



**Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School**

## **Reviewing our school vision and values at Sleights September 2025**



***Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed  
through our Christian Values of  
perseverance, respect and trust.***

***"Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God"***  
Psalm 92:13

In our September 2025 training day, staff and governors came together to review our school vision and values. Initially put in place some years ago, the opportunity to review our vision and values provided a chance to consider the impact of and direction of our work.

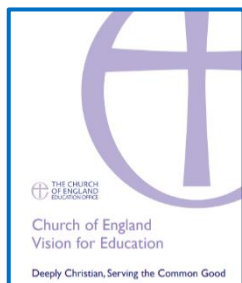
### **Vision and Values**

Recognising the distinctiveness of being a Church school, the review process encapsulated the strengths and challenges of our school community and context and considered how our existing vision and values addresses this.

To support our discussions in the first instance, we considered the purpose of a vision and set of values. Shared discussion led to an agreed definition to support us in our review work. This can be seen here:



With these shared definitions and agreed focus, we next looked at what the national, Church of England vision for education tells us about schools. Each stakeholder recognises the unique nature of being part of a Church school team; the idea that every child has a unique gift and is born in the image of God.



***"they might have life, and have it abundantly" John 10:10***

Unpacking the Church of England's Vision for Education was our starting point and exploring what is meant by the deeply Christian vision, with the promise by Jesus of "life in its fullness" at its heart.

To support our discussions and review of the vision, values and aims, we also explored the four key areas of the Church of England's vision.

- Educating for **wisdom, knowledge** and **skills**
- Educating for **hope** and **aspiration**
- Educating for **community** and **living well together**
- Educating for **dignity** and **respect**

## Theological Roots

As a proud Church school, our vision and values are underpinned and illustrated through Biblical references and stories. As part of our review, a crucial aspect was considering the theological roots of our Biblical references, to support all stakeholders in understanding where these fit in the bigger story and tales of the Bible. Our Reverend, Jo Parker, played a key role in developing this understanding through our training day activities.

To support all stakeholders, a key view of theological roots and theology was shared a belief that this is God's word. Across the team, there is a recognition that families and stakeholders approach religion with different views, but essentially, each view is valued and important. The theological roots of our vision and values help to anchor our work and belief as a school.

With the agreed definitions and shared understanding of a Church school in place, we reflected on a range of known information about our school. Our discussions were guided by three key questions:



## Who are we?

Our discussions centred around:

- information about our local area.
- published statistics about the local area, including high levels of deprivation and challenge, set alongside some very low aspiration or confidence.
- our own knowledge about the children and families at Sleights.

Key themes included:

- a proud embracing of the uniqueness of the team and community a committed team
- a recognition of difference and similarity. There is a pervasive feeling that we do not all need to be the same to share the same goal.
- a close community
- adaptive, caring, tenacious listeners who seek to solve problems together

## What are we doing here?

Next, our focus turned to our purpose as a school and the work we set out to achieve. Staff and governors considered our relationships with others, including the Church and how our community needs are met through our vision and work.

Key themes included:

- Being present and consistent. The importance of 'showing up' for everyone in the community was highlighted in order to instil and encourage a belief that everyone can achieve.
- Our vision recognising the close knit, school family team. This team seeks to promote the key values and messages to staff and families.
- Improving attendance and outcomes in school to ensure children are happy in school and with the achievements they make. We recognise this goes beyond the school gates and extends to families too, offering kindness and respect to the full community.
- There is a strong relationship with the Church, which is celebrated and strengthened through a range of mechanisms. This includes: "Open the Book" worships; visits to John's Church, including visits from Reverend Jo Parker and Church celebrations with our families. Links are also made between school values and stories, including those from the Bible.

## How then are we living well and learning together: Vision Statement

Our school vision statement identifies the importance of community working. By working with a child, we believe you are working with the full family. This was initially recognised in our school vision statement through the vocabulary 'working together'. Beyond this, stakeholders agreed a shared belief that this collaborative working should result in happy learners who succeed in whatever they are working towards, leading to them flourishing.



Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

# Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed

Each aspect of our vision statement was critically analysed and considered as part of our review. By knowing who we are what we do, Stakeholders carefully considered:

**Knowing what we do about who we are and why we are here, how does our school:**

work  
together?

ensure  
happiness?

support all  
to flourish?

establish  
success?

Groups of stakeholders engaged in discussion to consider each in turn, based on gathered evidence and impact, but ongoing aspiration for our children at Sleights.

