



Christian Vision for St. Bartholomew's Church of England Primary Academy



Who are we?

CONTEXT

St. Bartholomew's Church of England Academy is a Church of England academy with a voluntary aided heritage and now part of the Diocese of Coventry Multi-Academy Trust. It is at the heart of a community that experiences deprivation, violent crime, and gang culture. Many parents are fearful of the education system. There is some lack of community cohesion. Most pupils attend because they live near the school, and currently, not necessarily because it is a school of choice. Most pupils are of White British heritage, with about one fifth Black African. The proportion of under-served children is over a third, but there are a significant number of non-claimants of free school meals. The proportion of children with SEND is significantly above the national average.

The school is in a season of healing and recovery, navigating some challenges following a Requires Improvement Ofsted inspection in Summer 2023. Trusting relationships with parents are developing rapidly due to new leadership that is driving a change of culture in the school as the foundation for the necessary improvements. Parents are fiercely protective of their children and want the school to work out for them. Many are indifferent to the Christian foundation of the school. In September 2024, the MAT appointed an experienced headteacher of a church school, to be the Executive Headteacher for 2 years, to love and nurture the school, and everyone in its community, to enable them to flourish.

As well as the significant and recent change in school leadership, there has historically been rapid turbulence in class-based staffing. New leadership has already enabled a culture in which people





feel safe and listened to, and staff enjoy their roles. They have hope for future in which they can flourish professionally and personally.

There is some connection between the school and St. Bartholomew's Church. The vicar leads worship on a fortnightly and children visit the church for special services. The vicar is a member of the Academy Governance Committee. In addition, the school is supported by the Diocesan Education Team for training, and by the Trust for school improvement.

The academy partners with the local food bank and the Betty Ennis Foundation Charity, during Lent. This enables pupils to consider issues of justice and social responsibility in the context of its Christian vision and foundation.

Through shared leadership, St. Bartholomew's Church of England Academy is collaborating with Queen's Academy to share expertise and professional development.

What are we doing here?

Our Christian vision

As a Church of England school, we align our vision to the Church of England Vision for Education, with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart. A summary of this can be found in the appendix.

We also align our vision with that of the Trust. The Core Mission of the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust is to build a better future for all within our Academies who in turn will positively impact their communities.

Together, pursuing 'life in all its fullness' (based on John 10:10)

A summary of the vision and ethos of the Diocese of Coventry Multi- Academy trust can be found in the appendix.

How then shall we live?

Our vision statement:



For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12; 4-5





The theologically rooted, contextually pertinent Christian vision has been renewed, with consultation, in Autumn 2024, considering the academy's context and circumstances. It is expressed in plain terms that embrace all faiths, beliefs, and views. It is deeply rooted in Christian theology and is inclusive and affirming of biblical teaching, particularly from the life and ministry of Jesus. It is our intention that all our staff, children, and their families are 'wrapped up' in a loving Christian community through which they have opportunity to encounter the love of God.

To fully flourish:

We **believe** in our unique selves and our community

By believing, we **belong** together, find joy and comfort in connection, and sustain one another including in difficult times

By belonging, we **become** the best version of ourselves, treasuring uniqueness, diversity, and difference

The Christian Foundation of our Church of England Academy, believes:

The theology of **creation** underpins our vision for everyone to **believe** in their unique selves.

God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. Genesis 1:27

For you created my inmost being.....I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:13/14

We believe that God created everyone to be a unique, individual; a one off, capable of reflecting God's goodness and love. Therefore, in our academy we are creating a culture in which everyone matters, everyone is loved, and everyone is valued, celebrated, represented - no exceptions! *'I am me and I am enough!'* Our vision is to ensure that each **believes** in and treasures their created selves.

The Christian Foundation of our Church of England Academy, believes:

the theology of **love** underpins our vision for everyone to **belong** safely and deeply in community, to be held in the ups and downs of life's journey.

Jesus said, 'a new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another (John 13:34)

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him. 1 John 4:16

Love, as Jesus showed, is complex – it means different things at different times, and sometime love is tough. In the bible it was an expression of God's deep love that he sent his son Jesus to the world.

