

St. James' CE Primary School is committed to the safeguarding of our pupils and staff.

St. James CE Primary School



St. James' CE Primary School Development of our Vision

Flourish
Respect Courage
Friendship Develop
StrongGrowth
Community StJames' Strive
God Trust Kindness
Freedom Unique Perseverance
DeepRoots Positivity
WholeChild
Responsibility

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Statement of Vision and Values

In consultation with pupils, parents, governors, community members and staff our vision and values were generated based on our inspiration from the Parable of the Sower and how this links to our children and their journey with us.

Our School Vision:

Within our community we strive to develop deep **roots**, strong **growth** and freedom to **flourish** as a unique and whole child of God.

Matthew 13 - The Parable of the Sower – ‘... but the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.’”



Values

We decided at St James CE Primary School that **Kindness and Respect** are values which we feel underpin our vision and are incorporated in all we do and say – so therefore these two values will be taught alongside all the other six values we have chosen.

½ termly focus	Value
Autumn 1	Responsibility
Autumn 2	Friendship
Spring 1	Perseverance
Spring 2	Trust
Summer 1	Courage
Summer 2	Positivity

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How We Created Our Vision

In September 2022, a Partnership agreement with Freezywater St. George's CE VA Primary School was put in place and with it a new Senior Leadership Team and structure. In order to move the school forward the first action was to set about creating a new **vision** that best represented us. It was decided that collaboration with **stakeholders** was vital in ensuring that all members of our community had a say in the process. This has allowed us to not only build relationships with our **whole school community** but be one cohesive voice that represents **St. James' School**.

Firstly, we consulted with **pupils, staff, governors, parents, and representatives from our link Church**. We then met as a school (all staff, governors and Church representatives) and analysed **key themes** to identify common **threads and messages**. We then worked in smaller groups to condense these ideas into written statements and shared these with each other in order to combine all of the elements into one statement.

We decided upon **three phrases** linking to the bible quote/ parable which best represented us, agreeing that the phrases underpinned everything we did and defined who we were as a school. These were:

Deep roots

Strong growth

Freedom to flourish



Deep Roots

The phrase **deep roots** to us, refers to the importance of **building a strong foundation in learning**, across all aspects (looking at the child as a whole and **nurturing** their **intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual growth**). The **values** that underpin our **vision (kindness & respect, responsibility, friendship, perseverance, trust, courage and positivity**, all of which are central to Christian teachings) are also championed to achieve this.

Just like a plant with deep roots is stable and firmly anchored in the ground, we aspire for learning to be **embedded securely in the long term memory**, underpinning new and future learning, a stable base for development. Deep roots also links to, **longevity and permanence**, having a lasting impact, shaping both lives and perspectives over time. We aim to create a sense of **belonging and community** within our school family with **all stakeholders** connected by a shared vision and values, fostering a **supportive and inclusive environment**.

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Strong Growth



Strong growth refers to: Just like the visible growth of plants, their **resilience in the face of challenges** and obstacles in the environment, we compare this to our vision for our learning community, reducing inequalities and looking at the needs and **growth of the individual**, striving that all are given the opportunity for continuous growth and improvement regardless.

At St. James' School strong growth involves the **well- rounded development** and understanding of: knowledge and skills - intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and socially, the ability to adapt to new information, integration of diverse perspectives, the development of critical thinking / problem solving abilities, intellectual curiosity, and the application of knowledge (both creatively and effectively) **showing clear growth and progress from an individual's starting point.**

We also recognise just as plants require nurturing environments to achieve strong growth, learners also need supportive educational environments. This comes in many forms, from the encouragement of staff, teachers and peers, to the design of the curriculum (one that both challenges and engages them).

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Freedom to Flourish



Freedom to flourish refers to what we envision for our whole community. It is about creating the conditions and environment (both supportive and inclusive) that enable **individuals to lead fulfilling and meaningful lives**, where they can **realize their potential, pursue their dreams**, and make **positive contributions to the world** around them, (not only during their time with us but throughout their lives and on-going learning journeys).

A specific example of how we aspire for our pupils to flourish within a context can be shown within Religious Education, in which we aim for all pupils to become religiously literate, through encouraging discussion, debate and consideration of the 'big questions' for all faiths, including those with no faith. This enables pupils to become aware of God, one another, the world around them and themselves, '**flourishing as learners**'.

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Context

These three phrases were then set within a wider context to include the **whole community** (the importance of all staff, parents, pupils and other stakeholders **flourishing**) whilst recognising how diverse and unique every one of us is and celebrating it, as represented in the words - **unique and whole child of God**.

We aim to expand our pupil's **knowledge of the world** and the opportunities that exist but may not always be available to them. This links into our **curriculum** and the importance of **developing the whole child**, offering a **broad and balanced** curriculum which places equal importance on all areas. Within the context of our vision, our strapline: '**Growing, Learning & Flourishing Together**' recognises the **transformative power of education and our role within this**.

Living Out Our Vision

As a school, everything we do links back to our **vision** and **underlying values**. This ranges from the **design of our curriculum** to how we **communicate** with children and our **expectations** within school.

Bible Quote

Our vision was developed based on the **Parable of the Sower - Matthew 13**:

Matthew 13 - The Parable of the Sower - '... but the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

We feel as a school, it is important to note, that our biblical reference was the starting point for our vision (not the other way round), deeply theologically rooted rather than in addition to it. The vision was written as an understanding (after reading, analysing and reflecting on Gods word) of the text, linking directly to our context and educational perspective. Its references to growing and flourishing (... produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown) through learning (hears the word) are at the root of our work and service of the community, at St. James' school.