



# ST MARY THE VIRGIN CIW PRIMARY SCHOOL



## *Our School Vision*

**QUALITY, DIVERSITY, FAITH, FLOURISHING**

### VISION

## QUALITY, DIVERSITY, FAITH, FLOURISHING

St Mary the Virgin Church in Wales Primary School is a voluntary aided, multi-cultural primary school in one of the oldest communities in Cardiff - Butetown - the old 'Tiger Bay'.

For many years our school motto has been 'Learning and praying together; being kind, helpful and hardworking': this feeds into our whole school vision for our 21st century school community enabling our learners to fulfil the Four Purposes of the curriculum.

We develop our Christian foundation while being sensitive to the diverse needs of our school community.

### OUR SCHOOL

Our new school build, planned over the next [3] years will enable us further to enhance our vision: it will include child care offer places, a Specialist Resource Base for 20 pupils as well as a community room.

The school community has engaged with the process and we look forward to continuing to work together to bring plans into reality.

### CURRICULUM

Our vision for the Curriculum is rooted in our whole school vision. We recognise the need for our whole school community to become:

- **ambitious, capable learners**, ready to learn throughout their lives
- **enterprising, creative contributors**, ready to play a full part in life and work
- **ethical, informed citizens** of Wales and the world
- **healthy, confident individuals**, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

The unique nature of our school, where families actively choose St Mary's because of its ethos, understanding of the community and high aspirations, provides an increased impetus to do the very best for our school community.

Our commitment to this vision will ensure we are supporting our pupils to become

**AMBITIOUS, CAPABLE  
LEARNERS**

**ENTERPRISING, CREATIVE  
CONTRIBUTORS**

**ETHICAL, INFORMED  
CITIZENS**

**HEALTHY, CONFIDENT  
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# ST MARY THE VIRGIN CIW PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Whole School Vision

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#### QUALITY

There are two aspects to Quality –

- High quality – i.e. the very best
- Personal qualities and attributes

All members of our school community deserve the very best. Nothing less will do. We want our learners to be confident, resilient problem solvers with a growth mindset. We offer high quality, first hand authentic learning experiences that connect us to our community, heritage and to the wider world, supporting ambitious, capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives. We develop our personal qualities and attributes to be the very best that we can be, fostering an attitude of independence, resilience, perseverance, enquiry and creativity. We promote relationships and prioritise high levels of emotional, social and physical wellbeing, enabling our school community to be healthy, confident individuals ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

#### FAITH

Our Christian foundation is at the heart of all we do at St Mary's and we promote our Christian vision of faith in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are people of many faiths and none who respect each other and learn from each other; each of us is unique and our faiths are equally distinct and rich, but there is also so much that draws us together. Faith is at the heart of both what we do and, importantly, why we do it. We encourage our school community openly to talk about, discuss, question and interpret big questions with insight, applying this skill to their own faith journey, becoming ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.

"A child's spirituality precedes and transcends language, culture and religion" (Lisa Miller, 2015). We develop children's inner sense of relationship to a higher power that is loving and guiding.

#### DIVERSITY

St Mary the Virgin is a unique school – we are a Church in Wales Primary School where the majority of pupils come from other faiths or none – reflecting and celebrating our diverse local community.

Each individual is unique and we celebrate this daily, recognising our similarities and differences, learning from and about each other, consciously practising mutual respect and tolerance. We rejoice in our shared humanity, recognising and celebrating that we are part of a diverse community built on respect, involvement and a welcoming environment. We build in the rich cultural identities of our community, whilst nurturing a strong sense of belonging to Wales and our current locality, developing ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.

#### FLOURISHING

We want more for our school community than high achievement – we want every member of the community to flourish. To have positive relationships, experience the good in life, focus on having more fun and an enhanced sense of purpose and meaning in life. A life that is authentic to our values.

We commit to ensuring our learners have a sensitive view of the world around them and are sufficiently self aware to know the difference they can make and impact they can have, becoming enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work.

We want our learners to know their roots, have a sense of Cynefin and to thrive as confident individuals who are secure in who they are, connected to our local area and the wider world, with all possibilities open to them.

By promoting Quality, Diversity, Faith and Flourishing we will ensure that ALL members of our school community have the very best start in life as well as the opportunity to be the very best they can be throughout their lives.



# ST MARY THE VIRGIN CIW PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Curriculum Vision

OUR VISION IS THAT EVERY CHILD WILL RECEIVE AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THAT IS FOUNDED ON **QUALITY, DIVERSITY, FAITH, FLOURISHING**

Provide firsthand, authentic learning experiences which ensure that learners individual needs are met.

**PROVIDE**

Recognise consciously our similarities and differences, learning from and about each other whilst challenging preconceptions and bias.

**RECOGNISE**

Raise aspirations by providing inspiring, varied opportunities which break down potential barriers, build self-belief and remove any self-limiting expectations.

**RAISE**

Promote equity in all aspects of school life, offering enhanced opportunities to meet the needs of all individuals within our school.