## Working together

- We honour diversity
- Governors, staff and the community work together
- Strong relationships with families, supported by open mornings in school, or parent workshops.
- There is an open door policy. Mechanisms to communicate, such as Tapestry, help to keep dialogue going.
- Pupils are leaders and engage in a range of meaningful leadership opportunities around the day. Their voice is heard and this shapes our school action.
- Relationships with children are strong. Children are well known by staff.
- The wider community is well understood. This supports engagement with others, including professionals and the Church. Relationships are strong.

## Ensuring happiness

- We listen to everyone. There are strong connections and team work at the heart of what we do.
- Communication is crucial.
- There is a caring community, including from governors. This helps everyone feel safe. As part of this, there is an inclusive nature to our work, which recognises that it is "ok to not be ok". Support is timely and accurate.
- Basic needs are prioritised. This goes beyond the academic needs and focuses on wellbeing and nurture. Regular check ins help to make a difference.

- Because our children and community is well known, extra support is provided for children and staff to respond to challenging circumstances and times. This helps to break down barriers.
- Standards are high in school. This ensures all children are supported to reach high standards of behaviour.

### Supporting all to flourish

- We look carefully to ensure children and families know how they can get support. Their wellbeing is prioritised.
- Families and children are known well to school. They are each treated as an individual.
- Our approach favours progress over attainment. We recognise everyone's starting points are unique and individual. Success and flourishing looks different for everyone.
- There is a clear feeling of communication and support for all.
- Relationships are strong, happy and filled with respect on trust.

### Establishing success

- There is a clear recognition that success looks different for everyone. This means that achievement and celebrating this will look different too. This embraces independence and social success, as well as academic achievement,.
- We recognise that self esteem and safety is vital. By prioritising this success, in turn, we know academic achievement will follow.
- We consider the basic needs of all to be a priority. If children are wed, clothed, warm and loved, we know that this is highly effective in ensuring they are ready to learn.

### How then are we living well and learning together: theological roots

With a firm body of evidence and understanding that our vision statement continues to meet the demands of our community now, in the past and the future, stakeholders, supported by Reverend Jo Parker considered the theological roots of our vision statement Biblical reference.

| Vision Statement<br>Biblical Reference                                                                                                                                                                                           | How is this theologically rooted in the Bible?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Those who are<br/>planted in the<br/>house of<br/>the Lord<br/>shall flourish<br/>in the<br/>courts<br/>of our God.<br/>(Psalm 92:13)</p> | <p>Everything about this Psalm and in particular this verse speaks of identity, family, belonging, acceptance and inclusion. The idea of being planted is that of a seed which is nurtured and cared for and the grounds being constantly cultivated in order to grow. Being able to flourish in the courts of God speaks of going out from the house, or the family. When this Psalm was written, it spoke of when we get this right, each one of us, children, staff, governors and families, we take not only the presence of God into our lives and homes, but we also take the sense of being a family, community, belong and having a great worth and value too.</p> |



In our initial work with the children to explore our vision a few years ago, the idea of coming to school to flourish and grow was likened to the process of growing plants. Each time a child comes to school, they are enriched and flourish, similarly to when plants and flowers are watered.

With this idea, the children in school at the time created this piece of artwork to demonstrate those planted in the house of the Lord, flourishing in the courts of God. This artwork continues to proudly be showcased in the hall.



## How then are we living well and learning together: Our Christian Values

The need to underpin every aspect of our school's work with Christian Values is essential. Recognising and understanding the importance of these values was equally important. With this in mind, stakeholders reviewed and considered our three values and the impact of these in the past and aspirations for the future to consider if they continue to be accurate and relevant for our school.

