

Norton Free Church of England Primary School 2023 A Guide to our Vision and Values



Our vision statement:

'Our school is a caring, Christian Community, with Jesus Christ at the heart of everything we do. It provides a safe, nurturing environment enabling all children to flourish, to be the best they can be, to value themselves and others and to live joyfully and in peace'

Our Mission:

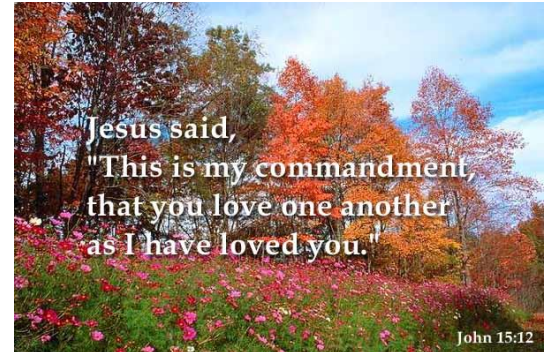
From little acorns grow mighty trees...



In the pursuit of our vision, set out below, we will work together to develop a healthy, happy, safe and caring community where all children and adults have a sense of their personal identity and worth. We believe that we help to shape the adults of the future that we can all be proud of, and that these people will make a difference both to their community and to their world in whichever path in life they choose to follow. We also believe that **everyone** in the school community deserves to be **valued** and **cared for** completely, equally and unconditionally, as a part of our '**school family**' because we are all part of **God's family**.

Through an awareness of understanding the rights of others, we will promote individual and collective responsibility towards respecting and protecting the rights of all, regardless of race, religion, age or ability.

We are keen to show love, kindness and concern towards the children and encourage them to do the same to others. (Like Jesus' command John 15:12). The importance of love and kindness is also highlighted in the school through the display of scripture and through awarding the Kindness Cup in Friday assembly.



Our Vision:



We are enormously **proud** of our school and aim to ensure that it is a **safe, inclusive, kind** and **caring** environment where **everyone** is valued and respected. Our **Christian ethos** is **central** to the life of the school with **Christian values at the heart** of the community. We are committed to providing a **kind, caring** environment where every child flourishes and is supported to achieve and **to be the best they can be** in order to reach their potential. **We believe that every child is unique in the eyes of God** and everyone deserves to be heard. We will consider the whole child when the children are with us and aim to provide the support needed for them to flourish. We strive to

develop our children's spirituality through an awareness of Christianity, as well as other religions. We are committed to providing an engaging learning environment, one that equips and prepares our pupils for the 21st Century. We also believe that everyone in our school should enjoy their learning and feel proud of their achievements. Our school motto is on the children's uniform – '**Caring, Confident and Accomplishing**'. Our aim is for the children to begin the next phase of their education as Caring and Confident citizens that have achieved and completed their time at Norton Free successfully.

Our Ethos:

At Norton Free C of E Primary School, through our broad and balanced curriculum, our Christian ethos and our shared values, we encourage our children to be 'Caring, Confident and Accomplishing' individuals whilst preparing them spiritually, morally and culturally for a life in modern Britain. Building on the teachings in the Bible, we equip the children with the essential knowledge, wisdom, skills and behaviours needed for them to thrive both now and in the future.

Our aim is for all children to enjoy their time at our school experiencing a calm, safe and nurturing environment, based on love, kindness and mutual respect using the Bible as a guide to living a fulfilling life. Every child at Norton is an individual and unique in the eyes of God. Our children know that everyone has the right to be themselves and we encourage respect and kindness towards one another. All our staff are committed to providing an environment where each pupils' mental health and well-being are of the highest importance, allowing them to flourish and achieve throughout their time here. With high quality teaching and a curriculum that inspires children to be the best they can be, we firmly believe that **'From little acorns mighty oaks grow'**. We facilitate the growth of our children encouraging them to reach their full potential and to develop a love of learning that will follow them to adulthood.