**PROMOTE**

Foster an attitude of independence, resilience, perseverance, enquiry, and creativity.

**FOSTER**

Build on the rich cultural identities of our community whilst nurturing a strong sense of belonging to Wales and their current locality.

**BUILD**

Encourage our school community to recognise, talk about, develop and celebrate with insight every child's faith journey.

**ENCOURAGE**

Prioritise high levels of emotional, social and physical wellbeing for our whole school community.

**PRIORITISE**

Nurture collaboration, respect, and communication; promoting relationships that result in a positive, purposeful environment.

**NURTURE**

Fulfil the potential of all our learners, identifying their needs and providing the support and challenge that brings progress and success.

**FULFIL**

OUR VALUES OF HOPE, QUALITY, HONESTY, LOVE, RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP, PERSEVERANCE, UNITY, TRUST, HAPPINESS, TOLERANCE & APPRECIATION UNDERPIN OUR ENTIRE CURRICULUM.

These things combined ensure we are developing

**AMBITIOUS, CAPABLE LEARNERS**

**ENTERPRISING, CREATIVE CONTRIBUTORS**

**ETHICAL, INFORMED CITIZENS**

**HEALTHY, CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS**



# ST MARY THE VIRGIN CIW PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Curriculum Vision

**QUALITY, DIVERSITY, FAITH, FLOURISHING**

### QUALITY

**PROVIDE FIRSTHAND, AUTHENTIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES WHICH ENSURE THAT LEARNERS' INDIVIDUAL NEEDS ARE MET.**

- Encourage and grow a spirit of inquiry which has real life, relevant consequences and lessons that can be carried into their everyday lives.
- All pupils will be challenged to consider concepts that will probe their understanding of the world around them and create links across the curriculum.
- Every inquiry will work towards a performance of understanding with a real and meaningful purpose.
- Connect with a wide variety of local individuals, groups, organisations and schools to provide quality, bespoke learning experiences that reflect our setting and values e.g. cluster groups, School Improvement Groups, transition, Self Organised Learning Environments.
- Use Building Blocks to map provision and coverage in order to provide a broad and balanced range of experiences.
- Identify progress and map pupil development along the continua of progression through the use of effective assessment tools.

**RAISE ASPIRATIONS BY PROVIDING INSPIRING, VARIED OPPORTUNITIES WHICH BREAK DOWN POTENTIAL BARRIERS, BUILD SELF-BELIEF AND REMOVE ANY SELF-LIMITING EXPECTATIONS.**

- Identify barriers to learning through relationships, questioning, understanding and empathy. We recognise these will change and evolve over time.
- Engage with the community to identify what opportunities are needed or lacking.
- Commit to, and embed, rich learning opportunities and experiences in every year that raise aspirations by opening the world to our pupils
- Use a cumulative provision plan that runs alongside our curriculum offer, we will empower our pupils with life skills, simple life experiences, learning experiences that expand their academic aspiration and opportunities to broaden their horizons.

**FOSTER AN ATTITUDE OF INDEPENDENCE, RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE, ENQUIRY, AND CREATIVITY.**

- Embed a spirit of independence into every learning opportunity, encouraging pupils to own their learning, using individual, collaborative and whole class contexts.
- Provide explicit opportunities that model, encourage, extend and challenge their personal and corporate resilience and perseverance.
- Beyond the classroom, create opportunities for pupils to express themselves creatively using school resources as well as the rich creative provision of our own local area.
- All staff will seek to model these same attitudes in their daily interactions and engage with the pupils as they learn to develop and foster these attitudes together.

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### DIVERSITY

#### **RECOGNISE CONSCIOUSLY OUR SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES, LEARNING FROM AND ABOUT EACH OTHER WHILST CHALLENGING PRECONCEPTIONS AND BIAS**

- Each individual is unique and we celebrate this daily, recognising our similarities and differences, learning from and about each other, consciously practising mutual respect and tolerance through trust, using collective worship, robust discussion, the Religion, Values and Ethics Education curriculum and honest, open dialogue with the local communities.
- Embed and celebrate St Mary's as a School of Sanctuary.
- Proactively teach about bias and stereotyping through projects such as Getting On Together.
- Engage with members of the local community and invite them to share their experiences with our pupils.
- Promote understanding and unity through the language of global citizenship and a culture of sustainability.

#### **PROMOTE EQUITY IN ALL ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE, OFFERING ENHANCED OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL INDIVIDUALS WITHIN OUR SCHOOL**

- Embrace, on a daily basis, the Health and Wellbeing AoLE through provisions such as Zones of Regulation, Restorative Approaches and Check In.
- Commit to identify and support those pupils with English as an Additional Language needs whilst still recognising their home languages.
- Wholeheartedly dedicate ourselves to provide the resources, energy and opportunity to ensure that all pupils are able to achieve their potential.
- Ensure that pupils have access to outside support and/or organisations - e.g. specialist teachers, OASIS, etc - that can provide means or opportunity to rebalance any perceived inequities.

