



Shankhill C of E Primary School

Our Vision, Values and Virtues explained...



***Our vision: Creative learning, personal achievement and happiness.
Enabling everyone to flourish and 'to live life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)***

Our vision is everything you will see within our daily school life: all children flourishing through the many opportunities and challenges they are presented with.

We educate the whole child to be 'the best me I can be': for learning and as a person.

Our school community, based on Christ's teaching, seeks to develop, in each child, a vision of human flourishing, built on wonder, kindness, gentleness, excellence and academic rigour, explored through moral and creative learning experiences. Our curriculum supports and shapes the development and character of the whole child. We do this by exploring British Values, and our Christian Vision, Values and Virtues which permeate our vision for education in Shankhill Church of England Primary School.

We aim to develop the vocabulary, knowledge and skills, alongside the character and spirituality, attitudes and learning behaviours needed for success in our ever-changing world. Throughout our school and curriculum offer, our clear Vision, Values and Virtues support our children to become curious, confident, resourceful and happy learners who have the necessary knowledge, communication skills, emotional literacy and characteristics that enable them to flourish and live life in all its fullness, now and throughout their lives.

Our Mission Statement

Within our ethos:

- Our school will develop in each child a respect for others and the distinctively Christian environment we all share, so that they may become responsible, well-rounded young people;
- School will be enjoyable within a caring atmosphere in which learning will be exciting, creative and inclusive.



Our Vision, Values and Virtues explained...

Values

Throughout our learning and daily school life, we explore our six core Christian values which permeate our vision for education in Shankhill Church of England Primary School:



Wisdom	Hope	Community	Dignity	Peace	Joy
Knowledge and skills	Aspiration	Living well together	Respect and Reverence	Forgiveness	Thankfulness
Creativity	Perseverance	Friendship	Trust	Truthfulness	Happiness
	Courage	Service	Compassion	Justice	
		Generosity	Responsibility	Spirituality	

Educating for Wisdom

In Shankhill, educating for wisdom, knowledge, skills and creativity means enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life. “Wisdom” is one of the great themes of the Bible where it is not simply religious wisdom which is talked about, but all aspects of life and culture including economic, political, relational and environmental. In the educational world, wisdom tells us of the importance of being radical and daring in the exploration of “big questions” and of the need to be open to new experiences, new knowledge and new people. Jesus’ teaching was vivid, imaginative and challenging, and so should ours be. The wisdom tradition also sees the natural world as a place of wonder, exploration, reflection and self-discovery which is important in a time of ecological challenges. Thus educating for wisdom in our school is about ethics, values and purposes, as well as for knowledge and facts.

Educating for Hope

In our school, educating for hope and aspiration, also requires perseverance and courage in enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them. Educating for “Hope” is about how we approach the future and, in Christian teaching, is bound up with hope in God’s future for the world. Every pupil should be encouraged to stretch themselves spiritually, morally, intellectually, imaginatively and actively as well as being well-educated. Hope also helps us cope wisely with things and people going wrong. It shows us that bad experiences, bad behaviour and wrongdoing need not have the last word, there is always room for healing situations, forgiveness and reconciliation. We know the importance of courage in this healing process as well as the role it plays in giving children the courage to explore new horizons and courage to make the most of these opportunities as they arise.



Our Vision, Values and Virtues explained...

Educating for Community

In Shankhill, we educate for community and living well together with a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together. Relationships within the school itself and with the role the school plays in the local community and how it relates to other institutions. Every school should be a hospitable community where all can flourish, and our gifts and talents are used in ways that will improve the lives of others.

We show how friendship is linked to how we treat and look after other people in our families, school and whole community. It also shows the role compassion plays in our community, the understanding of how our actions can affect the lives of others, in a positive way. We explore service and generosity and how we show empathy and understanding of others and the lives they live. Jesus gave us an example of servant leadership at the Last Supper when he took a towel and washed his disciples' feet, a job usually carried out by a servant; he then told his disciples to go and do likewise. We are inspired by this act of love for his friends so we will act with love for our friends and community.

Educating for Dignity

In education for dignity and respect, trust and responsibility, we focus on the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth. Throughout the teachings in the Bible, we cherish a belief in the ultimate worth of every person and in human dignity is at the heart of a good education. Ensuring our children are kept safely from harm and educated in an environment where all children are valued is of the highest priority and may be encountered especially in the areas relating to safeguarding, bullying, special educational needs and disabilities. Children can trust both in themselves and that the adults around them will ensure all children are safe and valued. We encourage everyone to see how they are ultimately responsible to ensure that the worth of all people is considered in our school.