A strong Christian ethos permeates through day to day life in school and this provides the children with the safe, nurturing environment in which they can flourish. We develop and celebrate children's personal and academic potential and our children learn to be determined, become resilient, respectful and considerate individuals who are ambitious, lifelong learners valuing themselves and others. We strive for our children to be resilient and forward looking, caring for others and recognising that Kindness and love are paramount.

We have designed our Curriculum to inspire our children, teaching in a cross-curricular way and delivering wisdom through engaging and fun filled topics that motivate the children. The Bible talks of wisdom as a gift from God. Wisdom is not just how clever someone is; it is about how we use our knowledge to make the right choices and decisions, being prepared to listen to the advice of others and thinking before you speak. Through Collective Acts of Worship, sharing and incorporating the whole school values, we learn to consider others and care for others in our community. We promote good health and physical fitness, respect, co-operation, perseverance and determination, self-belief, resilience and kindness towards others in a safe, calm environment. Our children are the adults of the future and the magic of Norton Free will enable them to succeed in the future.

Our Curriculum:

We will provide a **rich and deep** curriculum which gives equal value to developing children's **academic, social, physical and spiritual and moral** understanding (see our Curriculum Booklet'). We teach the curriculum through different topics which appeal to the children and engage them in their learning and lessons are introduced with a hook to motivate the children. **We** firmly believe that physical activity and sport contributes significantly to the development of the whole child. **Physical**

activity is therefore at the **heart of school life. Being healthy and active is a key to personal development.** PE and School Sport is a big part of school life and we provide many different opportunities for children to experience and compete in a range of different sports as well as providing high quality PE for 2 hours a week. We keep track of the children who have represented school in sporting activities and try to ensure that all children have opportunities to represent the school if they wish to. We encourage children to be physically active and healthy through our **'Mile a Day Initiative'** and through our Healthy Schools Status. We firmly believe and support the research that shows that **healthy children are more equipped to learn.** We aim to **prepare every pupil** so that they can make a **positive contribution** to British society where they can function in the fast changing world in which they find themselves. Through fostering a **lifelong love of learning**, we hope to help our pupils to live a full and happy adult life.



Our vision statement for our curriculum:



'To inspire every child and spark a love of learning through engaging classroom and whole school activities/topics, that encourage active participation; thought provoking discussion; questioning and reflection as well as providing the knowledge and skills for all the children in order for them to be the best they can be'.

We greatly value the relationship we have with our parents and carers and we recognise that **effective partnerships are essential**. We appreciate and value the support that our families give us and the role that they play in enriching our pupil's experiences and supporting their child's education. Parents and carers are always most welcome to come into school as a volunteer, to discuss their child's progress or to contact us if they have any concerns. Our staff are always willing to help where they can.



Our Values:

Our curriculum hangs upon a set of six values that follow the teachings in the Bible. These values also encompass the sporting values of the School Games (indicated below in brackets) as well as 'fundamental British Values' including Democracy, the Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Our school values are inter-twined throughout everything we do and in many areas of the curriculum. Each half term, we introduce a new value in assembly and this will be referred to in PHSE, through the curriculum (especially PE and School Sport) and in our dealings with one another in daily life. Our whole school values are:



Respect – (Treating others politely and with understanding)

Co-operation - (Teamwork)

Determination – (Keep going no matter what)

Self Belief - (you've got to believe to achieve, treating everyone equally)

Kindness - (Honesty: be honest with others and with yourself)

Resilience – (Honesty: be honest with others and with yourself)



Our Theological Rational:

Summary of Norton Free C of E theological rationale:

- **Caring, Confident and Accomplishing**, with the word of God at the heart of everything we do.
- **'From little acorns, mighty oaks grow'**; We foster **confidence, delight and discipline** in seeking wisdom, knowledge and truth. We are courageous learners.
- With a spirit of **determination and perseverance**, we strive to be the best we can be. We can achieve great things.
- 'Our humanity is 'co-humanity', inextricably involved with others'; We are **a community and a family**. We are inclusive, ensuring we protect and accept all members of our school.
- We have commitment to the **dignity and ultimate worth** of each person in our school, led by the example of Jesus. **Respect and love are the cornerstones of our distinctive Christian ethos.**

Commentary

Caring, Confident and Accomplishing:

Norton Free C of E Primary School has one true aim: **To enable our children to flourish in a caring, scholarly environment with the word of God at its heart.**

"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – Put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9

Flourishing children in Norton Free C of E Primary will be happy, healthy in body and mind, achieving their best and nourished spiritually through the word of Jesus.

