

aSt Francis CE VA Primary Mission Statement and supporting structure.

Central to all at St Francis CE VA School is its mission statement

**....where God's gifts begin their journey to gain, attain and grow into lifelong learners.**

What does this statement mean?

<p><b>God's gifts</b> This part of the statement reflects the Christian teaching that all are created in the image of God</p> <p>and that children are valued by Him</p> <p>and that all are unique and individually valued.</p>	<p>Genesis 1 v27 "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."</p> <p>Mark 9 v37 "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."</p> <p>Psalms 139 v13-16 "13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."</p>
<p><b>Begin</b>-that the school has the privilege of influencing our children's development during their early formative years.</p>	<p>Proverbs 22 v 66, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."</p>
<p><b>Journey</b> That life is a journey is reflected in several verse - though these refer to a spiritual journey</p>	<p>Hebrews 12 v1 &amp; 2, "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of faith."</p> <p>Philippians 3 v14 "So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above."</p>
<p><b>Gain</b> is used to reflect spiritual development referred to as wisdom in the school prayer</p>	<p>James 1 v5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."</p> <p>St Francis "True knowledge is knowledge of God".</p>
<p><b>Attain</b> refers to academic learning and increasing in knowledge and skills</p>	<p>Proverbs 19 v20, "Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise."</p> <p>Psalms 119 v66, "Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands."</p>
<p><b>Grow</b> refers to developing as a person – emotionally etc. developing a good character, becoming themselves. For those of faith responding to God's direction.</p>	<p>Colossians 1 v10, "Live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."</p> <p>Titus 2 v7&amp;8, "In everything set them an example by doing what is good. ....and they will have nothing bad to say about us."</p>
<p><b>Lifelong learners.</b> Refers back to the beginning of the statement- <b>Begin their journey</b> - the intention is that pupils should have a thirst to continue what is begun at St Francis and be prepared for the next stages of life.</p>	<p>St Francis, "Christians should have as their priority to pursue other aspects of study, both sacred and secular."</p> <p>Proverbs 9 v9, "Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning."</p> <p>Jeremiah 17 v7-8, "But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."</p>

The mission statement....where God's gifts begin their journey to gain, attain and grow into lifelong learners, is supported by a verse about Jesus

***"Jesus grew, became wiser and gained favour from God and from those around." Luke 2 v52.***

It is a brief verse that pupils should be able to remember and identify Jesus as an example to aspire to.

Luke Chapter 2 v52 describes a young adolescent Jesus. A similar phrase is used about John the Baptist and the prophet Samuel too, (Luke 1 v18 & 1 Samuel 2:26).

The verse concludes the account of the young Jesus amazing the Jewish teachers at the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus is at the heart of a story of a young person opening the eyes of adults. The verse is used as an example to aspire to. It describes Jesus' positive progress in all aspects of life and thus links with the mission statement.

The verse does not demand or assume personal belief and therefore it should be acceptable to all. It holds Jesus up as a model. Nevertheless it refers to Jesus, the person at the centre of the Christian faith, the foundation of St Francis School. It is not to press that faith onto any child, but the intention is to link the mission statement to the Christian story. That is what it means to be "distinctively Christian." And Jesus is at the heart of that story.

The mission statement's intent is to recognise that each child is special and treasured. That life and learning are an ongoing journey and that there is always more to know. Gain, attain and grow illustrate different facets of the journey, gaining spiritually, attaining academically and growing in character.

In this verse Luke, whilst not denying Jesus' divinity, is illustrating that Jesus, in his early life, was "normal" in the sense that he experienced everything the rest of us do as we grow up. We learn and grow physically and, hopefully, spiritually. Jesus did too. The writer of Hebrews reflected on it this way, **"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin"** (Hebrews 4 v15 ESV). It is interesting that similar things were said of John the Baptist: ***"And the child grew and became strong in spirit"*** (Luke 1:80 ESV) and Samuel, ***"Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and also with man"*** (1 Samuel 2 v26 ESV).

The Mission statement is also supported through the following of the Liturgical Calendar; the sharing of Bible stories; festivals and events from other faiths; national and international cultural events.

The school's 3 core principles **Kindness, Courage and Character** continue this support.

#### **Kindness –**

This is a principle that runs through Christian teaching. It is especially illustrated in the concepts of love and of grace.

**Ephesians 4 v32**, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

This is the focus in terms 1&2

It is developed through the events of the Liturgical calendar , and cultural events of this time of year; Harvest; All Saints Day; Advent; Christmas; St Francis day; Remembrance Day; Children in Need; It is also explored through the values of: **friendship; generosity; compassion; thankfulness.**

#### **Courage –**

This is also a theme that runs through Christian teaching perhaps clearly illustrated through the death of Jesus.

**Deuteronomy 31 v6**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

This is the focus for terms 3 &4.

It is developed through the events of the Liturgical calendar, and cultural event of this time of year; New Year; Lent; Easter; Red Nose Day; Martin Luther King Day.

It is also explored through the values of: **forgiveness; perseverance; courage; justice.**

## Character-

This is summarised in the mission statement

***“where God’s gifts begin their journey to gain, attain and grow into lifelong learners.***

It reflects the desire to support pupils achieve their potential in all areas of life. To equip them to have a preparedness, acceptance and resilience for be life.

**Colossians 1:10** “Live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”

**Jeremiah 17 v7&8** “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a **tree** planted by the water that sends out its **roots** by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit”

This is the focus for terms 5&6.

It is developed through the events of the Liturgical calendar, and cultural event of this time of year; Ascension; Pentecost; Sport’s Day.

It is also explored through the values of: **truthfulness; respect; service; trust.**

The School’s mission statement is supportive of the **Church of England’s vision for education**

“Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good,” based upon John 10 v10, “I have come that they may have life in all its fullness.”

## The School’s Vision and Aims

These have been formulated from the mission statement especially the opening phrase.

### Our School Vision

#### **We believe that all children are a gift from God:**

- That they are all special and should be allowed to develop and grow in a nurturing environment, secure in the knowledge that they are cherished.
- That all children will leave the school with special memories and having achieved personal success, whilst being equipped to take their next steps in the journey of life.
- That our Christian beliefs and values inform everything we do and achieve. That within an ethos of trust, we encourage children to reflect on their own values and faith in a supportive environment.

### Our aims are.....

- To challenge all children to reach their full potential, spiritually, intellectually, physically, creatively and socially.
- To develop relationships where we all respect one another’s beliefs, differences and ways of life, recognising each other as unique individuals.
- To enable children to develop high self-esteem and encourage independence.
- To enable children to take a responsible part in their own learning and become self-motivated to attain their goals.
- To make our school a welcoming community for all, where families are encouraged to participated in school activities and in their children’s education.
- To provide, within the budget available, a balanced curriculum that is stimulating, creative and of the highest quality; that is delivered by a committed team who ensure that learning is an enjoyable experience for all.
- To provide a supportive environment for our members of staff.
- To ensure that our Christian beliefs and values inform everything we do and achieve.

An additional aim could be: To help children care for themselves and others, so they can positively influence their community and the wider world.