

Our Trust Vision and the journey of Galmpton's Vision

Achieving Excellence through Cultivating Character,
Sharing Talents and Pursuing Innovation.



The Ethos group that this statement very much summed up what Galmpton is all about: exceptional achievement academically, personally, socially and culturally. It was felt the addition of the word flourishing would make this wider understanding of achievement crystal clear. We also felt at the time that we wanted to make it clear that we were a Church school, were proud of this and would always look to our Christian faith as a guide and support for all we do in school hence the idea of being held in God's Loving arms. Our thinking over time around this part of the statement has changed .

This was put on hold when we joined the Academies for Character and Excellence in 2017. The trust's vision statement is '**Achieving Excellence through Cultivating Character, Sharing Talents and Pursuing Innovation.**'

The leadership team, staff and ethos group once again considered how the Trust statement could work with Galmpton's vision statement. As a Trust we have always believed that individual context and autonomy is important and we felt that in 'achieving and flourishing together' we are very much about also achieving excellence, cultivating character and sharing talents. It was at this point that we decided to explore the theological roots of our vision. We felt this would allow us to develop the Trust vision by considering, once again, what our core purpose is and why we do, what we do, at Galmpton Primary.

Our **curriculum** is the way in which we strive to achieve our vision. For us the curriculum is every planned experience and includes the ways in which we relate and respond to one another. We exploit all opportunities to deliver our values and to deliver the Christian message of love, salvation, redemption and hope.

Because much of curriculum is about character education and has a focus on understanding ourselves as learners, there are frequent and varied opportunities to explore character values across the school day.

The **teaching of reflection** and self efficacy develops pupil's ability to not only develop their own relational awareness, but further supports their relational awareness to others and the wider world.



Our ethos group looked at nearly 30 references to flourishing when deciding on our vision statement. We very much wanted the theological link to be meaningful for the whole school community and to develop the idea of a shoot growing into a larger, stronger tree. This is the image we have always used to help communicate our vision.

In order to flourish and grow strong and tall like a tree, the seedling must be watered, nurtured and cared for. A tree needs to tap into a steady source of life-giving water, water that will allow it to thrive and flourish even through the harshest of dry spells. We are reminded of the need to lay down strong roots and ensure our foundations are built on the values and teachings of the Church. But we do this best when we encourage, support and work together as a team and community. These reflect our trust values of equity, community and collaboration. We believe that when we are actioning and driving and living these values we are indeed living a 'full life'.

This analogy of flourishing and developing in our relationship with God is for us most obviously captured by John's call to draw closer to God that we might truly lead richer and more fulfilled lives through our service and compassion for others.

Our understanding of Life in all its fulness, is that no matter the age, everyone can flourish if they lead good and rich lives like Jesus. The word flourishing in the bible speaks of a life that is full, both spiritually and morally, a life that is always about ongoing personal growth. The word *flourish* is used three times in these verses. The Hebrew word here is *parah*, and means "to break forth as a bud, i.e. bloom; generally, to spread; specifically, to fly (as extending the wings). Our belief is that in order for adults and children to truly flourish, we must ensure that our expectations of excellent academic growth are matched with personal, spiritual and moral growth.

Our children understand our value of integrity as 'doing the right thing even when no one is looking'. It is also at the heart of many of our other values: honesty, confidence, responsibility, determination and drive to do good. These values are explored on a half termly basis and permeate all our learning, they are the gateways into our character education work.



Our vision is fuelled by our **six outcomes**. (see left).

We believe that if children are truly to achieve and flourish, then we need to ensure they are well rounded individuals who are inspired to do their best for themselves and others.

Our vision is for children to leave Galampton primary being able to demonstrate these outcomes. Our Christian vision and values enable us to continually focus on these outcomes. We measure our success against these outcomes and continually. We also seek to provide a spiritual life for our pupils within the traditions of the Church of England.