| Christian Value                                                                                                                                                                     | Why is it important to Sleighs?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | What are the theological roots?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | How do children gain this insight at Sleighs?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>I can do all things through Him who strengthens me</b><br/>Philippians 4:13</p>             | <p>An observation by many staff is that our children have difficulties in self-belief and working through something when it is difficult. Given that our school vision is driven by developing happy, successful and flourishing learners, instilling a culture of perseverance was recognised as a must!</p>               | <p>Life is hard and sometimes, it can be easy to give up. School has to be different. Paul, the writer of the Philippians, wrote these letters from prison. He was starved, chained and up to his waist in excrement. Yet, he had seen the hand of God so many times, so knew the trial he faced and could stand it. Life is challenging for many of our families living up to what have become glossy, unrealistic expectations. Believing in themselves is tricky. However, we know that we are at the children of God and know that this means we can believe that we put ourselves to anything.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate good role models</li> <li>• Seek to solve problems and find our own solutions</li> <li>• We encourage everyone to know their best is good enough</li> <li>• Our expectations are reflective of our relationships with the children and realistic</li> <li>• We recognise that learning is a journey and praise the process</li> <li>• Celebration is vital</li> </ul>                            |
|  <p><b>So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you</b><br/>Matthew 7:12</p> | <p>As a Church school, we value all God's children. Promoting respect for yourself and others encapsulates this sense and belief of value. Knowing that our children lack belief in themselves, teaching all stakeholders to value and respect everyone equally will enable everyone to be happy, succeed and flourish.</p> | <p>In this verse, Matthew was Jesus' direct word to his disciples. We must begin to recognise we are each a disciple, with equal value and respect one another. Ambition can make us frightened to make mistakes, but making mistakes is how we learn., Jesus in his words calls us to be those who believe that each one of us can achieve and be the best version of ourselves. We must look for the face of Jesus and use this to help us find the gold in everyone by respecting their individuality and success.</p>                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults modelling respect towards each other</li> <li>• Our behaviour system is focused on restorative approaches</li> <li>• We do not show judgement. We are open minded and calm</li> <li>• Respect for the world beyond Whitby, including other faiths and cultures</li> <li>• Seek to break down barriers and understand the individual challenges facing children, families and the community</li> </ul> |

| Christian Value                                                                                                                                      | Why is it important to Sleights?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | What are the theological roots?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | How do children gain this insight at Sleights?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>My God is my strength in whom I trust</b><br/>Psalm 18:2</p> | <p>We believe that educating and working with the whole community is essential to ensuring happiness and success. A shared commitment to working together and trusting families and schools equally is rooted firmly in our work. With this partnership, children will benefit from a trusting relationship, focused on achieving the very best for all.</p> | <p>This psalm was written by David and he wrote it on the day that he was rescued from his enemies and set free. The full verse says 'The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer: My God is my strength in whom I trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation'. There will be many times after writing this that he was in danger where he will have looked back on these words to remind himself that God can be depended upon.</p> <p>We recognise trust as a huge thing. We strive to follow the example of the Bible and create a culture not just of mutual honour and respect, but also of trust. To trust is to know something is reliable. As a member of our community of trust, we can be imitators of God and of Christ. We can be Christians, reliable, dependable and model Christlike lives to create a Christlike community and family.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We know the importance of keeping our word.</li> <li>• We recognise the expectations we make need to reflect the children we are working with and their unique circumstances.</li> <li>• We are reliable and consistent in a climate that does not or cannot always offer this.</li> <li>• Relationships are strong with all aspects of our school community.</li> <li>• Our approach is well established and built over time. We are open, transparent and honest. This helps to support a feeling of love and connection.</li> </ul> |



Across school, our vision and values are already everywhere. From a strategic level, decisions are taken based on how an action or intended step is influenced or influencing our vision. Day to day, children and staff live out our values. They are celebrated across all aspects of our work, including weekly celebration assemblies and prizes.

To help illustrate the vision to all, art work was created with a local artist. Whilst some children in school were not part of our community at the time of the art work's initial creation, it is still referred to and used as a source of our vision being lived out.

When initially establishing the art work, over a number of days and weeks, our school artist worked with every child in the school to gather their individual ideas and curate them into a huge piece of art. The finished product is magnificent and sits proudly in the hall. It encapsulates the sense of working together, happiness and flourishing by celebrating and shining a spotlight on the whole village. Children have created the school, all three Churches, village houses, the playpark, the shops, animals and even the air ambulance (that often lands on the school field!) can also be seen.

Every child has helped to inspire, create and shape the project. This in itself entirely encapsulates our vision and values.

### **Moving forwards**

With an exciting, renewed sense of purpose and determination, the reviewed vision and values remain at the heart of our work, underpinned by theological understanding and Biblical references. Our ongoing work around school, including our well planned Collective Worship programme, helps the entire school community to live out these visions and values in full.

Scott Grason-Taylor  
Headteacher, September 2025



Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

**Working together to be happy;  
to flourish; to succeed**  
through our Christian Values of  
**perseverance, respect and trust.**

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God  
Psalm 92:13

