

## Friendship

Sharing joy and sorrows with others is essential. True friendship allows each person to grow and individuals to be recognised. This reflects how God values us and how we are called to live in a relationship with each other and God. In Proverbs, we hear about the benefits of friendship ([Proverbs 17:9 & 18:24](#)) At Uffington, we value our friends, taking care of them and enjoying things together. We are friendly towards each other and make visitors welcome.

## Trust

Trust is fundamental to living in harmony. We need to trust ourselves, others and people in positions of responsibility. Trust is sometimes required before we understand and comprehend. Jesus' life was full of examples of trust. He asked others to continue his work by trusting that he wanted the best for each of us ([St John 14:1 & The Book of Acts](#)). At Uffington, we trust one another to do the right thing, to be honest and to be respectful so that our school is a happy place where everyone can flourish.

## Hope

Hope has a deeper meaning than the trivial desire for personal wants. Hope may lift us out of the most challenging situation and help us to fulfil our potential. Hope is a gift of God (by his Spirit) and offers the anchor needed to respond with resilience ([1 Corinthians 13:13](#)). At Uffington, we believe that even when things are difficult, better times lie ahead. We believe in the potential of others and support them to achieve their goals.

## Inclusion

Division and exclusion are often seen at the expense of inclusion. The Christian faith asks us to include everyone. Everyone can decide what they believe and how they include others and themselves. Including people of all faiths and none is essential. Confidence in our faith shouldn't be a barrier to belonging. St Paul says, "How much more will their full inclusion mean?" ([Romans 11:12](#)) At Uffington, we make sure that everyone gets a chance to take part; we understand that some people may need some support to access some activities and provide that support to enable everyone to fulfil their potential.

At The Uffington Church of England Primary School, we uphold and teach pupils about the five British Values of [Democracy](#), [The Rule of Law](#), [Individual Liberty](#), [Mutual Respect](#), and [Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs](#).

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*Preparing for the future; living life in all its fullness*

## UFFINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Our Christian Vision

*Preparing for the future; living life in all its fullness.*

Based on The Gospel according to Saint John, Chapter 10, verse 10.

We are a family-orientated school where everyone is welcome, a place where we strive to provide the best possible education in a caring Christian environment; an education that allows everyone to flourish and have the confidence to make a positive contribution.

We seek to develop the individual strengths of everyone within our school community, where each unique personality can be recognised and valued.

### What do we mean by this?

Living life in all its fullness is a quotation from the Holy Bible, specifically the Gospel according to Saint John, an extract from Chapter 10, verse 10. This is a part of the Bible where Jesus explains how he comes to look after us all. And very importantly, for that life to be meaningful and lived abundantly, growing in trust and knowledge. It also points to the importance of all who teach and learn and the relationship between the two groups.

We make our vision part of life at school. On the School Website (on the Our Christian Vision page) we talk more about "Our Curriculum Rooted In Our Vision" and "Developing Spirituality In Worship", as well as the Policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development. Our Vision should be seen in all we do, and to help this we also express it as eight School Values.

*Preparing for the future; living life in all its fullness*

Our Vision is underpinned by scripture by virtue of our foundation as a Church of England School. "Preparing For The Future; Living Life In All Its Fullness" takes its inspiration from the Gospel according to St John. In this part of the Bible, Jesus tells a story that explains that he is here for everybody no matter what you've done or who you are - all are valued. We use this to help us understand that to teach our children we need to consider the needs of the whole school community: all pupils, staff, volunteers and those who care for children at home, as well as to consider the wider local community of which we are part. (St John 10:10).

St Paul also explains that each of us has a unique part to play, and we need one another to flourish. We see how important we are and how essential others are "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27).

These two parts of the New Testament help us understand that Jesus came to change the world and to give us hope. This hope isn't an abstract dream but a teachable concept developed by the trusting relationship between all who teach and those who learn.

Life at the Uffington Church of England Primary School means we help with spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. The Education Reform Act refers to spiritual development for all pupils. To help us understand and explain what this means, we offer this definition (and draw your attention to the policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and cultural development).

When we think about spirituality, we understand this as:

ME: We will help each individual in the whole school community consider their own self-worth.

OTHERS :Individuals will recognise that other people are important too.

EVERYTHING: We acknowledge that many people feel that there is something outside of me and others. Christians name this as God, as revealed to us in the life of Jesus Christ.

Our Christian Vision (our School Vision) of "Preparing for the future; living life in all its fullness", is expressed as eight values.

*Preparing for the future; living life in all its fullness*

## Thankfulness

Christians are taught that we should be thankful for all we have. This covers the good times and the bad. We know that there are difficult times, and we are asked to persevere to be resilient in knowing we are loved. St Paul prays, giving thanks for all in his care, that they are shown the right path forward. (*Ephesians 1:15-18*) At Uffington, we take time to give thanks every day. We are thankful for our school and everything it offers, and for the people who make up our school family. We learn how to be resilient when faced with challenge and give thanks for all those who help us in difficult times.

## Kindness

Here we see how doing things for others is essential. The reasons for helping others are based on building up everyone by sharing what we have. We might share time, things and love. We see how individuals act in unselfish ways to benefit others. Queen Ester and Mary did many things that didn't benefit themselves. In the Psalms, we see how this is the same for God as it is for us. We are all asked to be Kind. (*Ester, St Luke & Psalm145:8*) At Uffington, we believe that kindness is the greatest gift we can offer others. We understand how our acts of kindness make a difference to the lives of others at home, at school, in our community, and in the wider world; we try to remember to be kind at all times.

## Forgiveness

Forgiveness is at the root of Christianity. Sorry, can be a hard word to say. It is also one that really lacks meaning if said too quickly. We are asked to change by accepting what we have done wrong, the hurt it may have caused and how we will make things right. When forgiven, we move on as better people. Jesus repeatedly says that we should freely forgive those things that people are genuinely sorry for. (*St Matthew 18:22*) At Uffington, we understand that things can go wrong; we make poor choices and this can hurt others. We always take time to think about what has gone wrong and how to make amends. We forgive others when they are sorry and seek our forgiveness.

## Fairness

In a world that isn't fair, we need to work to change what we can. We need to take a stand to make the lives of others better. It is about putting the needs of others above our own, even if we have a right to more ourselves. St Paul talks about how the needs of others, ourselves and the world are bound together. (*2 Corinthians 8:13,14*) At Uffington, we know that there are those in this world who do not have the same opportunities as us; we support charities and learn about injustice so that we can make a difference.

*Preparing for the future; living life in all its fullness*