

Summary of the Theological Vision of Totley All Saints:

We aim to:

- provide a caring environment where every child can thrive and is supported to achieve their unique & amazing potential as a child of God;
- put Jesus at the front & centre of our values, learning, actions and aspirations;
- be salt & light within our community as a centre of Christian belonging and believing;
- Inspire good stewardship of God's creation as well as courageous advocacy to challenge injustice and be agents of change.

Commentary:

Unique & Amazing Potential

At Totley All Saints we believe in supporting every child to understand their worth as a child of God - an individual part of God's wonderful creation (Psalm 139:13-16), made in (and carrying) his image (Gen1:27) and with a special purpose and destiny to fulfil (Jer1:4, Rom1:1, Phil 2:13). From this, children derive an inner confidence through which they can flourish through a rich and varied curriculum as well as in their relationships with each other. This is an environment in which their worth is celebrated; where they are encouraged to have pride in their own and each other's achievements and so, like God, be able to say of their work: 'It is good!' (Gen1:10).

Jesus - Front & Centre of our Values, Learning Actions & Aspirations

In focussing on our own uniqueness as children of God, we also celebrate our differences from strengths, talents and experiences, to background, gender, religion, disability, ethnicity, culture, identity and orientation. In this, we look to the example of Jesus, the all-inclusive Saviour of the World, who modelled grace to everyone with whom he came into contact no matter who or what they were, and regardless of background, beliefs or status.

Through the values that we hold dear, our actions are guided by the Christian principles which Jesus taught: to love (Jn13:34-35) and to forgive others (Matt 7:12). In our learning, we all strive to work hard (Eccl 9:10, 1Cor 15:58, Eph 6:7) as well as understand the importance of rest (Ex 20:8-9) and to simply 'Be still' (Psalm 46:10). We also want our children to aspire, to be supported in their learning & to have grit and determination to 'press on towards the goal' (Phil 3:14) - even when it is challenging (Luke 22:42).

In addition to our varied curriculum, we also want to provide opportunities to develop leadership and entrepreneurial skills - all within Jesus's model of Servant Leadership which gives to others at a cost to ourselves (Isa 53, Phil 2:5-11, Jn13:12-14) as well as manages strategically for the very best use of our talents (Matt25:14-30).

Christian Belonging & Believing

Together with our parents, churches and wider community, we aim for all children to 'live life in all its fullness' (Jn10:10), to thrive in the school environment, be excited by the curriculum and to marvel at the vastness of what can be learned within the context of God's creation (Psalm92:1-4).

Out of our central beliefs, we are bound together as a family and one body (1Cor12:12-26) where everyone is valued and all have the responsibility of doing to others what we would have them do to us (Matt7:12).

Stewardship of God's Creation & Courageous Advocacy

As a result of our confidence in believing and belonging, we look outwards and aim to be a positive influence as 'salt and light in the world' in order to make a difference to others (Matt5:13-16).

Through a curriculum and collective worship that inspires as well as global opportunities which explore how we can bring about change, our children show a strong expectation and willingness to take up the call to service (Isa 6:8), to be good stewards of all that God has given them (Gen1:26,28; 1Pet 4:10) as well as be courageous advocates to challenge injustice (Prov31: 8-9, Amos 5:24, Gal 6:2).