



'Love one another as Jesus loved us' (John 13 v 34-35)

St. Mary's Christian Vision

Through God's love and our Christian Values, we encourage each individual to love, respect and value God, themselves and others.

We encourage and nurture everyone to flourish and grow into the unique person God made them to be, ready to go out into the world to love others.

This is rooted in Jesus' words: Love one another as Jesus loved us. (John 13 v 34-35)

Our Context

The demographic of St Mary's is representative of the local community in so much as it is predominantly (although not exclusively) white British. High Crompton also stands in contrast to the wider area of Oldham and Greater Manchester in terms of affluence and aspiration. Therefore, we have a responsibility to prepare our children for life beyond St Mary's School and its locality.

Our Vision and Core Value

Theologically, our Vision is rooted in Jesus' command to love one another as he has loved us (John 13.34). Our core Christian Vision is love - we strive to love God, love ourselves and love one another.

Jesus' Love for Us

Throughout scripture, we see that Jesus' love is for everyone. In his encounters with people such as the woman at the well (John 4.1-42), Zacchaeus the tax collector (Luke 19.1-10) and the children (Mark 10.12-14) we see that his love breaks down and challenges all societal divisions. In telling the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.25-37) Jesus challenges and broadens our understanding of who our neighbour is, of who we should love.

Love Ourselves

Based on this, we want everyone at St Mary's to know that Jesus' love is for them, whoever they are, whatever their background and whatever they may do. In response to this, we want them to learn to love themselves. Yet, while loving us as we are, Jesus also calls us to be our best selves: to repent for our wrong doing and to live a better life. For example, he tells the woman caught in adultery to go and sin no more (John 8.11), and Zacchaeus, after encountering Jesus, gives half of his possessions to the poor and pays back four times as much money as he has defrauded from people (Luke 19.8). We want everyone at St Mary's to be the best version of themselves, learning from their mistakes, flourishing and growing into the unique person God has made them to be, living out the *Christian values of wisdom, joy, truthfulness, humility, perseverance and courage.*

Love One Another

Secure in the knowledge of Jesus' love for us and striving to be our best selves, at St Mary's we seek to obey Jesus' command to love one another as he has loved us. We see love for one another lived out in the day-to-day life of our school, in the way we speak and treat each other. However, the love for one another that we want to see at St Mary's goes deeper than this. Like Jesus' love for us, it must break down and challenge all division; it must reflect a broad understanding of who our neighbour is. Our love for one another must make a difference not just in our school but in our local community and the wider world. As Jesus demonstrated in his ultimate expression of loving us, when he died on the cross, loving others is sometimes very hard, painful and sacrificial. [Through the Christian values of justice, generosity, forgiveness, compassion, respect, koinonia and friendship](#), we seek to help each member of our school community be ready to go out into the world and love *all* others as Jesus has loved us.

Love God

In order to live up to our Vision, it is essential that God is placed at the centre of all that we are and all that we do at St Mary's. As a school, our life together is underpinned by a love for God which is reflected in the [Christian values of peace, thankfulness, responsibility, faith, trust and hope](#).