

# Our Trust Vision and the journey of Galmpton's Vision



In 2015 when the new headteacher took up position at the school, the ethos group undertook a significant piece of work with the whole school community to change a very lengthy and complicated mission statement which was 2 pages long and very much aimed at adults. We started by looking at our school values and decided with children and parents that the values of **friendship, forgiveness, compassion, peace, trust and responsibility** summed up all that we wanted to aspire to and would allow us to build on these as we sought to define a clear and distinctive Christian vision.

The children were used to using their fingers to help recall their values and keep them upper most in their minds. Once our values were established the ethos group spent a number of meetings in 2015 agreeing our current vision statement of '**Achieving and Flourishing together in God's Loving arms**'.

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 even through the harshest of dry spells. Palm trees survive in the harshest of environments because of the root system. 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.

This analogy of flourishing and developing in our relationship with God is repeated in Psalms, but most obviously seen in *Psalm 92:12–15* 'The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.'

Our understanding of the Psalm, 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 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 Christina vision and values enables 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.