



Minster Trust for Education: Our Christian mission

Opening statement

The Church of England's involvement in education is driven by its ongoing vision to provide education for all. From the teaching of choristers and the development of literacy in Sunday schools through to the formation of the National Society in 1811 focused on "mass education of the poor, as essential both for the church's mission and the life of the nation.", the church has maintained its desire to enable 'life in all its fullness'. This is a vision for education that Minster Trust for Education shares and continues to embrace today.

Our MITRE mission

'TOGETHER WE HELP EVERY CHILD TO FLOURISH, OPENING DOORS TO FULFILLING FUTURES.'

As a Trust we believe that every child should be at the heart of what we do. We are all made unique, as Jesus says in Matthew 10:30, *"Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered"*. Every child we teach is not only loved, cherished and known to God but also born with his divine spark within them.

Togetherness

We believe in the importance of working collectively, for every unique individual to come together with a joint purpose, supporting each other and striving to work towards a common goal. As the book of Hebrews teaches, *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another"*. This concept of collaboration is central to what we do, and we subscribe to the view that we are stronger when we are together. By supporting and encouraging one another we can achieve more for the communities we serve than we could as individuals.

Helping every child to flourish

As God's children, we also recognise and celebrate that we are all different. Irrespective of background, belief, culture or creed, we are all a cherished part of the same body. We aim to create a place where those who follow the Christian faith, different faiths or no faith can come together, learn from each other and share their beliefs, values and ideals. We all have individual strengths, abilities and gifts and as a Trust we believe in nurturing and developing these talents and qualities.

Whilst doing so we also appreciate that some children face greater challenges than others. Jesus in his ministry does not just advocate for equality but for equity, arguing that some people in society needed His help more than others, saying *"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick"*. In the same way we recognize that some members of our own communities may need additional support in overcoming existing disadvantages and disabilities in order to create a level playing field. This is key to our beliefs in helping every child to flourish.

Opening doors to fulfilling futures

The purpose of all we do is to prepare our children to fully embrace their place in society and the world beyond. We aim to create places of learning where every child has equal opportunities to excel with the purpose of improving social mobility and giving greater opportunities to all. Though we cannot know what future we are preparing them for, we aim to ensure that no door is closed, no opportunity denied so that each child may have the chance to pursue their own dreams.

Spirituality

The MITRE vision for flourishing is also centered around spirituality. To provide opportunities for worship and deepening understanding of the Christian faith and to reflect on the example and inspiration of Jesus as



a role model in an ever-changing world. In doing so, we aim for all to be inspired by teachings such as Micah 6:8 “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God”.

This enables all our staff and students to explore their own beliefs, values and faith through one of the following 3 lenses:

- Supporting and developing an established Christian faith.
- Exploring personal beliefs as part of a faith journey.
- As human values, supporting a just and principled society.

Our Trust Values

Our trust values of Wisdom, Kindness, Integrity, Collaboration and Service are designed to be both Christian values and human values. To enable spiritual development whilst maintaining an inclusive approach that welcomes all.

Wisdom

Knowledge and the pursuit of academic achievement is important for unlocking doors to future careers and successes. However, in order to do this, knowledge must be accompanied by wisdom. As a trust we believe in instilling wisdom in our children, taking the knowledge they have learnt and applying it today, tomorrow and in the years to come. As Proverbs 3:13 states, “Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding”.

Kindness

We support the concept of moral flourishing, instilling in all ideas such as love and kindness. As St Paul echoes in his letters to the early church “Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” Colossians 3:12. We believe in modelling this, through showing and acting out kindness and forgiveness in everything we do from the classroom to the meeting room and beyond.

Integrity

The Christian faith is a command, not to just believe in the values taught by Jesus but to live them out with integrity, to ensure that our lives match our words. Likewise, as a Trust, we believe that we should live out these values with openness and honesty, ensuring they are visible in the ideas and actions of all who attend and work in our schools.

Collaboration

At the centre of Jesus’ ministry is His teaching to “Love one another, as I have loved you” John 13:34. This is central to our beliefs as a Trust and is evident in the relationships between staff, between children, and between staff and children. Only when we work together based on our Christian moral principles, can we enable every child to truly flourish.

Service

Jesus, the servant god, provides us with a model of service for us to follow through humility. As Peter puts it in the first of his letters, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others”. As a Trust, this concept of service is embedded in all we do.

In conclusion

As a Church of England Trust, our ethos is built around inclusivity. That every child and adult alike no matter who they are, is welcomed. We believe in opening doors for all without limitations and inspiring young people to look beyond the boundaries that are imposed upon them and embrace a hope for a greater tomorrow. As Jeremiah 29:11 states, “‘For I know the plans I have for you’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.’”