



# Vision and Values

Reviewed Summer 2025

## Vision

Rooted in Christian belief, our vision is for everyone in our school community to be valued and respected for who they are.

Through cultivating a love of learning, every individual will have the opportunity to shine and flourish - together.

*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.*

*Matthew 5:14-16*

## Our Values

...reflect the distinctive nature of our school. The values are woven into all that we do and all that we are regardless of age, gender, sexuality, race, faith, belief or ability: they can be found in the daily life of our school community. They also form a key part of our programme for collective worship. To illustrate our Christian values, we use Bible stories.

# Respect and Kindness Community and Thankfulness Perseverance and Forgiveness

## Respect (Honesty)

*'Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.'* (1 John 3:18)

Respect means that you accept somebody for who they are, even when they're different from you or you don't agree with them. Respect in our relationships builds feelings of trust, safety, and wellbeing. Respect doesn't have to come naturally – it is something we have to learn and practice.

Respect for others is really important because it shows that we value and care about everyone. It is at the core of our vision. When we respect each other, we build good friendships, understand one another better, and help make the world a nicer place. It encourages kindness and teamwork between people. In the Bible, Jesus reminds us to 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matthew 22:39)

## Kindness (compassion, empathy, service)

*'Be kind and compassionate to one another.'* Ephesians 4:32a

Kindness is being compassionate and caring, understanding when someone's having a tough time. Kindness that we and others show can help us all shine our light in our daily lives.

A smile on your way to class, an arm of support for a friend, a door held open for another – we all have experienced acts of kindness and know the feeling that it can bring. One person's act of kindness can result in a wave of kindness that sweeps through a community. Kindness is not just a random act and everybody deserves to feel its warmth. The Bible has much to say about kindness, both in the old testament "Don't ever stop being kind and truthful. Let kindness and truth show in all you do." (Proverbs 3:3) and in the actions and stories told by Jesus.

## Community

*'And now this word to all of you: You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.'* 1 Peter 3:8

The Christian value of community is one of our school values because, both in school and in the village, we are one community where everyone is needed and valued and each person is important.

This Christian Value comes from a Greek word 'Koinonia' which means 'that which is in common' Other translations might include 'union', 'partnership', or 'being yoked together'. By combining our strength, work becomes easier and burdens lighter. So, in our school and

classrooms, by working as a community, we can share troubles, joy and achieve more!

Christians share the relationship that Jesus has with God. In John 17:11, Jesus prays that all his followers may be 'perfectly one' as he and the Father are one. Christians believe we are all members of the same family with God. We think of our school community as a family.

## Thankfulness

*'Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.'*  
*Ephesians 5:20*

Thankfulness is when you take a moment to think about how lucky you are when something good happens, no matter how big or small. When you take a moment to be thankful to God for the world around you and for the everyday things in our lives which we often take for granted. You can use words like grateful, lucky, happy, and blessed to talk about thankfulness.

The Bible often teaches us to have thankful hearts (Colossians 3:16) and to express gratitude to God. God teaches us to 'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will' (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

## Perseverance (courage)

*'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'* (Galatians 6:9)

Perseverance is keeping on trying, even when things are hard. At its root, perseverance is a recognition that life is sometimes difficult and painful, and that it is important to have the courage not to give up in the face of adversity.

Perseverance is needed to stand firm in the face of any difficulty. It is the special gift that we have when life is difficult or painful that helps us not to give up. Difficulties might include hardship, persecution or scorn for example. In school, we use it more often in the context of 'keeping going' and 'not giving up'. The Bible (Hebrews 10:36) talks about perseverance saying 'you need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.'

## Forgiveness

*'Do not be angry with each other, but forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, then forgive him. Forgive each other because the Lord forgave you.'* (Colossians 3:13)

Forgiveness is letting go of feeling angry or resentful at someone (including yourself).

At Kirk Fenton, our children are encouraged to forgive each other. Children have many chances to reflect on their behaviour and make the right choices. Poor behaviour choices come with consequences, but we should strive to forgive so we can enjoy a 'new beginning'. Children generally make good behaviour choices, but when disagreements do occur, they should be resolved with support and forgiveness. Throughout the Bible, God is described as slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin (Numbers 14:18) and Jesus is shown to be uncompromising in his command to forgive. 'Forgive', he said, 'seventy times seven' (Matthew 18:21), meaning forgive and keep on forgiving without limit, as God forgives us.

## What does it mean to be a 'Church School'?

### Our community...

...includes all our pupils, our parents and our staff. All are welcome at Kirk Fenton, regardless of faith or belief.

We are a Church of England school – not a faith school. This means we have a Church of England (or Anglican) foundation but welcome all: those with a Christian faith and also those from other religions and those with no faith or belief at all. Our vision matches the Church of England's vision for education, working for the common good of our whole community: our children, their parents and carers, our staff, and for the community of Church Fenton.

We educate with four purposes in mind:

- o wisdom, knowledge and skills
- o hope and aspiration
- o community and living well together
- o dignity and respect

We are a 'voluntary controlled Church of England primary school'. This means that our school is maintained by the Local Authority (North Yorkshire) whilst enjoying strong links with the Church.

We serve our community by providing a high quality education within the context of Christian belief and practice, in such a way that people of all faiths or none are loved, respected and valued. We serve all members of our community by supporting every child. We foster a love of learning, and provide a broad education which addresses the needs of the whole child in order that our children are healthy, safe, happy and successful.

We value faith and encourage reflection on Christian values and tradition within the wider context of collective worship and the whole curriculum. Being a Church School is important to us. Our partnership with St Mary's Church is active and strong, and enriches the lives of all in our community.