

Our 'Why'



Introduction

Why?

We want to change the world.

The vision of the school (what the school should be aiming at):

To be the best, affordable, non-selective, independent, Christian school in the UK

Our mission (what we do):

To support parents in developing young people who know God and are trained to serve and influence their generation through godly attitudes and actions

Our virtues

Biblical Wisdom in Sacrificial Love with Spirit-led Faith

This we believe will change the world...

Changing the World

This comes from our belief that God's kingdom is growing, and will influence *every* nation and area of society in the generations to come. We play a crucial part in the great commission in our discipleship role of every precious young person who comes to the school. This involves them finding their calling in God. Our role is to work alongside parents in training them for this. Those that have this same Christian vision to change the world in this way will want to join us and give sacrificially to this vision.

The School Vision

Best: To us this means striving for excellence in all we do, and trusting in God not our own efforts alone to do this. This excellence should be in our teaching, our equipment, our offer of subjects, our leadership, our pastoral care, every area. It is not perfectionism, but *being the best we can be with God's help*.

Affordable: God wants the school to be accessible. It will always require faith in finances for parents and teachers, and yet those who lead and govern must not allow our striving for excellence to exclude unfairly those who God is calling to join us. It should also be affordable, in that the cost of time required is not to the detriment of our families and staff or the other calls God has on our lives.

Non-selective: We believe God wants the academic excellence that **he** wants from each student. We should be giving glory to God for the great results, and keep in tension the desire to accept and train those with less academic abilities who we believe God is sending to us, where we can genuinely provide for them.

Independent: We have agreed at several points in our history that God wanted us to remain independent from government control; we could have otherwise given away much of our control should we have taken state finance.

Christian: We know God wants everything we do to be thoroughly Christ-centred. This is unpacked more below.

The Mission

'To support parents': This is a fundamental belief that God has given children to parents to train and steward, and that the school has been delegated responsibility by the parents for certain aspects of their teaching. Genuinely working together and believing that the parent has the final accountability before God for their children, sets a very important posture for us in school. This is a different attitude from the state or society in general.

'In developing young people who know God': Sensitively leading the pupils into a growing relationship with God is the central tenet of all success for us as a school. This leads to success academically and relationally, and helps the pupils to learn what God's calling is on their life- how each one of them will change the world.

'Trained to serve and influence': The word training has a strong sense of intention. Alongside parents we don't just 'see how they will turn out', but disciple them. This involves the attitude of service, and the belief that they can have significant influence and leadership as they are obedient to God.

'Their generation': We must recognise the skills they need to reach this generation and to understand what is needed to fulfil the great commission in this generation. They need good academic skills and to be able to use the technological tools of this generation. The call to this generation to reach even the very ends of the earth must also be part of this.

'Through godly attitudes and actions': This emphasises that we are training *Christian character*, and that both the actions and the attitude behind the action is important to us. We do not want 'religiosity', or blind rule following, but a sense of actions flowing out of knowing and loving God.

The Virtues

These are distinctive from many other schools and are distinctively Christian values.

Christian Virtues: Biblical Wisdom, Sacrificial Love, Spirit-led Faith

Biblical Wisdom: We put huge value on the Bible, and seek to apply the knowledge and understanding it gives us through every subject (our curriculum), in the discipleship of our pupils (character) and in all areas of school life (our community). We value the word of God, not only because it is a good book, but because it introduces us to God himself, shows us his promises and leads us to wisdom in behaviour and in our attitude to learning.

Sacrificial Love: Loving God, and loving others as you love yourself, is Christ's great commandment. This love is the radical, 'agape', love of Christ which took him to the cross. This love develops a strength of relationship between teachers and pupils beyond that which can be generated through human effort alone. We therefore become a family, and not an institution. This essential and supernatural character trait is described through 1 Cor. 13, and through the fruit of the spirit in Gal 5 where the list can be seen as an unpacking of what the 'fruit' of love is (Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control).

Spirit-led Faith: This is the presence of the empowering Spirit, that raised Christ from the dead, to give us courage to take risks and believe the impossible. It is beyond what is natural as it comes from God and it causes us to break free of the limitations we might put upon ourselves. This faith spurs us on, to press through spiritual battles, develop spiritual gifts, share the gospel, and engage with the great commission, discovering God's great purposes for our lives. This faith gives us the ultimate hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 12 v 13 *'Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.'* (NLT)

Conclusion

We are not alone in this kind of vision, and as we network and encourage other schools like ours across this nation and beyond, we can make a huge impact. We believe as teachers, parents and pupils we can change the world, as we see each pupil trained for him.

Steve Beegoo