Confidence, delight and discipline:

Norton Free C of E Primary School takes pride in providing a rich, engaging curriculum that is tailored to the needs of our children and delivered in a fun and motivating way. We want our children to find joy in seeking knowledge.

"An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." Proverbs 18:15

Our children are provided with firm, fair boundaries to allow the best behaviour for learning. We strive to ensure our children have enriching experiences, trips and visitors to ensure our teaching is consistently inspiring and create a love of learning that stays with them beyond Our school.

Determination and Perseverance:

At Norton Free C of E Primary, we teach our children the importance of resilience through our teaching of the gospel and our tailored well-being scheme of work. Resilience is one of our six Christian values.

"Always pray, and never give up". Luke 18:1

Sport underpins everything we do at Norton Free C of E Primary School. It brings us together and gives us joy, strength and drive. Sport provides a huge part of our identity as a school community and our children refer to 'Team Norton'.

Community and Family:

Norton Free C of E Primary School has a rich Christian history dating back to 1645. Our school was set up by the Church for struggling children some 370 years ago. The church is still a crucial part of our identity today and we pride ourselves on our links with St James' Church and our affiliation with our local church clergy. We also value each and every one of our children and their families. We are a family here at 'Team Norton' and everybody has a role to play in moving our

Christian school into the future. We have our own whole school prayer which we say in assembly to remind us of our community spirit:

*Dear Heavenly Father,
Friend of all children,
Bless our school at Norton,
And the children and adults who work in it.
Help us to be kind to one another,
And joyful all the day.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.*



Each class has their own 'class prayer' which children say in class during the day. There is also a section on the website where we display 'prayers by our children' if they want to reflect on a specific issue or event. Our prayer tree and a display board in the corridor by the offices is dedicated to prayer and children can add prayers to a 'prayer box' which can be read out in assembly. We proudly support, protect and accept every child for who they are at Norton Free Church of England school, allowing all children to flourish under our care.

Dignity and Ultimate Worth:

Our six Christian values, outlined above, underpin everything we do at Norton Free C of E Primary School. They form part of our health and well-being teaching, as well as teaching the word of God through assemblies, circle time and learning time. The physical and mental health of the children in our care is of the utmost importance to us. As a small school with a family feel we are able to truly know our children as an individual and monitor their health, happiness, spirituality and wellbeing.

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10

History:



As stated previously, Norton Free C of E Primary School has existed since **1645!** The school began as a charity school for very poor children in Sheffield, set up by the church. There has been a school in Norton for around 370 years which means we are probably one of the **OLDEST** schools in Sheffield. The school used to be found in the Victorian building next door to the current building and this is now used as a nursery/pre-school. Norton Free C of E School was re-built and re-opened in September 2003. We benefit from being on one level with amazing grounds and outdoor facilities. We are a Voluntary Controlled School where the site and building

is owned by the Council and we are funded by the Local Authority but the Church of England plays a crucial role in our identity and has an influence in the running of the school. Over recent years, different areas around school have been extensively developed to meet the needs of our children (please see under the heading facilities).

As a **Christian School**, Norton Free has very close links with **St James' Church**. Our children are regular visitors at the church for important Christian Festivals. We hold our **Harvest Service, Christmas, Easter and Leavers services** at the church. Children begin visiting the church in Foundation Stage and throughout their time at Norton Free C of E School. The Vicar is a regular visitor to school and holds assembly once a week for all the children and especially when there is



an important date in the Christian Calendar. Every assembly begins with the liturgy and has a candle and cross as a focal point. Visual displays at the front of the hall identify the Holy Trinity and our whole school values. During assembly, there is an opportunity for thought and reflection.

