

Creating a Christian Vision at  
Great Whelnetham C of E  
Primary School



All key stakeholders (Governors, Staff, Parents and Children) were consulted and asked the following three questions about our school.

- Who we are?
- Why we are here?
- How then do we live?

It was essential that everyone had an opportunity to think about our unique context. In doing so the following points were considered:

- What is the history of our school?
- What is our logo?
- Where are we located?
- What is special to our town or area that brings people together?
- What are our children like and what do they need?
- What is our school particularly good at and where do your challenges lay?
- Who are your vulnerable?
- How do we support these children and their families?

*In answering these questions we focused on the following two points: Distil who we are. What is unique and special about us?*

What does Great Whelnetham C of E school need to give to its children? And how, as Christians, and with God's love, can we deliver that? The following table displays the responses from all the consultations that took place to answer the important questions above.

Who are we?

We are a school, a community.

We are a family.

We are Inclusive.

We are a safe and loving environment that nurtures, values and inspires all children that walk through our doors.

We are the first educators, we have a responsibility to teach our children the importance of making good choices and leading by example.

We are a school that provides a happy, nurturing, and supportive environment founded on the principles of the Christian faith.

We stick together, we stay safe

Respectful Help other learn to be kind

We are Kind

We are hardworking

Sensible

Help each other

Grateful to be here

Ready to learn

Smart learners

Friendly

A team

Kind – We are kind people

Smart

Forever learning

Ambitious

We are the future

United together

Helpers

We treat people nicely as we want to be treated

We are a group of children and adults learning together- We teach each other

### Why we are here?

We are the beating heart of the local community, we are here to serve this community and its families.

We are here to provide for all children, particularly to support those children and families that have socio and economic difficulties and deal with challenges.

We are here to provide the best possible education for all our children within our community.

We are here to nurture our children, to invest in them and to value each one of them as an individual.

As a church school, we are here to teach our children that God loves each one of us and that we show him our love by following his example.

We are here to educate our children.

We are here to inspire our children.

We are here to provide an entitlement of experience for all children, regardless of their background and their ability.

We are here to provide the best possible education for each child we serve. We do this in a caring, loving, nurturing and compassionate environment.

We are here to teach our children the importance of acceptance.

We are here to teach our children and to care for them.

We are here to be the best possible start to each child's educational journey. We want to instil a love of learning so that each child loves coming to school and wants to do their best.

We are here to foster a love of learning.

We are here to do right by all our children. To teach them the value of dedication, hard work and resilience.

We are here to teach our children to take risks, to feel comfortable enough to do that.

We are here to teach our children all about acceptance, to value difference and to celebrate this.

We are here to learn.

We are here to do our best.  
We are here to make friends and be happy.  
To are here to learn about maths.  
We are here to learn about perseverance.  
We are here to support each other.  
We are here so that we can get a good job when we are older.  
We are here to learn how to read so that we can be successful.  
To make friends  
To grow up and be what we want to be  
To learn life skills like swimming  
Grownups and learning pros  
To learn  
To become the future  
To find ourselves  
To learn and help others  
To gain knowledge  
To be smart  
Ready to get a good job

How then do we live?

As Christians what do we give to our children- what do they want to achieve?

The sky is the limit  
Dare to dream

Aspirations to be the very best versions of ourselves  
To be confident about who we and happy with all that we do and say.  
We keep ourselves fit  
Learn to be healthy  
Being sensible  
Being safe  
Following rules  
Face challenges everyday  
Have self-respect  
Adults help  
Looking after our family  
Listen to everyone  
We are here to grow  
Trusting and believing everyone  
Can't stop ourselves from learning  
We live with our hearts  
We show kindness  
We are helpful  
We are happy and healthy  
Treat everyone with respect

All these responses above provide a clear picture of Great Whelnetham C of E Primary school. We are all certain about who we are, what we want to achieve and how we want to live and work. I have taken this information and include a proposed Vision Statement for our School below including the feedback enclosed in this report. I would welcome your thoughts on this when we meet on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you everyone.

*Our Great Whelnetham C of E school family's Christian ethos: NUTURE-GROW-SUCCEED TOGETHER; is supported by Jesus' mustard seed parable- "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed<sup>1</sup> that a man took and sowed in his field. <sup>32</sup> It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest garden plant and becomes a tree. (Mt13v31-32). Valuing our school community, our Great Whelnetham family, together we embody our vision, "With God's guidance; sowing the seeds of success; nurturing and inspiring pupils and adults to flourish together as a family."*

Great Whelnetham C of E is a Church of England Primary School with a strong and caring Christian ethos. Our whole school ethos is encompassed by the these four words, Nurture-Grow-Succeed Together. Our ethos is supported by our core Christian values of Thankfulness, Truthfulness, Friendship, Respect and Perseverance, and our school vision statement "With God's guidance; sowing the seeds of success; nurturing and inspiring pupils and adults to flourish together as a family".

Jesus' image of a mustard seed offers a metaphor for this ongoing process of nurturing, growing and flourishing of the whole school community - from the smallest of seeds grows the greatest of shrubs.

### Nurture

By providing a calm, caring inclusive environment where children's well-being is paramount, we develop the whole child and provide support to meet the needs of all children and enable all to access the curriculum fully. We value each child individually, we work positively with them so that they are receiving the very best possible education and entitlement of experience that they deserve. We will be a champion for each one of our children and remain dedicated to ensuring that they feel valued and well cared for as important members of our school family and God's family.

### Grow

Educating children as they grow up and preparing them to lead safe, happy, healthy and successful lives is at the heart of what we do. We believe that children need a caring, consistent environment where they are treated with respect and where their well-being is seen as paramount. We believe that each child should leave school with:

- A love of learning and a strong desire to strive for high standards.
- A sense of curiosity and appreciation for the world around them.
- A growing ability to communicate effectively with others and a desire to share their experiences.
- A sense of their citizenship of the school and the wider community

The Great Whelnetham C of E family promote collective responsibility for raised standards and improved pupil outcomes by ensuring that everyone understands their role in contributing to the success of the school. We have high expectations. We work hard to enable pupils to become effective, enthusiastic, independent learners. All members of our school community are passionate about treating children and others fairly, equally, with dignity and respect, and work together to maintain an inclusive school culture.

### Succeed Together

All members of our school community are valued, respected and supported. Parents and carers, teachers, leaders, support staff and governors all work in partnership to achieve the best for every child. We value not only academic success, but social, emotional, moral and spiritual growth. We raise achievement for all by providing a positive, enjoyable, stimulating and respectful place to learn.

We want all our children to leave Great Whelnetham C of E Primary School as happy, confident, independent learners. We want them to have a spirit of curiosity and respect for themselves, others and the environment. They will have gained knowledge, skills and



understanding, and a positive attitude. These tools will give them the adaptability to succeed whilst at our school and in the years to come. They can enjoy life in all its fullness.

