

OFFENHAM CE FIRST SCHOOL

Theological and Biblical narrative that informs our vision

LOVE TRANSFORMATION GROWTH

Living in the Hope and Joy of Resurrection

As a Church of England School, we take seriously the need for our school vision to be based on distinct Christian values. It is noted that this goes beyond the universal values of respect and dignity for human flourishing that underpin most cultural values and asks what provides our school with a distinctively Christian ethos.

On reflection we believe that living in the hope and joy of the resurrection of Christ provides a basis for this distinctiveness.

The central belief of the Christian faith is that Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again to new life, opening the way of salvation to all who seek refuge in Him.

The implications of this belief are almost limitless. While the resurrection story deals with issues of life and death (and new life), the echoes of this transformative event are, for Christians, immediately apparent in everyday life. Each day brings its own endings and new beginnings; and seen in the light of resurrection, these can be signs of God's redeeming power at work in the world.

For Christians, belief in resurrection provides an everlasting hope; that even in times of great difficulty and seemingly hopeless situations, there is always something beyond that heralds the promise of Christ,

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20)

Living with this sense of resurrection underpinning daily life gives Christians a ready reminder that there is always something beyond the present; that endings are not to be feared or difficulties avoided and that the restorative and transforming love of God is ever-present and ever-active.

As the basis for our School vision, hope and joy in resurrection finds an out-working in the Fruits of the Spirit, not as targets to be accomplished but as ideals to strive towards, both for the growth of individuals and for the mutual flourishing of all.

"Growing deep roots. Producing good fruit"

"They are like trees replanted in Eden, putting down roots near the rivers. Never a worry through the hottest of summers, never dropping a leaf, serene and calm through droughts, bearing fresh fruit every season." Jeremiah 17: 7&8

Growing a school community is a dynamic and ongoing task. Together, each day, we seek to be transformed and produce the fruits of the Spirit to become a distinctive community with the

hallmark of love. We want to be a community equipped with the tools to cope with whatever we have to face, and to do that with resilience, grace, a grounded self-esteem and a positive self-image.

We seek to be a community living life in love and gratitude towards one another and seeking after justice for others in the world around us.

Growing deep roots...

Love, transformation, growth and progress

VIVs – our ‘Very Important Values’ - Friendship, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility and Truth

Our DBE and Trust vision “To love, to learn, to serve” “Together flourishing in the love of God”

Producing good fruit...

Galatians 5:22 - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness and Self-control

Growing these fruits alongside the outworking of the ‘one another’ sayings of Jesus within our school community –

love one another, encourage one another, forgive one another, build up one another, serve one another, do not lie to one another and do not grumble against one another.



Our school badge

Each child unique and known by God – ‘well-held within our school community’

Isaiah 49:16 – ‘I have written your name on the palm of my hand...’

Isaiah 51:16 – ‘...and I will keep you safe in the palm of my hand...’