

TKS Vision, Mission and Virtues

Summary

Our Vision: To be a Christ-centred, independent school, nurturing children in godly character and academic development

Our Mission: To support parents in discipling their children: to reach their academic potential, to know God and develop their relationship with him, and to serve and influence others through godly attitudes and actions.

Our Virtues: Biblical Wisdom in Sacrificial Love with Spirit-led Faith

History

In the early 1980s, God spoke to leaders and parents in Oxfordshire Community Churches to start a school. The school began, through miraculous provision and huge sacrifice of many people so that we could fulfil the holy task of supporting parents in training children and young people so that they would know God through Jesus Christ, and therefore develop well educationally. Our children are the most precious gift we have been given by God, and the desire to recognise this responsibility and serve our children has continued to motivate all those involved in The King's School for well over 30 years. Recently we have refreshed how we express this call of God to us in the current season.

The School Vision

Our vision is what we are aiming at as a school, and is summarised as follows:

To be a Christ-centred, independent school, nurturing children in godly character and academic development

Christ-centred

This comes first for us, and is why the school is called The *King's* School. We believe that Jesus Christ died, rose again, ascended into heaven and as the rightful King of all creation will one day return. We want everything we do to honour him. We are designated as a faith school that delivers a Christian Education.

Independent School

We have agreed at several points in our history that God wanted us to remain as independent as possible from government control; we could have otherwise given away much of who we are called to be should we have taken state finance. The governors continue to seek to make the school as affordable as possible as we maintain this independence.

Nurturing Children

We believe children were created to be loved and trained in families, and we believe the smaller nurturing nature of our school expresses a distinctive sense of Christian family as we relate together.

Godly Character

We have a high focus on shaping the character of our children together with you as parents. The character virtues we are looking to see in them are further explained below.

Academic Development

We are a school that has an excellent track record of academic progress and results. We understand this is a blessing which overflows from our focus on knowing God. We want to see all our children achieve to the very best of their ability, however 'academic' they are. We continue not to select pupils on academic ability. God has helped us provide a 'Christian Education that gets results!'

The Mission

Our mission is how we go about attaining our vision.

Mission: To support parents in discipling their children: to reach their academic potential, to know God and develop their relationship with him, and to serve and influence others through godly attitudes and actions.

'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 towards education and children, than espoused by the state.

'In discipling their children: to reach their academic potential, to know God and develop their relationship with him...': Alongside parents we don't just 'see how they will turn out', but we disciple them. 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 lives- how each one of them will make a difference in His world.

'to serve and influence...': This involves discipling them into an attitude of service, based in sacrificial love. We teach them to believe that they can have significant influence and leadership as they are obedient to God.

'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

We believe these clearly stand out from the values expressed in many other schools as they are distinctively Christian.

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. We see having Biblical Wisdom as being a Christian virtue.

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 desire or effort. We are therefore able to become a loving 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 this 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 confident hope of eternal life in the new heavens and ultimately a new earth, through Jesus Christ. (Rev 21)

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 truly make a difference in God's world, as we see each pupil trained for him.