



**'With God all things are possible'**

Theological Rooting of our vision

Vision

**'With God all things are possible'**

With **love** we will nurture all to be emotionally secure; with **forgiveness** all will know that every day is a new beginning and with **aspiration** all will strive for success.

At Sir John Offley CE Primary School, we have spent time considering how our school vision and Christian values use Biblical teachings to guide the teaching, learning and behaviour in our school.

We have three school values which guide how we live our lives each day. Each of our core Christian values has a scripture verse linked to it. Our three values link to the holy trinity; Love links to God, Forgiveness links to Jesus and Aspiration links to the Holy Spirit.

Our first two Christian values; Love and Forgiveness are related to our school motto 'With God all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26) and our third value; Aspiration has its own scripture verse.

How do these teachings help each and every member of the school community?

**MOTTO** - **'With God all things are possible'** (Matt 19:26)



**'Who can then be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."**

## Context Summary

Matthew 19:16-30 describes Jesus' conversation with a wealthy young man who asks how to attain eternal life. Jesus begins by establishing a standard of goodness, suggesting the man keep all the commandments. When the man says he has done this, Jesus suggests he give up his wealth to follow Him. The man's sad reaction proves he's unwilling to make God the real priority of his life. Using this as an example, Jesus warns that wealth can make it difficult for someone to accept salvation.

This passage is about salvation and putting God first. When considering the root of what we want for the children in our care we feel strongly that we want all members of our school community to know there is always somebody there who can be relied upon. As a school community we put God at the forefront of everything we do in school, God is at the heart of life at Sir John Offley and the decisions we make as a team, following his teachings and not letting anything get in the way of what we know is right for our school family. We know that God is always there for us and we can achieve anything when we make God a priority as he is by our side. We want the children and adults in our school, no matter what their personal beliefs are to see us demonstrating love and forgiveness in our daily lives. God loves us unconditionally and because of that we can be saved and through God's grace God forgives us so we can be saved.

## LOVE (1 Corinthians 13:4)



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

## Context Summary

Love as described in 1 Corinthians 13 is best understood as a way of life, lived in imitation of Jesus Christ, that is focused not on oneself but on the "other" and their good. Love is about action, how a person lives for the Lord and obeys him and how a person lives for others and serves them.

Paul is trying to call out the Corinthians on their problems, and show them that the real issue at hand is not whose spiritual gifts are greater than the others, but rather the issues is their lack of love for one another.

At Sir John Offley we want everyone in our community to understand that Jesus taught us to love others and ourselves. We want our children to recognise that they are valued and loved by others, ensuring they are emotionally secure. Love is at the centre of Christian life and we want to teach our children about the different types of love which are shown through the scriptures; love of a family, friends, romantic love and unconditional love of our God. The children in our school can arrive each day having faced many different situations and

scenarios and we want them to come into our school community each day with the knowledge they are safe, cared for and loved. We want our children to live their life feeling loved and demonstrating love towards others just as God loves us unconditionally.

### **FORGIVENESS** (Luke 6:37)



"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

#### **Context Summary**

In Luke 6:37-42, Jesus finishes explaining precisely what it means to be His disciple. He began with a list of blessings His persecuted followers can expect. He listed consequences for those blessed by the ungodly world (Luke 6:20-26). He exhorts His followers to love their enemies with prayer and generosity (Luke 6:27-35). Here, He applies mercy (Luke 6:36) with gracious judgment and forgiveness. Finally, He calls the crowd to have good hearts and lives that are founded on Him (Luke 6:43-49).

At Sir John Offley every day is a new start. We want our children to understand that it can be very hard to forgive and it looks different for different people. Our aim is that we want our children to feel happy in school in a place where forgiveness happens and they're taught how to forgive others. We want them to understand that we all make mistakes but they can be forgiven and we can move forward from them. Through God's grace God forgives us so we can be saved.

### **ASPIRATION** (Philippians 3:13)

Our third core Christian value is not related to our motto because ultimately, we cannot aspire to be saved, our salvation is God's action, not ours. But we feel aspiration is a core Christian value we want our children at SJO to have. We want our children to achieve, and in our context, there are not always high aspirations and we want our children to have aspirations and know that they can make a positive difference in their own and others' lives.



Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

### Context Summary

Philippians 3:12—4:1 explains the proper attitude Christians ought to have on the process of 'sanctification.' This is the gradual, lifelong path of becoming more and more like Jesus. Our place in eternity is secure from the moment we trust in Christ, but it takes time to see our actions and attitudes change to be like His. Paul notes that he is not perfect, but encourages Christians to mimic his singular focus on pursuing Jesus. Paul also weeps for those who reject the gospel, a choice that will result in their destruction.

At Sir John Offley we feel strongly that success is part of life in its fullness. When we put God first and ensure his teachings (commandments) are at the heart of what we do, we can move forward on our learning journey, pursuing the purpose God has for each of us. We want to teach our children the resilience to cope with things when they go wrong and to use this resilience to persevere and try again. Making mistakes can lead to us learning to live a more positive full life. We want our children to feel that they can aspire to improve and develop; being the best they can be with God by their side.

### What does the Bible teach about education, in the context of our school?

We feel there are three important messages about education at Sir John Offley, which we can be taught from the teachings in the bible.

Firstly, as Christians, God should be at the centre of our lives, meaning we should consider Him in everything we do. We teach that having an education is vital as it says in Proverbs 16:16; having wisdom and understanding is better than having silver or gold. Nice and expensive items can be enjoyable, but there are very few things in life that truly make you a better person. An education is one of those things. It enriches your mind and opens the door to new people, places, and ways of thinking.

We know it is important to work hard. 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us that we should study and show God that we understand the truth. We should strive to be the best we can be through hard work and resilience.

Finally, we should always put God first. Matthew 6:33 says that above all things in our lives, we should seek God, and everything else will be provided for us. It's okay to feel overwhelmed, but we can always take time to talk to God. He's willing to listen, and He's able to help.