A Christian community stands out for the way it loves. Therefore, we are building a culture where love is more than a word; it is action. Love is expressed and encountered by everyone, children and adults in our attitudes, behaviours, and intentions; from forgiving hearts where there is conflict and from generous, responsible hearts in the face of need.





We express love in community as justice, making courageous and sacrificial responses to those in need, on the margins, without a voice, without aspiration, beginning with those within our doors and on our doorstep, who are not yet fully flourishing. Our vision is to ensure that each person **belongs** - taking their unique place in our community, finding joy and comfort in connection, and sustaining one another including in difficult times.

The Christian Foundation of our Church of England Academy, believes:

The theology of **salvation** underpins our vision for everyone to **become** the best and fullest version of themselves, body, mind and spirit, treasuring uniqueness, diversity, and difference.

Jesus said 'I have come that you should have life – life in all its fullness. John 10:10

We are the clay and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:18

In this passage, God is the potter and Israel is the clay. The potter is the craftsman with a plan, while the clay is the malleable substance that takes shape or transforms in the potter's hands. It reminds of us of the privilege we have as educators in Church schools to nurture and shape individuals, through aspirational thinking and courageous advocacy. We embrace the opportunity to transform lives, so each becomes the best God-version of themselves, freeing them from disadvantage or limitations and opening up possibilities.

Inspired by Jesus' promise for all, our vision is to ensure that each person **becomes** the best and fullest version of themselves, body, mind and spirit, treasuring uniqueness, diversity, and difference.

We lift our Christian vision from the page and make it reality, step by step, by embedding our Christian cultures in every aspect of the life and work of our academy.

Our Christian cultures which are crafted by our vision and underpin all we do at St Bartholomew's.

OOMPH! Give everything to everything.

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Romans 12:11

Perseverance and Resilience... 'Fall down 7 times – stand up 8.'

Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21

Manners ... open doors!

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13





Smiles and positivity... 'If you see someone without a smile today let them borrow yours.'

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

Diversity...is the one thing we ALL have in common.

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Romans 12:16

Honesty and Truthfulness... 'Tell the truth even if your voice shakes, because nothing you confess will make me love you less!'

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good! Romans 12:9

Dress to Progress

We have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us. Romans 12:6

Appendix

Summary of the Church of England's Vision for Education

In line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, our vision is for the common good of the whole community.

Educating for wisdom, knowledge, and skills: enabling discipline, confidence, and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.

Educating for hope and aspiration: enabling healing, repair, and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.

Educating for community and living well together: a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.

Educating for dignity and respect: the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.

Summary of the DCMAT Vision & Ethos

Our Commitment

All Academies in the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust will be recognised for their distinctive and inclusive Christian ethos and for the impact that this has on raising educational standards. Each Academy will demonstrate its Christian distinctiveness by providing an inspirational and holistic education which enables all children and staff to develop and achieve to their full potential.





We will achieve our aims by ensuring that Academies within the Trust are:

- Transformational
- Aspirational
- Sustainable
- Motivational
- Purposeful

Our Aspirational and Measurable Outcomes are:

- Every school to be judged good or outstanding by Ofsted
- All Academies are to be judged to be 'living up to their Christian Foundation' by SIAMS (Section 48 Inspections)
- Every child is expected to make progress at least in line with, and for many, above national expectations.
- Every Academy is to be well led and governed
- All teachers are motivated to self-improve and aspire to excellence

To be achieved by collaborative working between our schools, focussing upon:-

- Excellence in teaching and learning through consistently strong, skilled, and sustainable leadership
- Every child and adult to know they are unique and special - loved and cherished by God; valued and accepted in the Trust family; important and strategic in God's plan
- Children, families, and staff developing and thriving through their knowledge and understanding of Christian values
- Children and young people being taught to become resilient, reflective, and articulate thinkers able to be creative, to reason and to become positive members of their community
- Creating cultures that support children and adults to achieve and succeed