We have also been proud to welcome the Bishop of Sheffield on a few occasions as part of our worship. Bishop Jack Nicholls opened our Garden of Peace, Light and reflection in 2005. A photograph of the current Bishop of Sheffield (Bishop Pete) is on display in the cabinet outside the office. The Bishop of Doncaster, Sophie Jelley, opened our new garden – the Garden of Reading, Reflection and Remembrance in July 2022. The garden was opened in memory of a number of parents that died from cancer and a grandparent who died of Covid during the pandemic.

The children in Y5 and Y6 also attend a Christmas Carol Concert at Sheffield Cathedral each year.

We are very fortunate to receive a grant from the Church Burgess fund every year, which has been used to enrich the children's education greatly over the years. One of the things this grant was used for was the courtyard at the centre of the school as a place of reflection.

We have assembly every day which culminates in the Friday Celebration Assembly where pupils are rewarded for their hard work through Pupil of the Week Certificates and special mentions. These children are further rewarded by attending 'Tea at 3 with Mrs B' (the headteacher) during an afternoon where they have a drink and a snack. At the end of assembly, we have our own school prayer. Children can lead the prayer and sometimes they will formulate a prayer of their own for others to enjoy. Children will often volunteer to lead the school prayer.



As a Christian school, throughout their time at Norton Free Primary school, our children will experience five Es – this includes:

*Enquiring into belief,
Encountering Christianity,
Engaging with Scripture,
Experiencing prayer
Exploring Church*

Our Facilities:

Our school is situated in beautiful grounds and we benefit from a number of areas for the children to use. These areas are a natural resource for Science, History and Geography as well as many other areas of the curriculum. We have a wildlife garden and pond, which has recently been cleaned by the Pond Cleaning Club), a 'trim trail' in a grassy/wooded area, a playground for children in KS2 with an adjacent basketball court and separate ball court, a FS/KS1 playground with a grassy area with willow tunnels, raised flower beds, play house and mud kitchen. There is a covered outdoor area for FS and many playground markings and seating areas. We also have a large field with a wood where we hold our Sports Days and other whole school events. We provide a number of after school clubs and clubs during school including recorder, choir, Change for Life, Samba Band, Gardening, Crocheting, Ball room dancing and many Sports Clubs. We have used the wood in the past for den building and outdoor learning. Next to the Foundation Stage classroom, we have an 'outdoor classroom' where small groups can go if they need a quiet area to work.



The Garden of Peace, Light and Reflection:



Within school we have a library, a nurture room, a sensory room and in the centre of the school, we have the **'Garden of Peace, Light and Reflection'** which has recently had a canopy fitted (October 2017) so that children can enjoy this area whatever the weather. Here, we operate a 'Privilege Club' where children who show exemplary standards of behaviour, may go to eat their lunch every day at 12pm. The Privilege Club changes weekly and some children are able to go throughout the year. We also use this space as an extension of our lunchtime 'Nurture Group'.

The Garden of Reading, Reflection and Remembrance:



Several of our children have sadly experienced the loss of a parent to cancer and a grandparent from Covid19. An outdoor garden area has been created called the Garden of Reading, Reflection and Remembrance in remembrance of the parents who died. This Garden was officially opened by the Bishop of Doncaster, with the

Director of the Diocese in attendance, in July 2023. The children who left our school in 2022 planted a tree in the garden and wrote messages that were displayed in the garden.

This area was developed with the assistance of the Church Burgess Fund, for the whole school to use as an additional area of spirituality, for reflecting and remembering. Plaques in remembrance of the parents have been added and trees/flowers planted by parents and children from the Gardening Club. During the warmer months, it is hoped that this area can also be used for assemblies including with our vicar from St James leading the assemblies. The Garden is intended to serve our community and parent volunteers have been involved in its upkeep.



Breakfast Club/ After School Club:



Our school provides a breakfast club which is open to our pupils from 7:45am every weekday morning. This is run by two members of staff. Toast, cereal and/or yoghurt are provided along with a drink. When the bell rings at 8:50am, the staff will deliver children to their classrooms. There is also an after school club available after school run by an outside provider. Further details about both clubs are available from the school office.

