biblical narrative underpinning our Christian Values.

What does it mean to be 'Pursuing good, achieving excellence'?

As a school community, we all seek to achieve excellence. As a child, this may be in different curricular and extra-curricular areas, for example, sport, the creative arts, academically or as a true friend, demonstrating Christian Values in every sphere of their lives. As an adult, working or volunteering at the school seeking to do our very best in our professional lives, reflecting how we conduct ourselves within school as well as outside of the working environment. To that end, we each pursue doing 'good' to those around us through upholding our school's Christian Values and holding others in high esteem and serving each other.

How is the vision underpinned by a Christian theological narrative?

Our Christian Values underpin and infuse all we do at Bathwick St. Mary Church School and this includes our school's vision statement. We believe where these Christian Values are strived for and upheld, we will (both individually and corporately) 'achieve excellence' as we have 'pursued good' i.e. we have pursued and lived our Christian Values.

Furthermore, our vision is underpinned in its entirety by the parable of the Good Samaritan, found in chapter 10 of the gospel of Luke. Modelling ourselves both on the Samaritan and equally through the eyes of the robbed man, we will demonstrate: Christian ***love*** in action; ***respect*** for those around us; ***forgiveness*** towards those who have wronged us; ***perseverance*** in the face of adversity; ***fairness*** in the way we treat others; and ***joyfulness*** as we care for and are cared by others.

The Samaritan clearly 'achieved excellence through the pursuit of good'. We seek to 'Go and do likewise.' (Luke 10:37). To that end, we annually have had a long held tradition of awarding to one Year Six child the 'Good Samaritan' cup at the Leavers' Service. Both the several nominees and the one child chosen are particularly celebrated for modelling the nature of that very first 'Good Samaritan'.

The history of the cup is closely linked to the school. Frank Baker was the father of a member of staff, Sue Creeper, during the early 2000s. Mr. Baker was awarded the cup during his lifetime for his extensive work supporting a number of charities and as such being a Good Samaritan to others in need. After his death in 2002, his daughter donated the cup to the school in his honour, requesting that the legacy of both the cup and the Good Samaritan award be lived on in a new generation.

The foundation for our Values

Our school's Christian Values are each firmly rooted in clear Christian theology and narrative. These values underpin all we seek to do as a school and as such they provide leaders at all levels a clear strategic and operational direction for the school. Whilst there are many potential Biblical underpinnings for each value the following best reflect a holistic Christian narrative; the first underpinning for each value is the 'core' theological narrative.

- *We **love** others, ourselves and God*
    - **John 13:34: Jesus gave his disciples the following command: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'**
    - Matthew 22:36-40: When Jesus was tested about the greatest commandment, he replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart…and love your neighbour as yourself'.
    - Psalm 23: The Psalm, 'The Lord is my shepherd', demonstrates Christian love in action.
    - John 10:1-17: Jesus demonstrates the deepest expression of love in the 'Good Shepherd' narrative.

- *We **respect** others and the world around us*
    - **Luke 10:25-37: In the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus tells those listening to, 'Go and do likewise [show mercy]'**
    - John 13:1-20: After Jesus had washed his disciples' feet, he challenged them to wash one another's feet – i.e. serve one another.
    - Genesis 2:15: The Lord God put us in the world to take care of it.
    - Matthew 22:15-22: After sharing the parable of the wedding banquet, Jesus commanded his followers to give to all whatever they were owed.

- *We **forgive** others and ourselves*
    - **Luke 23:39-43: Jesus demonstrated true forgiveness by forgiving the thief on the cross (who could offer Jesus nothing in return) and also forgiving those that had crucified him.**
    - Luke 15:11: In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus demonstrates the forgiving nature of the father towards the son. Similar themes are in Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coins (Luke 15).
    - Matthew 7:12: When teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus summarises the Old Testament Law and the Prophets with these words, 'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you'.
    - Matthew 6:14-15: 'Forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us'.
    - John 21:15-17: Peter is restored by Jesus following his earlier betrayal.

- *We **persevere** and aspire to be our best using our unique gifts*
    - **2 Thessalonians 3:13: The writer of the second letter to the Thessalonians (most scholars agree this to be the apostle Paul) challenges us to, 'Never tire of doing good'.**
    - Luke 21:19: When talking about the end times, Jesus says, 'Stand firm, and you will win life'.
    - Matthew 25:14/Luke 19:11: The parable of the talents challenges us to use the gifts we are given.
    - Luke 21:1-4: The parable of the widow's mite illustrates giving sacrificially.

- *We seek **fairness** in everything*
    - **Matthew 25:31-45: In the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus tells his followers, 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'**
    - Proverbs 14:31: Those who are kind to the needy honour God.

- *We celebrate the gift of **joy** in each day*
    - **Psalm 118:24: This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
    - Philippians 4:4: 'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!'
    - 1 Peter 1:8-9: Peter writes that faith fills us with an inexpressible and glorious joy.
    - John 16:16-24: Jesus explains all sorrow will turn to joy.