

# WLHS Vision 2023

## Presentation to Governors



caring, sharing and always learning



## Strand 1 Vision & Leadership

How well the school has developed and implemented an inclusive and distinctive Christian vision, monitoring its impact to ensure the school's original foundation is maintained.

How well the school lives out that Christian vision in relationships and partnerships with key stakeholders.

- **Caring, sharing, and always learning.**
- *‘Our love should not be just words and talk. It must be true love which shows itself in action.’  
1 John 3:18*
- Love is the thread that is woven through all our aims and values
- **Caring**
- **Friendship** - supporting and respecting each other to learn and grow. Valuing themselves and others with humility, compassion and forgiveness.
- **Sharing**
- **Service** - providing opportunities to develop children’s spirituality and morality by promoting Christian and British Values within our school family and wider community.
- **Learning**
- **Wisdom and perseverance** – enabling enquiring minds for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences throughout life, by learning, reflecting and persevering in a stimulating and creative environment.

- Our Vision was created by a collaboration of ideas from the pupils, staff and governors. It reflects how we all feel about being a part of this school community and what we expect from it and ourselves.
- We want every child and adult to live life in all its fullness, however that looks for them, and to be part of something bigger, where we can work together for the common good. To recognise and value the contribution everyone makes to the quality of our lives and be thankful for what we can achieve together.
- We want our school community to be inclusive in every sense and for everyone to be able to share their gifts and benefit from the gifts of others. Our aim is to support everyone to be the best they can be, while also equipping them to face challenges and difficulties with the support of their faith and their community.
- We encourage everyone to be reflective and self-evaluate; to understand the impact of our actions and how we can fulfil our potential as individuals and as a school, making the best use of the gifts we have.



## Strand 2 Wisdom, knowledge, skills

How well the school's staff and leaders apply their Christian vision wisely and sensitively to ensure that the curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities meet the learning and spiritual needs of all learner

- A defining strength of our school is its size, which means that we have excellent staff to pupil ratios, and everyone knows each other very well. This means that not only the teaching staff, but all staff, know the children and their needs really well, and use this knowledge to support the children in many ways. A safe, stable, caring environment is the best platform for children to grow and learn from. The social and emotional needs of the school family are of paramount importance and are put before anything else.
- We recognise that wisdom, skills and knowledge come in many forms, and that our differences can be our strengths. We encourage the school family to recognise our collective wisdom and that through collaboration we can achieve so much more than as individuals. We provide a range of teaching methods and opportunities to access the requirements of the National Curriculum, to allow all learners to access and implement their learning –according to their individual capabilities. As well as structured support from adults, we also encourage the children to support each other, by sharing their knowledge and wisdom, and combining their skills. The extra-curricular opportunities we provide aim to complement and broaden the range of experiences the children have within the school.



## Strand 3 Character development: Hope, aspiration, and courageous advocacy.

How well the school's Christian vision supports the character and moral development of all pupils.

How well the school's Christian vision inspires the whole school community to engage in social action and to be courageous advocates for change in their local, national, and global communities.

- We aim to create a supportive, encouraging and nurturing environment for everyone in school, to allow them to flourish and grow, as pupils and staff, but also as members of society. We provide stimulation and challenge appropriate to each individual's needs, to inspire them to use the gifts and talents they have, to be the best they can be. We facilitate situations which have elements of risk and challenge, to encourage develop their skills and to take responsibility for their own actions, and how they respond to the actions of others. Adults encourage the children to resolve difficult situations between themselves, to understand the viewpoint of others, and to understand the impact these situations can have on the whole school community. We offer a holistic education for our children, addressing their social, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs in everything that we do, which is possible due to the positive relationships within the school community.
- The adults are positive role models for the children, conducting themselves with honesty and integrity, while aiming to show our Christian values in action – especially those that may be more difficult for the children to recognise, such as dignity and justice.
- By giving the children and adults in school the opportunity to experience new situations, meet and work with new people, and face new challenges, we hope that we are preparing them for the next stage of their life's journey, and that they leave us better equipped and courageous enough to embrace that.