Education for Peace

In Shankhill, in educating for peace we explore spirituality, forgiveness, truthfulness and justice aiming to develop the attitudes, skills, and behaviours to live in harmony with oneself, with others, and with the natural environment. Educating to prevent conflict, strengthen inter-group cooperation and explore the principles of unity, equality and justice. Children listening and sharing God's messages of how to live peacefully with love in our hearts and minds to ensure they can live in harmony with their community and environment. Through daily life and collective worship, we explore our spiritual capacities and how to be comfortable with stillness and silence, and open to the offer of reflection, meditation and prayer.

Educating for Joy

Happiness is a fundamental part of our school vision. Any education that does not communicate joy, awe, wonder, amazement, fascination and delight has failed. Our pupils experience a rich happiness throughout their learning; you can see it in their smiles and hear it in their voices. Following Jesus example, we believe that an attitude of thankfulness comes from an active appreciation of what we have. We take time to reflect upon the many blessings that we enjoy acknowledging that some people in our own country as well as the wider world do not have access to basic necessities such as clean air, a healthy diet, the space and time to play and be educated. We explore thankfulness and how to appreciate and be thankful for what is good in life through experiences that create awe and wonder; experiences that cause amazement and fascination, as well delight.



Shankhill C of E Primary School

Our Vision, Values and Virtues explained...

Shankhill Virtues

In Shankhill, we educate to enable everyone to flourish by offering a spiritual and moral education for the development of human wholeness and a foundation for personal and social values based on personal character development and the ministry of Christ. Our virtues have been explored with our school community of adults and pupils by reflecting upon Christian based research; character virtues; our vision and values; social and emotional mental health and well-being; and our hopes and aspirations for our school family.

Through this, we have created a distinctive language for understanding life and interpreting human experience. A language and spiritual experience where we can begin to discover **who we are, why we are here**, and perhaps most importantly, **what we might be**. (ref: 'The Way Ahead Report, Church of England')

Our whole school understands spiritual development using the imagery of a ring doughnut. We imagine what spirituality means by pondering the question:

“Is a ring doughnut whole without the hole?”

We explore how the hole is important even though we cannot touch it, it is there for a reason. We liken this to our inner voice, our spirituality, our moral compass, knowing when something is right or wrong, or if we should give up or if we really can have a go and be challenged. We call this: **ME Flourishing – My Spiritual Capacities** - our **VIRTUES**.

From this imagery, our pupils understand and can articulate what their own spirituality means to them and how they experience it in many ways throughout their school and home life. Our common language, on which Shankhill's spiritual and personal character development is based, includes these main 'Spiritual Capacities' that enable us to grow. Each virtue is a phrase that encourages character development, personal and spiritual growth and illustrates one of our values.



Our Vision, Values and Virtues explained...

Virtues – ME Flourishing - MY Spiritual Capacities

Be **hopeful** and optimistic. Have **aspirations** for my future.
 Be guided by **my own beliefs and values**.
Persevere and have **courage**. **Cope** wisely.
 Enable healing, repair and renewal.

Reflect, learn and grow following experiences of failure as well as success.
 Be **willing to take on challenges** and take risks.
 Be **curious** and **open minded** when exploring life's BIG QUESTIONS.
 Be **intrigued by mystery** and be open to an awareness of the mysteries of life and religion.

Know me - be self-aware.
 Show **dignity and respect**.
 Learn **trust and responsibility**.
Understand and celebrate difference.
Value every person and living thing for its **unique worth**.
Understand and empathise with the experiences of others in school, the community and the wider world.



Living well together with good friendships and relationships.
 Be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made.
Forgive myself. Forgive others.
 Be encouraging, kind and compassionate.
Service and generosity towards others.

Appreciate and be thankful for what is good in the world.
 Be **imaginative and creative**.
Appreciate the beauty in the world.
 Be **alive to experiences of 'awe and wonder'**, fascination, amazement and **delight**.

Love me, care for me.
 Believe in **my potential to achieve**. **Harmony** and justice.
 Find **inner strength and resilience** when facing challenges.
 Be **comfortable with stillness and silence**.
 Be **open to engage** in reflection, meditation or prayer.