#### **BUILD ON THE RICH CULTURAL IDENTITIES OF OUR COMMUNITY WHILST NURTURING A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING TO WALES AND THEIR CURRENT LOCALITY.**

- Recognise, embrace and learn from the cultures represented in our school community in every area of learning, using local people and resources to bring meaning and relevance to our understanding.
- Enrich our curriculum by using our Welsh context to deepen a sense of belonging and identity - fostering and strengthening our sense of Cynefin.
- Provide and seek experiences and skills for the community to share.
- Recognise and celebrate the breadth of festivals marked by our community throughout the year in order for our pupils to foster a culture of understanding and empathy.

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## Curriculum Vision

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### FAITH

**ENCOURAGE OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY TO RECOGNISE, TALK ABOUT, DEVELOP AND CELEBRATE WITH INSIGHT EVERY CHILD'S FAITH JOURNEY.**

- As people of many faiths and none we commit to respecting each other and learning from each other.
- Identify those things that draw us together whilst recognising faiths that are equally distinct and rich.
- Develop an inner sense of relationship to a higher power that is loving and guiding through collective worship, class worship and our Religion, Values and Ethics curriculum.
- Live out the 12 school values (Hope, Quality, Honesty, Love, Respect, Friendship, Perseverance, Unity, Trust, Happiness, Tolerance and Appreciation) through our every day interactions.
- Join together through worship and understand its centrality as the beating heart of the school.
- Ensure that worship is sensitive to our entire community and respects the faith values represented.
- Punctuate the day with prayer and reflection as a way to ground our daily lives in faith and worship.
- Nurture the key relationship with St Mary's Church, partnering with and engaging in their 5 commitments to our school (listed below).

#### **ST MARY'S CHURCH'S FIVE COMMITMENTS TO ST MARY'S SCHOOL: ([WWW.STMARYSCF10.COM](http://WWW.STMARYSCF10.COM))**

- Commitment #1: We regard the school as part of the life of the church in this parish and an extension of our mission and ministry in the community, and we will provide pastoral care, support teaching and learning, and value the well-being of staff, children and their families.
- Commitment #2: We will regularly pray for the school and provide opportunities for the whole school community to share in this life of prayer.
- Commitment #3: We value and celebrate the diversity of the school, and will encourage friendship and understanding between people of different faiths and cultures so that, together, we can strengthen the life of the whole community.
- Commitment #4: We will enable and provide worship which is child friendly and encourages participation of children of all ages so that they can experience worship which is nurturing and enlivening.
- Commitment #5: We will nurture children in the Christian Faith, and engage with children and families in their own journey of faith.

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### FLOURISHING

#### **NURTURE COLLABORATION, RESPECT, AND COMMUNICATION: PROMOTING RELATIONSHIPS THAT RESULT IN A POSITIVE, PURPOSEFUL, ENVIRONMENT.**

- Value and encourage collaborative efforts in all areas of school life and at all levels e.g. pupil voice, pupil action groups, Senedd, steering committees and curriculum co-construction.
- Commit to a positive relationships policy which is centred around respect, restoration and communication e.g. Restorative Approaches.
- Provide opportunities that recognise the need for emotional support and open communication e.g. ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support), Thrive.
- Constantly seek out ways to enhance the learning environment through developing high quality resources, enhanced learning areas (indoors and outdoors), The Curiosity Approach and IT that facilitate quality teaching and learning.
- Develop proactive individuals who take ownership of their learning and are empowered to lead, adapt and develop their own learning.

#### **PRIORITISE HIGH LEVELS OF EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING FOR OUR WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.**

- Commit to prioritising PE and Physical Activity as part of every community member's wellbeing.
- Develop food literacy through classroom teaching, involving parents as well as outside agencies such as Grow Cardiff and Food and Fun.
- Create and develop emotionally intelligent children who contribute to the wellbeing of the whole school community through elements such as Zones of Regulation.
- Provide and develop the language of emotion as something recognised and used across the school.
- Develop the language of 'needs' as part of Restorative Approaches across the school community.

#### **FULFIL THE POTENTIAL OF ALL OUR LEARNERS, IDENTIFYING THEIR NEEDS AND PROVIDING THE SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE THAT BRINGS PROGRESS AND SUCCESS**

- Challenge each child at an appropriate yet aspirational level, through a range of learning experiences, including Children's University.
- Enable each child to reach their potential through high quality teaching, facilitated by staff who are highly skilled and committed to professional learning.
- Provide a range of targeted interventions that effectively identify and meet the needs of a broad range of pupils - e.g. Language Links, Sound Discovery, Rainbow Reading, Handwriting Motorway, Talkabout.
- Seek advice and support from specialist agencies for pupils with Additional Learning Needs and follow programmes to enable these pupils to achieve and succeed.
- Enhance learning experience for More Able and Talented learners, creating opportunities for challenge and development.

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