## Strand 4 Community & living well together

How well the school's Christian vision promotes social and cultural development through the practice of forgiveness and reconciliation that encourages good mental health and enables all to flourish and live well together.

- Our school is often described as a family – made up of people in different roles, bringing different strengths, but sharing values and common goals. We encourage children from all key stages to work, play and worship together; through whole school sessions of learning and worship, shared lunch and play times, paired and guided reading, extra-curricular activities and trips. We come together as a school, at least once a day for an act of collective worship, which allows us all to reflect on the day and give thanks for what the day has given us.
- We have strong links with the wider community, which allows us all to develop our understanding of others and their needs and beliefs. We attend acts of collective worship in the community, to broaden our exposure to acts of faith and Christianity in action, and to deepen our understanding of what being a Christian means to others.
- Giving the children the opportunity to put together Harvest parcels and deliver them to members of our community, allows the children to see their place in society and understand the impact that small acts of kindness can have. It helps them to appreciate that there are always people less fortunate than themselves, near and far, and for them to realise that they can make a difference. Similar gestures including singing Christmas carols and reading to residents in a local residential home have also encouraged children to understand how we can live well together, with tolerance and respect.



## Strand 5 Dignity & Respect

How well the school's Christian vision creates an environment that embraces difference where all pupils, whatever their background or ability, can flourish because all are treated with dignity and respect.

- We encourage everyone in our school community to treat themselves, others and the school environment with respect. To live out the caring and sharing elements of our school motto in all that they do. It is important to us that differences are celebrated within school and recognised as strengths that make us unique. We are fortunate that our school is recognised as having this ethos in the wider community, and families choose to come to us because of it.
- We encourage our children and adults to act respectfully and with dignity in all that they do – both in school and at home - by using our Christian values as a framework for expected positive behaviours.
- We aim to acknowledge and consider the needs and beliefs of all people, regardless of age, gender, faith or ethnicity, throughout our curriculum and conduct our teaching and learning in an environment which is free from discrimination on any grounds. Our children feel safe and confident to participate in all learning and activities without fear of being bullied or ridiculed.



## Strand 6 The impact of collective worship

The ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision.

- Collective Worship takes many forms in our school but always allows a time and space in which all staff and pupils can come together to worship, reflect and celebrate.
- We have decided as a school to hold our Collective Worship at the end of the day, as this gives us time for reflection – on what we have achieved and what opportunities the day has offered us. It is also a time to recognise the things that might not have gone so well, challenges we have faced and decisions which we might make differently if we were to make them again. To see that a new day lies ahead, where it is possible to start again and try to learn from our mistakes.
- We use Picture News weekly as we find this a useful platform to raise and discuss current issues, while addressing the role and relevance of Christian and British Values. Giving context to the impact of our thoughts and actions which the children can relate to.
- We have a weekly visit from our local vicar, Reverend Angela, who will often teach us about a Bible story and how the lesson or message from that story can convey the teachings of Jesus and how that message is relevant to our own lives.
- Children’s Worship allows the children to give their interpretation of a particular Christian Value or an event in the Christian calendar. We encourage them to try a variety of methods of presentation and participation, which makes the worship inclusive to all.
- Our Celebration Worship held at the end of the week, is an opportunity to share all that the week has offered us and how we have all managed to live out our vision and values in our achievements. We hope that celebrating a range of achievements, connected to our Christian Values will inspire the whole school community to flourish.



## Strand 7 The effectiveness of religious education

How effective the school is in ensuring pupils flourish through the provision of high-quality religious education reflecting the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.

How effective the school is in ensuring that religious education expresses the school's Christian vision.

- Our RE curriculum is challenging, accurate and diverse for the mixed age classes in our school. Delivered by experienced teachers in a coherent manner using a range of methods.
- Our teaching aims to be informative and thought-provoking, allowing all children to learn about and understand the key aspects of Christianity and other religions.
- Differentiated teaching and activities allow all pupils with a range of needs to access the learning.
- We aim to introduce our pupils to a range of diversity, which is not ordinarily found in our community, through effective teaching of worldviews and religions.