



## Theological Statement Supporting our Vision

St. Luke's is a Church of England school that serves a diverse community and works in partnership with parents and carers, to support all in our community to be lifelong learners and socially-responsible members of society. Our vision statement is -



Our vision statement is reflective of Church of England vision for education which is 'deeply Christian, serving the common good' and provides a 'golden thread' to encompass curricular and extracurricular activities; the character and moral development of our pupils; our promotion of social and cultural development and our desire to treat others with dignity and respect. In addition, it directs our Religious Education and inspires our Collective Worship.

The initial part of the statement is based in Micah 6:8 which is found in the Old Testament, but is also supported by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. It expresses the heart of the school community to develop an active culture of justice and kindness, where everyone is treated with dignity, respect and warmth and enabled to flourish. It also guides our behaviour policy which is based on restorative justice and finally inspires pupils to make ethical choices and become agents for change both within their own context and further afield; this has been evidenced recently by the excellent work done by our Justice and Eco Committees.

The middle part of the statement, also taken from Micah 6:8 encourages us to walk humbly with God and our interpretation of this is twofold. As a Church of England School and in line with their vision, we naturally seek to provide an environment where everyone can flourish and have opportunities for life enhancing encounters with the Christian faith and Jesus Christ; however we also seek, in humility, to be thoughtful of those of other faiths or none and inclusive in our practice.

The London Borough of Newham, where the school is set, is unique in that 83% of its residents belong to a particular religion. 37% are Christian, 32% Muslim, 10% Hindu and 2% Sikhi. There is also a significant minority of 9% who say they have no religion. Our aim is that all of our pupils, whatever their background, will grow to understand each other's beliefs, worldviews, practices and ways of life; developing and demonstrating age appropriate skills and attitudes that allow them to participate fully and contribute positively within their diverse context.

Micah 6:8 also reminds us that Jesus Christ took on the nature of a servant when he came to earth, Philippians 2: 5 - 8, and that he walked humbly with God throughout his life and ministry. He reached out to those around him, with a heart of compassion and service, and as a school we want to encourage our pupils to be kind and serve others in a similar way. Historically, our families have been



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generous with their contributions toward those in need, particularly the homeless and those less fortunate in other countries; they have set an example to our children about the importance of caring and serving and we endeavour to build upon this.

It is important to note at this point that in addition to drawing on the example of Jesus Christ and significant figures, stories and celebrations from the Christian faith to establish our vision; we also endeavour to build on examples set by significant figures, stories and celebrations representative of other beliefs, religious or otherwise.

The final part of the statement reflects our desire for all of our pupils to 'grow' and thrive spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and academically with every opportunity they encounter in school. We remain committed to maintaining an excellent, broad-based education and love the enthusiasm, energy and dedication with which pupils engage with learning, sport, music, technology and so much more. We encourage the pupils to grow within their lives the 'fruits of the spirit' (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control) as mentioned in Galatians 5:22 and to develop a growth mindset, resilience and good mental health and well-being.

Our vision statement is supported by the five values of justice; kindness; respect; service and growth, which we believe help us to maintain a strong sense of direction and forward momentum inline with our vision statement. (See values document)