

# Swaffham Prior CE Primary School



## Vision and Values for Christian Distinctiveness

- *Introduction*
- *What is our vision (Vision statement) / Our aims*
- *How our vision is rooted in the Bible*
- *What are our values*
- *How are our values rooted in the Biblical*
- *How our distinctiveness displays itself*





*Swaffham Prior CE Primary School embraces the opportunity to contribute to the Church of England's 'Vision for Education' (2016) This commitment is reflected in this document, our own vision and values statement.*

### Introduction

Swaffham Prior is a Christian school deeply rooted in the heart of the community where children and adults of all faiths and none are welcome. Where learning and values are not just sown in lessons but in the whole experience of living and growing together. Where every child and adult has the opportunity to be the best they can be, fostered through a sense of belonging.

Swaffham Prior CE School is committed to removing barriers to learning so that every child can grow and flourish, producing good things for their own lives and enriching the lives of others. Our engaging curriculum stretches from the school connecting with home, church and our local community. We want to help everyone in our school community to recognise their own God given gifts and abilities and to value the gifts and abilities of others. The values we celebrate and promote in school shape the whole of our children's lives. All children are given the opportunity to develop their own spirituality, to be curious and ask big questions, to celebrate and to make good choices. Our pupils are at the heart of everything we do. In partnership with families, we nurture self-belief, encouraging all to become successful, able and responsible members of the global community.

Swaffham Prior CE School wishes to encourage children and adults to wonder and to reflect on their experiences and learning in school. Having a flexible and open way of thinking will help children to



succeed in a rapidly changing world. There may be many ways to tackle a problem and many ways of looking at the world. For the first hearers of the parable the seed also came to represent the word of God ~ the values and way of living that God wanted to sow in the world.

### Vision Statement

To inspire children and adults in our community to recognise the ways of living and relating to others which will enable good things to happen; and for us all to fulfil our God given potential.

**“It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”** Luke 8:5-8

The primary Christian themes underpinning this vision our aims and most importantly our practice are those of *planting, growing and harvesting* as expressed in Luke 8 v 5-8

### How our vision is anchored in the bible

“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. <sup>6</sup>Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup>Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” Luke 8:5-8

### Our Aims at Swaffham Prior CE School are:

- Children learn within a safe, caring **community** to develop **compassion** for others.
- Staff focus upon providing the highest possible standards of education and upon enthusing pupils with **wonder and hope**.
- Through broad and balanced experiences, we inspire **perseverance** and celebrate the uniqueness and successes of all.
- Christian values underpin our **peaceful** school, and we utilise these alongside a culture of mutual respect, to ensure the happiness and personal growth of each individual.
- By working in partnership with families we nurture the whole child and provide a basis for a **hopeful** future for our pupils to develop into responsible and fulfilled members of society.





- Keep Growing:**
- Growing in wisdom**
  - Growing strong and healthy**
  - Growing together**
  - Growing aware and compassionate**

At Swaffham Prior we try to sow seeds of wonder, perseverance and compassion. In the 'Parable of the Sower', the grain produces a different harvest. We recognise that not every child will achieve in the same way or succeed at the same things, but every child and adult can fulfil their potential and should be proud of the skills and talents they develop. At Swaffham Prior we want to reduce the weeds that can stifle growth such as a lack of confidence, engagement or support. If the parable is considered in relation to the soil, there is another important theme for school life. For good things to grow the soil has to provide the right conditions for growth. For children to flourish and produce good things they need help to be ready to learn and encouragement to make the most of every opportunity.

As a Christian school we want children and adults in our community to recognise the ways of living and relating to others which will enable good things to happen and to grow in us and in our world. These are key values which we wish to promote in our school community.

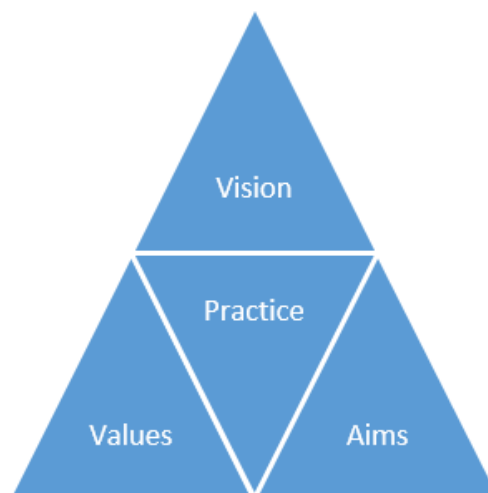


Swaffham Prior School seeks to help both children and adults to be resilient in their learning. Mistakes are an important way to learn and discover more. When something doesn't work it provides an opportunity to look again or to try a new approach. As a school we also want to help children see that they are part of a learning community. We can learn from each other and encourage one another and together we can be more productive.

We also recognise that feeling valued and safe, having friends and enjoying school life are an important part of helping every child to learn and grow. Learning how to make good and positive relationships with each other is part of creating a culture for learning.

Each value is modelled and demonstrated by staff through the way they act and behave towards each other and all stakeholders, language and vocabulary used and how teaching and learning is approached. The expectation is that children are supported so that they too can display these Christian values.

All school policies are approached in a manner which encompasses these values. Whichever subject is being taught, how it is being taught, the manner by which we respond to behaviour, class rules, and behaviour strategies etc. is handled or delivered appropriately based on our Christian values alongside our British values.



## Christian distinctiveness at Swaffham Prior School

In and around the school you will see and hear things for all stakeholders to embed the Christian values of our school and how they are applicable:

- Daily acts of collective worship. These include stories from the Bible, songs, prayer and a message about how this is relevant to all of us in our day to day life.
- Singing. We learn a wide variety of songs in school including Christian songs. These take the form of praise.
- Visual reminders of our values - photos depicting values, displays.
- Whole school prayer. Dedicated spaces for prayer and reflection that change according to the time of year and/or children's needs and interest. All stakeholders have access to this.
- Class reflection areas.
- Prayers and Grace. We have created a school prayer and use a special prayer for the Grace in order to thank God for his provision. The children also have opportunity to contribute to prayers in class and worship if they would like to.
- Weekly visits by our local vicar; Reverend Sue to facilitate whole school worship; Christian club; Governor monitoring; staff with Christian knowledge and understanding and for pastoral care.
- Church service for celebrations such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leaver's Service.
- Dedicated events to explore Christianity such as the Lent Challenge, prayer week and values day.