Transition:

During the last week of term, on specified days, each class will spend a couple of days with the class teacher who will be teaching them in September of the next school year. This is in order to support their transition to their new class. They will experience two or three full days with the class teacher so they are prepared for their next year in school. The children spend the time completing activities with the teacher to enable a smoother start to the following academic and ease any anxieties that the children may have. We have close links with secondary schools to ensure that this transition is equally smooth and children attend transition days during the summer term. There is a Transition Booklet on the website that explains the processes further, this can be found beneath the 'Parents' tab.

Enrichment:

We aim to provide as many opportunities as possible to enrich the curriculum for our children. We achieve this through inviting visitors into school or through visits to places of interest in the community. We hold whole school theme days with a focus on a particular subject to raise awareness and to provide an incentive for the children (e.g. a whole school DT day with a jungle/rainforest theme where children in each class have a specific focus with FS building dens outside to Y6 creating a bridge through the jungle canopy). Theme days start with a 'hook' to engage the children and end with a 'landing' where the whole school comes together to look at what each class has learnt or produced in a celebration assembly.



Our school has a number of Councils and Committees (democracy/ rule of law) and this enables our children to have a voice in school. These include: School Council, ECO Council, Road Safety Crew, Sports Ambassadors and the Worship Committee. There are also a number of clubs that operate after school – gymnastics and Breakfast circuits (Breakfast Circuits is part of the Breakfast Club provision), during the school day - music and choir, recorders, table tennis, French club, and there are specific roles for the older children to be involved in the life of the school such as: caring for the environment (inside and out), First Aid, C4L club, book club, helping in the dinner hall, helping in the KS1 yard for example. We provide a number of after school clubs over the year, for all age groups, such as gardening club, photography club, art club, athletics, cricket, gymnastics, dance fun workshop, multi-sports for example. Our Sport Ambassadors run C4L for the younger children at lunchtime and help with sporting events such as Sports Day/ Sports Assembly.



Our Achievements:

Throughout the school year we have an excellent and varied program of school events, including the Harvest Festival, Christmas Service, Easter Service, Sports day, Music/Talent show, Leavers Service and we join in with the Meadowhead Community Trust Choir. Opportunities vary as we will take part in other events as they arise for example, Y5s visited an exhibition entitled 'Stories from the Pandemic' and some children in school performed as bands for the school and their parents, following a musical workshop. All year groups have at least two school trips over the year related to their topic and will often take part in a 'themed' days relating to their topic – for example Egyptian Day or Roman Day'. At the end of the year we have a Music and

Performance evening (talent show or a production) where children from all year groups can share their talents with parents whether it is singing, dancing, playing an instrument, gymnastics or telling jokes!

We have some very talented children at Norton Free and as a result, we excel at many Sports. We have achieved successes nationally (Gymnastics and our children played Football at Wembley), at County level (South Yorkshire School Games) and locally (City wide sports events) against other schools. We have also had City Champions at Primary School Athletics. We are very pleased that many of our children continue to play sport and represent their school when they reach secondary school and some students return to help out during Sports Day. (Further information about PE and School Sport is available in our PE Booklet available on the website). For the last five years we have received the School Games Gold Award for PE and Sport and in 2022 we received the school Games Platinum Award. In 2018 the Headteacher received an award from the Sheffield Schools Active Awards for leadership in an active school followed by a further award in 2019 – ‘Primary School of the Year’ in the Sheffield Schools Active Awards. We also received an award for taking part in Move More Month in June 2019 where we won a sporting workshop for children in Y5. Our trophy cabinet near the entrance is full of trophies and achievements and we are hoping to build on this.



Extra-Curricular Activities:

After school clubs include Netball (Monday), Y5/Y6 Football (Tuesday), Gymnastics (Tuesday and Thursday), Multi Sports (Friday) and Cross Country (Saturday). ‘Breakfast circuits’ takes place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8am. Bench Ball is available on Friday lunchtimes for a targeted group of children. Y5/6 Boys Gymnastics takes place on Monday morning before school and KS1 Gymnastics takes place in the hall on Friday morning before assembly. There is a suggestion box near the headteacher’s office where children can post suggestions about activities that they would like to do at school and if we can we will!

Ofsted and Diocese Inspection Outcomes:

Our last Ofsted inspection was in February 2020 where we were graded as a **Good School**. **“Pupils love attending Norton Free. One parent described it as ‘a lovely little school with a great community vibe’. Pupils are very proud to be part of ‘Team Norton’. Physical activity is at the heart of the school. Pupils compete in a range of sports teams. They learn how to win humbly and lose graciously. Pupils complete their daily mile each afternoon. They know that a healthy body helps them to learn better”.**



“Pupils enjoy school and are keen to learn, they behave well and show respect to adults and to one another.”

Our Diocese Inspection was in November 2016 and again we were classified as a **Good school**. **“The distinctive Christian character and nurturing, family ethos of the school is demonstrated through very good relationships and contribute strongly to children’s development, achievement and progress. School leaders have a clear vision and work together to promote and cultivate the school’s values.”**

The Church of England Vision for Education:

Our school's mission, vision and values are based on the Church of England's Vision for Education (2016). A copy of the Church of England's Vision for Education is available on our website under Key Information - Church of England Schools. "This deeply Christian vision of education is one that is generous and that seeks to allow the riches of Christian life to overflow to those of other faiths or no faith, but who share the bigger vision of what we think education is for". *Revd Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer.*

"The vision is deeply Christian, with the promise by Jesus of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart. It encompasses schools, colleges, further and higher education, but in this initial articulation our focus is on schools".

Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity

There are four basic elements that run through the whole approach. Together they form an 'ecology' of the fullness of life, each in interplay with all the others.

Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills

Good schools foster confidence, delight and discipline in seeking wisdom, knowledge, truth, understanding, know-how, and the skills needed to shape life well. They nurture academic habits and skills, emotional intelligence and creativity across the whole range of school subjects, including areas such as music, drama and the arts, information and other technologies, sustainable development, sport, and what one needs to understand and practise in order to be a good person, citizen, parent, employee, team or group member, or leader.

Educating for Hope and Aspiration

In the drama of ongoing life, how we learn to approach the future is crucial. Good schools open up horizons of hope and aspiration, and guide pupils into ways of fulfilling them. They also cope wisely with things and people going wrong. Bad experiences and behaviour, wrongdoing and evil need not have the last word. There are resources for healing, repair and renewal; repentance, forgiveness, truth and reconciliation are possible; and meaning, trust, generosity, compassion and hope are more fundamental than meaninglessness, suspicion, selfishness, hardheartedness and despair.

Educating for Community and Living Well Together

We are only persons with each other: our humanity is 'co-humanity', inextricably involved with others, utterly relational, both in our humanity and our shared life on a finite planet. If those others are of ultimate worth then we are each called to responsibility towards them and to contribute responsibly to our communities. The good life is 'with and for others in just institutions' (Paul Ricoeur)⁵. So education needs to have a core focus on relationships and commitments, participation in communities and institutions, and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.

Educating for Dignity and Respect

Human dignity, the ultimate worth of each person, is central to good education. The basic principle of respect for the value of each person involves continual discernment, deliberation and action, and schools are one of the main places where this happens, and where the understanding and practices it requires are learned. This includes vigilant safeguarding. It is especially important that the equal worth of those with and without special educational needs and disabilities is recognized in practice. For the first time in history, there is now something approaching global agreement on the worth of each person through the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and its successor declarations, covenants and conventions, including that in 2006 on the rights of persons with disabilities. How that is worked out in each nation and each school is a massive task that calls on the inspiration and resources offered by each tradition of faith and belief.

Given those basics focusing on the pursuit of wisdom, knowledge and skills, on trust and hope in the good as more fundamental than the bad, on the centrality of relationships and community, and on the dignity of each person, there is endless scope for deeper thinking and further applications, improvisations and creativity. This is what we mean by life in all its fullness.

We aim to deliver excellence in education and want the very best outcomes for children and young people so that they can achieve their fullest potential.

Gallery:



If you require any information regarding anything contained in this guide, then please consult our full prospectus, our website or simply ask any member of staff – we will be happy to help and tell you more about our wonderful school!



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